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ALISON JACKSON

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## ALISON JACKSON

**Alison Jackson** has photographed the **Queen of England** on the toilet, **George Bush** and **Tony Blair** chatting in the sauna, **Mick Jagger** doing gymnastics, and **Monica Lewinsky** lighting **Bill Clinton's** cigar. Or has she? The likenesses are uncanny, but of course, her subjects are look-alikes. Her photos demonstrate that while seeing is believing, the truth is another story entirely. In her work, Jackson says, "Likeness becomes real and fantasy touches on the believable. The viewer is suspended in disbelief. I try to highlight the psychological relationship between what we see and what we imagine. This is bound up in our need to look—our voyeurism—and our need to believe." Indeed, by showing "celebrities" ostensibly caught unawares, Jackson's pictures show us what we imagine might go on behind closed doors. Jackson's work causes controversy, because it threatens to cross the line between the private and public life of our contemporary icons. Because we unquestioningly accept the authenticity of the photograph, it would appear that we are being given a glimpse of something confidential, a private moment. It is only upon closer examination that we question the reality of the image, and hopefully this makes us question our unwitting tendency to believe everything we see in the media today.

**Will Self** is the author of five novels, four collections of short stories, three novellas and five non-fiction books. He is also a contributor and a columnist for many publications including *The Independent* and *Evening Standard* newspapers in London, where he lives. His latest novel is *The Book of Dave* (2006).

**Charles Glass** is the author of, among other books, *The Tribes Triumphant* (2006). He was ABC News Chief Middle East Correspondent and has written for *Granta*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Spectator* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

**William Ewing**, currently director of the Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, is a noted author and photography curator. His exhibitions have been shown at the MoMA and the International Center of Photography, New York, and many other museums and galleries worldwide. His most recent book is *Face: The New Photographic Portrait* (2006), and he is celebrated as author of *The Body* (1994).

### **All photographs © Alison Jackson**

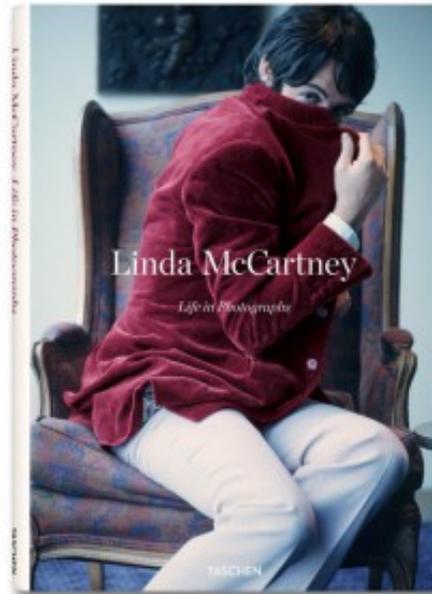
All well-known individuals depicted in this book are not "real." The photographs have been created using look-alikes. The well-known individuals have not had any involvement in the creation of the photographs and they have not approved them, nor has their approval been sought for the publication of these photographs.

#fotografia

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