

A Pictorial Celebration

THE AMERICAN WOMAN



**BY THE WINNERS OF
THE PARADE-KODAK NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST
WITH REFLECTIONS BY
EDDIE ADAMS, JOYCE BROTHERS,
ALEX HALEY, LIZ SMITH
AND MARLO THOMAS**

Introduction By Walter Anderson

THE *A*MERICAN WOMAN

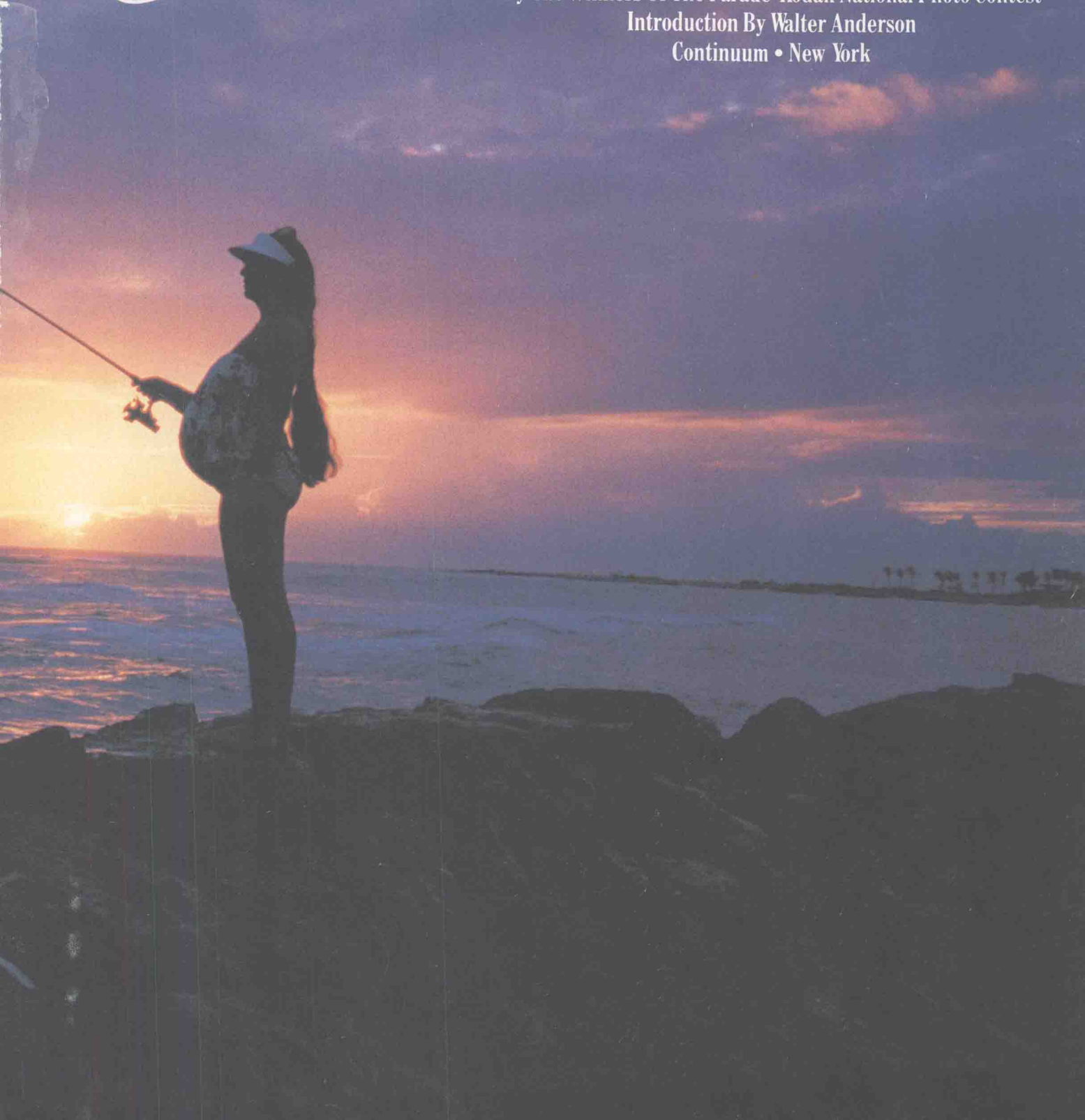
A P i c t o r i a l C e l e b r a t i o n

THE AMERICAN WOMAN

By The Winners Of The Parade-Kodak National Photo Contest

Introduction By Walter Anderson

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▶
Cristina M. Barr on the
job as power-plant
mechanic in Trenton,
N.J. Photo by her
mother, Christina E.
Jordan.

▶▶
On following page:
Matching set: Hope
Houston, 6, and sister
Nancy, 8, of Bellaire,
Tex.—pincurled and
arm-in-arm. Photo by
their father, Jerry
Houston.



I n t r o d u c t i o n

In this age of images in which we live, "picture books" have become commonplace. But this one is set apart. The photos in it were taken, essentially, not by practiced professionals but by the readers of *Parade* magazine, who, by their very number—more than 65 million—constitute a cross-section of the American people. And the subject the book celebrates, "The American Woman," has rarely been presented pictorially with such range, variety and imaginativeness. If there is such a thing as a "true image," then I believe it is here: how the American people—that is, our readers—see The American Woman today.

This photo competition, like our previous "We the People" Bicentennial contest, is a reflection of our interest in the lives and achievements of everyday people. As a Sunday magazine read in more than one of every three homes in the United States, *Parade* carries articles by world-famous authors and journalists each week, touching all phases of human thought and activity, as well as pictures by the top photographers of our day.

But there is a time, we believe, for our readers to share more directly—and no better way than through a photo contest open to all, no matter what their experience or expertise. The American Woman competition, jointly sponsored by *Parade* and Kodak, offered no particular guidelines, suggestions or restrictions. The theme, we believed, would be self-explanatory. And so it proved.

For we, as well as our distinguished judges—photojournalist Eddie Adams, psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers, author Alex Haley, actress Marlo Thomas and columnist Liz Smith—were amazed at the variety and scope of the pictures submitted. We received more than 115,000 entries from every state in the nation, and from these the judges selected (with great difficulty, they report) one hundred winning photographs.

Perhaps, upon reflection, we should have been less surprised by the enormous diversity and range represented by the photos submitted in the competition, for both the art of photography and the status of women have undergone tremendous changes in recent years. Photography has become readily accessible to all. Just as earlier generations proudly wielded the old box camera, so do contemporary men and women—not to mention children—confidently handle equipment capable of great sophistication and subtlety. And it's more than a matter of the huge technological advances in photographic equipment; along with it has come a great upsurge in originality, opportunity and enterprise. Just as today's cameras are "smarter" than ever, so are today's camera-users more artistic and creative.

Years ago, such a focus as The American Woman might have conjured up little more than images of domesticity or perhaps clothing fashions. How different it is today. As the pictures in this collection so vividly attest, there are almost no limits to what women can achieve, accomplish and master. Today, women are athletes, surgeons, police officers, firefighters, pilots, mechanics, business leaders, executives of every stripe. Yet no one looking at the pictures which follow can doubt that many women also retain a central role as the centerpiece of the American family.

Above all, what comes through in these pictures is a compelling sense of compassion and *involvement*. These are women who not only achieve much for themselves but who also care deeply about others. Observe how many of the pictures show women as they relate to their families, their friends, their workplace, their community. American women have found a way to affirm their own individuality—a phenomenon displayed nowhere more movingly or convincingly than in the beautiful collection of photographs that follows.

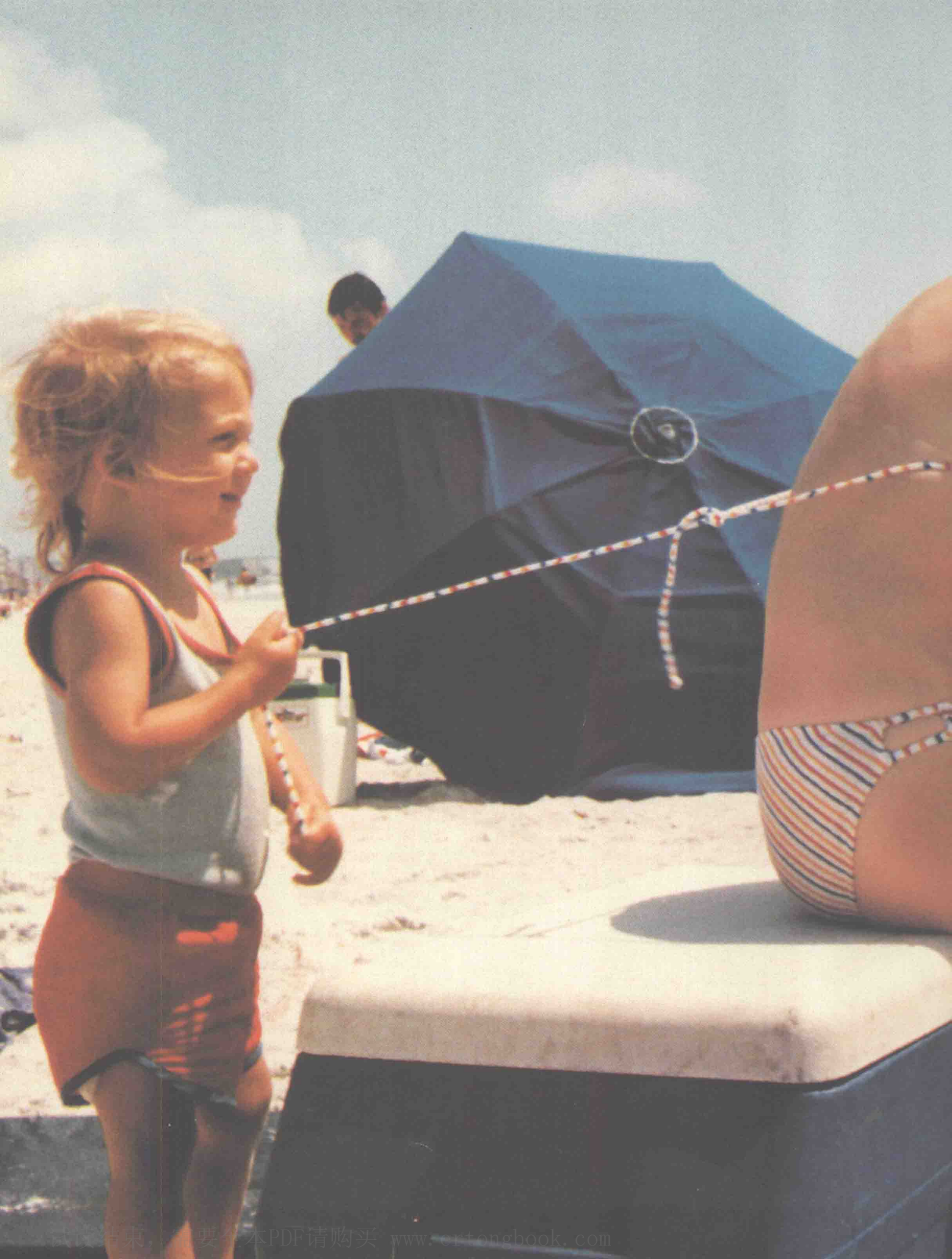
Walter Anderson













On previous page:
Six sisters prepare for
musical show in
Springfield, Ohio (l-r):
Esther Nunnally, 71;
Christine Strickland, 80;
Irene Ramsey, 82;
Imogene Gordon, 69;
Lucile Fisher, 83; and
Ava MacGillwray, 79.
Photo by Patt Y. Meade.



Unstrung: Margaret
McMullen, 32, with sons
Patrick (l) and Sean
on Pass-a-Grille Beach
in Florida. Photo by
Ritafrancis Daley
Connors.

“If I were asked... to what the singular prosperity and growing strength of the American people ought mainly to be attributed, I should reply: To the superiority of their women.”

—Alexis de Tocqueville

“Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be, because sooner or later, if you are posing, you will forget the pose, and then where are you?”

—Fanny Brice

“I’ll walk where my own nature would be leading—it vexes me to choose another guide...”

—Emily Brontë

“Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest.”

—Georgia O’Keeffe

“Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

▶
“She just loves red,
white and blue.” say
her neighbors of Hattie
Weems, 77,
photographed by Cindy
Sandlin in Florence,
Ala.







On following page: "Her name is Crystal, and I saw her in front of an empty building in North Bergen, N.J.," says the photographer, Jose Hernandez.



Mother, model, bodybuilder. Erika Andersch, 29, has won several bodybuilding competitions. Photo by Eric Scott Bloom of Shrewsbury, Mass.



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