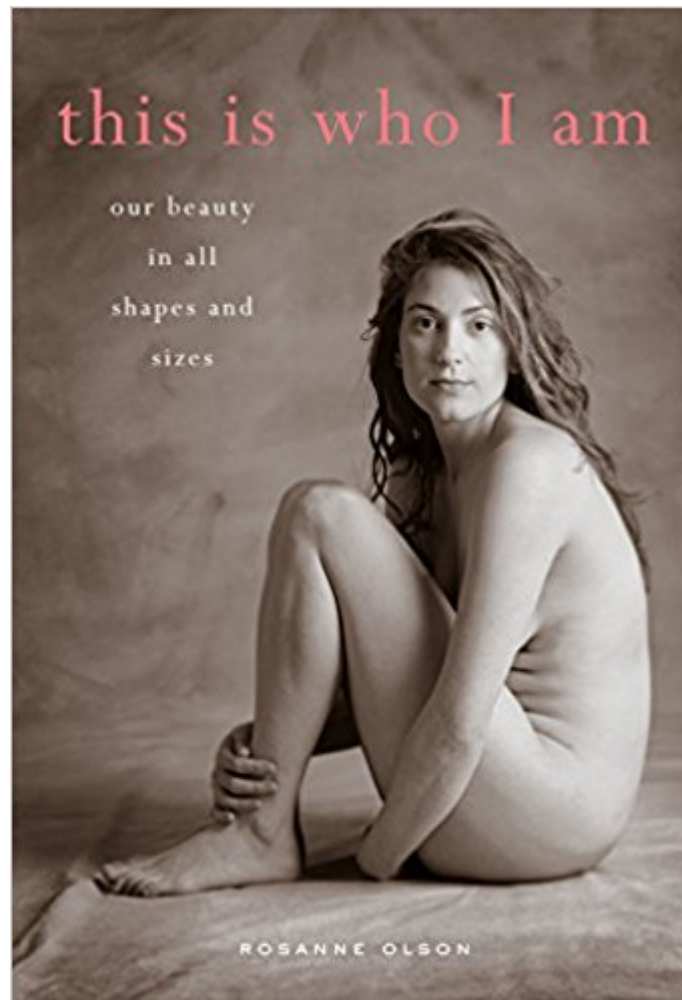




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This Is Who I Am: Our Beauty In All Shapes And Sizes



Synopsis

Fifty-four portraits of women that are striking, beautiful, and real. The bodies in this book have been shaped by the full sweep of the feminine experience. They belong to 54 women from all over the country, ages 19 to 95, of all sizes and shapes, ethnicities, and life experiences, who were willing to expose their naked physical forms in *This Is Who I Am*. They are ordinary women only in the sense that none is a professional model. They are in all other ways extraordinary – courageous, curious, thoughtful, speaking unflinchingly about their bodies, then allowing themselves to be photographed to inspire other women to make peace with their physical selves, "to glorify the real beauty of all women." Certainly, the feminine nude form is not new to artists and photographers. But the portraits in *This Is Who I Am*, taken by award-winning photographer Rosanne Olson, with a steady, unjudgmental eye, speak loudly to the American obsession of feminine perfection – slim hips and full breasts, high cheekbones and tiny waists, taut skin and eternal youth – and even more loudly to the way real women, with real bodies and real lives, look. By turns tender, personal, and moving, this tribute to contemporary womanhood is the perfect gift for mothers to give to daughters, daughters to cousins, cousins to friends.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is an absolutely wonderful book. Every woman needs to see it! It has made me feel inspired, exhilarated, normal and beautiful!" - Kate Winslet"

"This is an absolutely wonderful book. Every woman needs to see it! It has made me feel inspired, exhilarated, normal and beautiful!" —Kate Winslet

I bought this for a friend. We saw it in a bookstore when we were traveling and were both instantly drawn to it. As women who have grown up in a media saturated culture, and now as mothers of young daughters, we are both intensely aware of the unrealistic models all men and women have of beauty. When my 8-year-old asked me the other day if she was "fat," I knew I needed to be more explicit and thoughtful in giving her more representative images of beauty. This book is a great start! Before I gave it to my friend, my daughter and I looked through it together. After the giggles and the discomfort with bodies of all shapes and sizes, bodies that were whole, and those that were not, we had a wonderful discussion of bodies, spirits and beauty. The stories that go with the pictures are inspiring and thought provoking. The message in here: we are all beautiful! After looking at the book and talking, my daughter commented on a magazine model that she looked funny - like she wasn't real. Awesome! I am ordering one for my coffee table that my daughter AND my son can see.

That model on the cover, Dana, could you ever believe that she has doubts about her loveliness? Her brief blurb about herself sounds far less than certain about the incredible beauty of a perfectly ordinary woman like her. That is a crime and a tragedy, one that this collection confronts directly. The models range from 19 to 95, with every decade between represented. Constance, age 80, peers back at the viewer with an elfin smile. Kia, at 37, stares off with a gaze that seems far older than her face and figure. Moods of the other models range in every direction. Emily, an archetype of blonde splendour, battles betrayal by her body as genetic lung disease takes its toll on her. Mothers and mothers-to-be bring children to the images they use to define themselves. Beautiful women from East Asian families talk about how they were too tall, or curvy, or tawny, or strong to be worth a second look back home - what a difference a continent makes! Beauty does not mean being pretty, although the two do appear together some times. Instead, it's about the varied and complicated lives people live, and about the figures and features from every corner of the human planet. It's about all of people's ages too. I wish all women happy loves in their lives, however long they live. For that to happen, the woman and the one who loves her must love her look at every age, and after every demand on her body. This book is really about loving all those looks.-- wiredweird

This book arrived in excellent condition. It is a beautiful book, and really conveys how these women

perceive their bodies. It was very brave of them to pose for these beautiful photos and tell their stories. Helps me be more accepting of my own body. I find it doesn't matter if you're skinny or obese, women don't tend to love the bodies they have. The photos are artistically taken, and the photographer has allowed the women to pose as they chose. Very glad that I purchased this book.

My mother recommended this book as I have recently rediscovered photography. I think it's fantastic, the stories are amazing and it's incredibly inspiring as well as tastefully done. I will be ordering a couple more copies for friends who do not seem to be able to embrace their given beauty.

I thought I would see complete nudes of over weight people like myself in this book. Instead, I found that I met all different kinds of women. Each had their own story, each had a different type of body. Poses are very tasteful. Sometimes a sheer sheet is used to help cover a woman. Not all poses are the same. I stopped looking for the women that had breasts like mine and began actually enjoying the stories and seeing the art side of things. Great book!

I recently purchased several books that I believed would help me in my photography. One was really disappointing once I opened it. This one I hoped would be better. I was wrong. The book was not about techniques or compositions. Not even about the business aspect of photography. There is only one technique through out the whole book and it's really boring. Bummer. As I started to thumb through the pages I read several of the bios of the women in the book and finally fully grasped the whole of the title and gladly/proudly placed it with my photography books. As every true female photographer should have this book, whether they do basic glamour or fully body figure photography. It's a great reminder of why I do it.

If you know a woman with body issues, this just might help. From young women, 20s, to women in their 90s, this book really is for anyone who's got body issues. I know several young women I want to show this to, so they know they're OK. I'm also a photographer and the photos are beautifully done.

I first heard Ms. Olson's audio interview, and saw a snippet of her work on LensWork. I was quite impressed. I purchased her book and have gone through it three times now with utter amazement at the words by the women and the beautiful and pure images that she has captured. I have since

purchased her book for two of my sisters and two of my dearest friends. I know that they will enjoy this masterpiece of hers as much as I have. I am in the health care industry and photography is a passion of mine. Ms. Olson strikes the chord on both of these notes. The strength of the women in these photos shine through every frame as does their words of courage and encouragement. Every one of them, to include Ms. Olson, I commend because you have provoked thought, and maybe more importantly questions, we should ponder with others. I will definitely continue to share this gift that they have given us with family and friends.

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