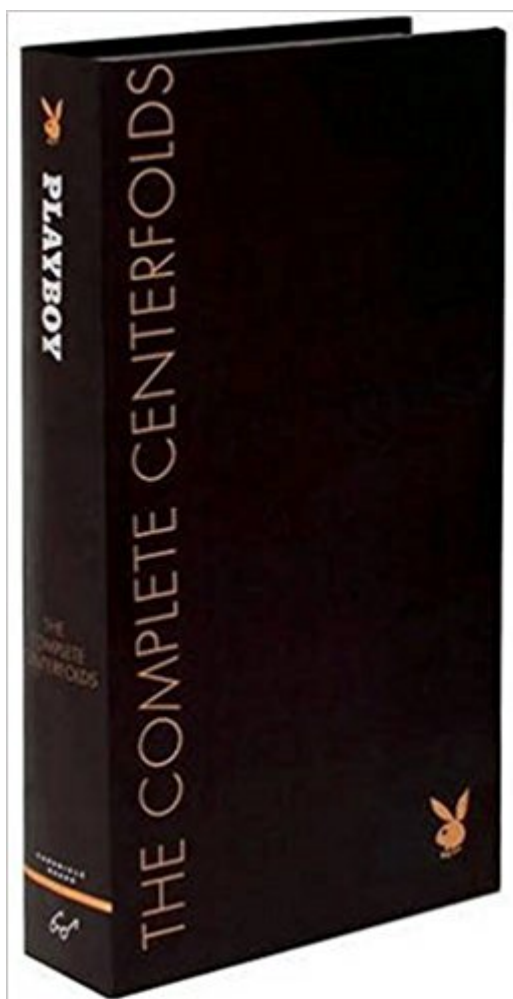


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Playboy: The Complete Centerfolds



Synopsis

Following the remarkable success of last year's limited deluxe edition, we're pleased to present The Complete Centerfolds in a new compact package. The content remains the sameâ "every Centerfold from every issue. That's over 600 beauties. We've also added the Centerfolds from 2007 to make this Playboy's most complete photographic volume to date. Hefner introduces the book and literary luminaries including Paul Theroux, Jay McInerney, and Daphne Merkin comment on the social mores and cultural climate of each decade. This chronological collection provides an unparalleled view of our evolving appreciation of the female form: from the fifties fantasy of voluptuous blondes to the tawny beach girls of the seventies to the groomed and toned women of today. The Complete Centerfolds is a breathtaking tour de force.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (75 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Of course this is a stunning collection of photographs. However, this edition as opposed to the large format edition is bound, literally, to disappoint. The binding method has lead to a large slice of each photograph being obscured. In some instances that means that it is not much use having included the photographs at all. The larger "full size" edition does not suffer from the same problem. I bought this book through but if I had seen it in a bookstore I would not have bought it because of the fact that the binding lets down the whole concept.

I think I'll leave it to others to write reviews about the deep philosophical significance of the Playboy

centerfolds and contemporary American society. My capsule review is: here's a very heavy book with hundreds of photos of gorgeous females. The following are a few random thoughts on this amazing book.* The total weight of this (reassuringly?) expensive package is thirty pounds, the combination lock case weighs five pounds. You can check out the dimensions in the Product Details section.* Production values are suitably sumptuous with photos printed in 200dpi screen on good paper and an obviously robust black binding holds it all together. The carrying case acts in lieu of a book jacket I guess.* The centerfolds in the book are the same size as those in the perfect bound magazine. For many years Playboy was stapled and the centerfolds were a bit deeper by about three-quarters of an inch.* There seems to be some confusion about how many Playmates and centerfolds are included in the unnumbered pages, 640 are in the index, from Rhonda Adams (June 1995) to Pamela Zinser (March 1974) but Janet Pilgrim made it three times. Marilyn Waltz and Marguerite Empey both appeared twice. Some centers featured two Playmates: the Collinson twins (October 1970) Carol and Darlene Beraola (January 2000) Deisy and Sarah Teles (December 2003) and the Dahm's (Erica, Nicole and Jacclyn) all appeared in December 1998. Playboy started in December 1953 (but no issue for March 1955) and the last photo in the book is December 2006. You can relax though because I've counted the pages (it took some time) and there are 638 centerfolds. October 1958 included two centers (Mara Corday and Pat Sheehan) as did January 1974 but here it was the front and back of the delightful Nancy Cameron.* Five lucky photographers seem to have spent their lives telling Playmates to "Look straight at the camera, imagine it's your lover!", Mario Casilli, Richard Fegley, Arny Freytag, Pompeo Posar and Stephen Wayda have, between them, taken over 350 centers. The index lists sixty-nine photographers.* Sure it's an indulgence but if you have to justify the purchase to anyone just say as well as being a huge coffee table book it IS a coffee table. Put a pile of your back issues at either end (see a photo I uploaded) and voila!* One problem remains though just where am I going to keep such a huge book?

This is a piece of history. I was around when the first playboy was issued. So that means a long time. This comes in a black briefcase with combination locks and a raised playboy bunny. Just the case alone is stunning. The book inside contains all the centerfolds unfolded in real size. The cover and binding are first rate. The pages inside are printed on top notch paper. This is well worth the money. This book and case weigh 37.5 pounds. Once you see it you will realize you have a true collectors item if that is what you are into. I debated on whether I should spend the money on it and took a chance, because I have three other playboy books, now I am glad I did, because you will not

see any other kind of book bound like this and in a case like this, let alone for the money. It is unique among any type of book. It is not something you buy just for the pictures, you could have saved all the single issues and have them all, but of course they would be folded and in this book they are not. It is something that you buy for the volume, binding and case itself. A piece of history, that usually would never be produced in any other book. Think of it a large page from every issue of this magazine. I doubt that any other magazine of any kind will ever do what Playboy has done. This is a show stopper as a book. I stopped reading Playboy because I considered the girls to be too one dimensional and the pictures to be too contrived. They don't seem real. I like my women to look like women, not fake breasts, shaved pubic hair and airbrushed plastic dolls. But I did buy this book because of the quality, besides a lot of the centerfolds in the earlier issues looked more like real women before Hef got old and silly.

I was too young to take an interest in girls when Playboy started publishing. By the late 50s, I had an avid interest in Playboy but prudence required caution. Miscellaneous copies were a teenager's access to the centerfolds. I followed Playboy through the 60s and early 70s and always checked the centerfold first. Older, married with children I stopped following each issue and in time, lost track of Playboy's centerfolds. However, the Playboy centerfold is always part of my life. Depending on the centerfold, I am in High School, Viet Nam or a number of other places. They provide an instant mnemonic that recalls a flood of memories. Most men have the same reaction, the difference being when they started and ended checking out the centerfold. The Playboy Centerfold has always been a "looker"! Even the one you consider a poor choice is a knockout by any reasonable standard. What is "looker" a in the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and beyond has changed. This book is a history of beauty and sexuality from the 1953 to 2007. Over fifty years of centerfolds allows you to follow the changes in hair, makeup and physical appearance. In addition, you can see how the definition of allowable nudity changed during this time. While Playboy was always on the leading edge, they never got too far ahead of public decency. That fact means that Playboy moved with America's majority on nudity. This is a well-done book. Every centerfold from Marilyn Monroe in the 1953 unnumbered issue to December 2007 is present. This is the centerfolds, without the staples or folds. The introduction and other observations are nice and do not distract in any way. What you are buying is a photo of over 600 of the best-looking women, naked and a history of America's concept of beauty.

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