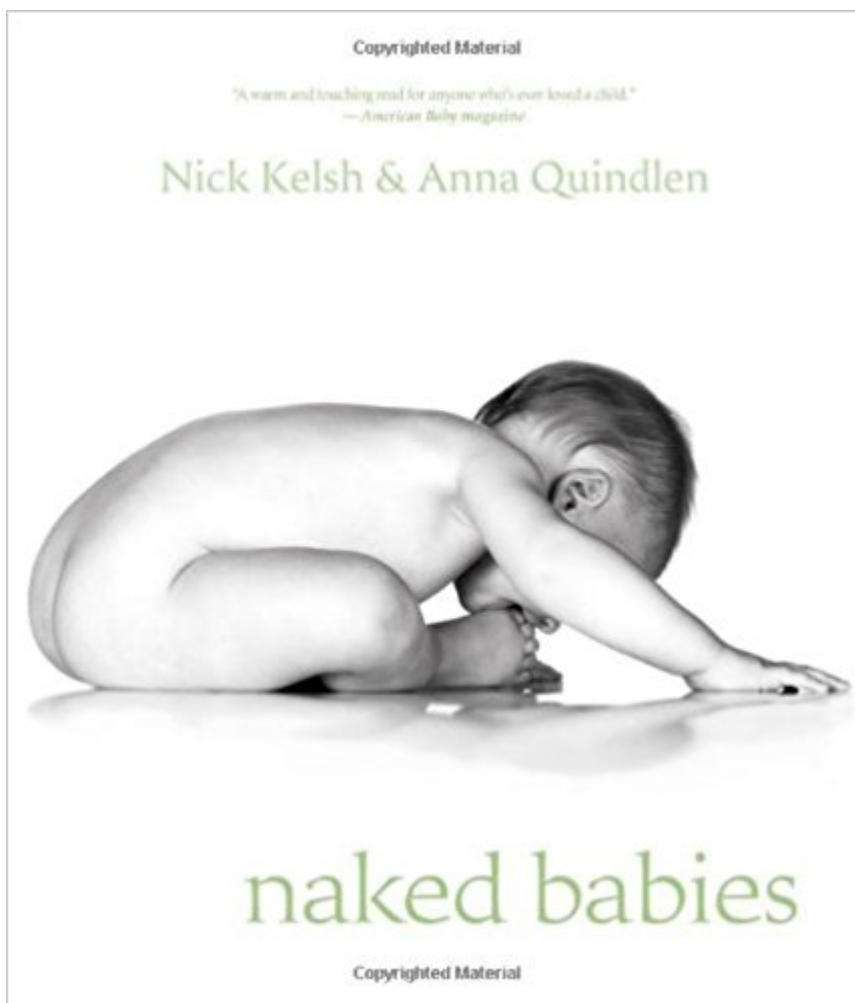


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# Naked Babies



## Synopsis

In *Naked Babies*, Nick Kelsh and Anna Quindlen collaborate to produce a unique view of babies—one that owes nothing to tradition, sentimentality, or the cult of the cute. Unlike traditional baby photographs, Nick Kelsh's amazing black-and-white pictures focus on specific aspects of babies—the perfection of a hand, the swirls of a cowlick, the smoothness of skin on the neck—and all are honest, exquisite, and invitingly tactile. Anna Quindlen's essays are as graceful, snappy, perceptive, and personal as anything she has ever written. They muse on what it is about babies that causes our hearts to crinkle and fold: “The meaning of life is in them. You’ll share some of the things that Quindlen has learned as a mother, such as: “From time to time, I would lie on the floor with my babies to see exactly what they were seeing when it looked as though they were just wasting time and . . . The next time you’re sitting in a meeting after three cups of coffee, badly needing to go to the bathroom but instead doodling dutifully, crossing your legs and watching the clock, remember that if you were a baby, you would have gone by now, and no one would be the wiser.” Kelsh's photographs and Quindlen's text complement each other perfectly. Two masters of their craft have created an unusual meditation and wondrous book—a totally original gift for every parent or parent-to-be.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Hay House (March 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 140192283X

ISBN-13: 978-1401922832

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,346,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Children #312 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nude Photography #1636 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits

## Customer Reviews

Anyone who has ever witnessed a baby escape from his mother's arms--sans clothing--and run wildly, or crawl as the case may be, about the house in what can only be described as a euphoric state knows that babies are really at their best when they're naked. No bonnets or booties to hold them in--just pure, blissful nakedness. In *Naked Babies* author Anna Quindlen and photographer Nick Kelsh expertly record this unique time in childhood when modesty means nothing at all. Quindlen's perceptive and personal essays are remarkable musings on motherhood and the amazing little miracles that babies are, while Kelsh's photographs are, well, amazing little miracles in their own right. Shot entirely in black-and-white, these are not cutesy, sentimental, or traditional photographs. Rather, Kelsh captures "specific aspects of babies--the perfection of a hand, the swirls of a cowlick, the smoothness of skin on the neck--and all are honest, exquisite, and invitingly tactile." Both "an unusual meditation and a wondrous book," *Naked Babies* is the perfect gift for the parent or the parent-to-be. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this intriguing book, Kelsh, a partner in the communications firm Kelsh Wilson Design, and Quindlen (*Object Lessons*) capture the essence of naked babyhood? Kelsh in exquisite black-and-white photographs of dozens of babies, Quindlen in an elegant essay in which she muses about "the sheer beauty of their baby bodies." Kelsh's pictures, often of simple details? hands, feet, ears, eyes, bottoms, navels? reveal the miracles of baby skin, tiny fingers and toes, limbs contorted into acrobatic poses. His babies are not merely cute but like soft sculptures, and they revel in their nakedness: one intently studies his penis, another claps his hands as he pees onto the ground. Quindlen's essay, which is perceptive and moving without being sentimental, is based on the premise that "babies are meant to be naked, as surely as they are meant to be nurtured and loved," and it perfectly complements the photographs. Her own children are well past the baby stage, but she remembers all about babies, from birthing room to first steps, and she concludes, "The strangest thing about having babies is that before you know it you have adults." Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read this book on a whim - killing time, being a new mother, I figured why not. Anna Quindlen captures emotions that I couldn't quite put into words with her writing. She made me laugh, she made me cry, but most of all, she made me feel like I'm doing an ok job being a mom. She made me realize how precious new life is. Plus - there's cute little naked babies throughout the book. And added plus!

I am a beginner in child photography and I bought this book hoping it would help me get a better understanding of how to take pic of little ones. This is not a How -To book. I guess I should of looked at the reviews and author right ups before buying. I also bought one of his other books(How to photograph your baby)on the same day and this should have been the only one I should have bought because it was exactly what I was looking for (five stars). I guess this would make a great baby shower gift though. Cedric G.

This is the best book in the world! Babies are amazing and this book shows and tells it like it is. A great gift for anyone and everyone who loves babies!

This book was a big hit at a baby shower. Place it unwrapped on a table and watch people, especially the mother, laugh as they leaf through it.

After buying Nick Kelsh's other book: "Photographing Your Baby" to get ideas for photographing our own daughter I checked out "Naked Babies". This book isn't about babies in the buff, it's about the tender beauty of newborns. It's little arms, chubby legs, gentle folds of baby fat, and those dimpled baby bottoms. In response to the other comment about pedophiles buying this book: those kinds of people are going to think what they think regardless of whether they have a book that visually depicts the innocence of babyhood. Deeming the images in this book "inappropriate" outside of the family photo album seems misguided. Bookstores including .com have stockpiles of books that communicate explicit messages of rape, murder, and other vulgarities that are far more dangerous than glimpses of tender baby skin. The masses should not be deprived of great works of art merely because a few perverts might interpret the message in a perverted way. Seriously, this is a touching book for anyone who loves babies and/or wants to photograph their own baby more artistically.

I purchased this book years ago, and ever since I have pulled it out every once in awhile and sighed over the amazing pictures of babyhood. Since having my two children, this book means even more to me. It captures the perfection of babies in their natural state - naked and joyous. The shape of an ear, the way a baby cries with all their breath, the flushed cheek of a sleeping child. I could never take photographs this well, but it perfectly captures the way I want to show my children - perfect in their everyday way. Anna's text that accompanies the photographs wonderfully captures the bittersweet knowledge of every mother that first lays eyes on their newborn and knows that they are going to grow up so fast. Every mother can't help but see their children as they were when they

were babies; naked and perfect. No matter how old our children are, they are still our babies. This book is an amazing celebration of babyhood. The perfect gift for a baby shower, or any parent.

Anna Quindlen's text is so tender and Nick Kelsh's photo's are lovely. This is the gift I want to bring to any new mother I have the remotest association with, just to have an excuse to share it.

This is a one of a kind book that only a parent can truly enjoy. The narrative is tender and sweet - often bringing tears to my eyes - focusing on the changes babies make throughout their brief period in "babyhood." What sweeter subject could one write about? And what better subject to photograph? Everyone knows there is nothing softer than a naked baby's butt, and this book makes you want to experience the whole baby-thing over again (no matter how fresh you are in it!) I love it and will cherish it always!

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