



Intimates and Fools

Laura Madeline Wiseman , Sally Deskins (artist)

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Coupling body art and poetry, *Intimates and Fools* intimates the complicating pairing of the female form and cultural notions of beauty while playfully seeking to bare and bear such burdens of their weight. Body art and illustrations by Sally Deskins.

Sally Deskins & Laura Madeline Wiseman, what a delightful duo! Their book, *Intimates and Fools*, is a captivating aria praising that most maligned of all intimates, the brassiere. Wiseman's slender, sometimes tart, poems form the skeleton of this book. Her bras are active; they tangle, squish, and flutter. Her descriptions are vivid: "one naughty strap winding, below a silk tank top." Her humor is lighthearted: "why," she asks about bras, "does everyone prefer them off?" Deskins' characterful artwork supports Wiseman's bras as she illustrates *Intimates and Fools*. Her captivating art, sometimes abstract, is mostly about cups: coffee cups and bra cups! They come in all sizes, shapes and colors, matching Wiseman's poems in range and humor. Together, Wiseman and Deskins dance through an entertaining duet of intimate colors and words. Their stimulating combination forms a heady brew. You'll not regret imbibing.

-Marilyn June Coffey

They're rarely comfortable, never lift high enough and finding a "perfect fit" is elusive at best. Cleverly weaving our love-hate relationship with the bra through insightful poetry and playful, evocative art, *Intimates and Fools* is easily appreciated by anyone who has ever had to wear one.

-Roxanne Wach

Surprising and spontaneous, colorful and expressive, Sally Deskins' illustrations are fun, inviting and light-hearted. Knowing the process of breast printing the images only makes the accompanying poetry by Laura Madeline Wiseman even more humorous. What a delightful pair these two artists make in this collaborative book. Coffee tables will never be the same again.

-Rachel Mindrup

Intimates and Fools, a lovely book about life and intimate wear, playfully exposes our epic love/hate relationship with the bra. Laura Madeline Wiseman's beautifully blunt musings couple with Sally Deskins' mischievous drawings and colorful "body prints" to fluidly move us from "pinched shoulders" to "silk roses"; they make the perfect pair.

-Kristin Pluhacek

Intimates and Fools Details

Date : Published January 2014 by Les Femmes Folles Books

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Author : Laura Madeline Wiseman , Sally Deskins (artist)

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From Reader Review *Intimates and Fools* for online ebook

Rebecca Rotert says

A delicious, beautiful little book where the bra becomes a metaphor for all the containing a female life must do. At turns funny and sad and sexy, this study of our intimates becomes a study of intimacy with ourselves.

Melody Montgomery says

It is interesting to think about the garments that only the woman and her chosen one, or few, get to view. There is a unity among women expressed through exploring these ideas, which is displayed in a fun, imaginative, and relatable way in “*Intimates and Fools*.” The concept of having a book of illustrated poems dedicated to breasts and undergarments is charming and yet sweetly simple. We all form relationships with our undergarments; some even bring us luck! Wiseman finds multiple viewpoints for describing this relationship with our intimate apparel, lending to a unique and full collection, which is truly complimented by the artistry of Deskins.

Bonnie Stufflebeam says

Intimates and Fools is a great example of an artist-writer collaboration that truly works as a partnership. The images enhance the words, and vice versa, neither overwhelming the other. Full of vibrant lines: "There are no fools here, I say / in a whisper, a prayer / a hope."

Erin Oh says

Sincere as well as playful, *Intimates and Fools* reads as a modern feminist reflection about our relationship with bras. Beautiful images and charming hand drawn text makes this book a fun and engaging read. Share it with friends and explore your own complex relationship with this invisible yet ever-present undergarment!

Rhiannon Johnson says

Intimates and Fools is a cheeky, fun read that explores women's complicated relationship with our undergarments and breasts. We are poked, prodded and pinched into our bras and can't wait to take them off. We shop for the newest colors and styles, shuck out small fortunes, and then curse their restrictiveness. Laura Madeline Wiseman's poetry will have you conspiratorially chuckling and each page of Sally Deskins' painted illustrations are frame-worthy. This short book is a great gift for your sister, best friend or mother. Or better yet, treat yourself...and your boobs!

Read my full review here: <http://www.ivoryowlreviews.blogspot.c...>

Denise Brady says

"Intimates and Fools" is both fun and thoughtful. It reminds me to laugh AND to focus. Many of Deskin's body paintings are heavy (one reminds me of a two-headed burqa), while her small drawings are light and fun. Wiseman's smart reflections on bras take me from F.Scott Fitzgerald to Judy Grahn, from bra burning to the shopping mall, from necessity to indulgence.

Nicholas says

Goodreads win. Will read and review once received.

This was a cute and playful read. It was a quick read and I can see many different people reading this book, as well as enjoying it. I loved how it explored women's relationship with undergarments. The images in the book were beautiful and made the book that much more enjoyable. I can definitely see myself passing this book along to close friends.

Laura Wiseman says

"Deskins's own art, colorful sketches and body prints, unapologetically splash across the page in bright strokes while Wiseman's handwritten prose snakes up and around, balancing and accompanying the art...It made me want to linger, to touch the page, run my hands across the color and script. It was more of an experience than just interpretation...it's what's just under the busy surface that's most appealing: the wildly complex social constructs of female body, and the symbol of the bra as the ultimate carrier of all things female: shame, sexuality, strength." - [Pank] Magazine

"Intimates and Fools is a visually stunning book. This insightful collaboration between poet Laura Madeline Wiseman and artist Sally Deskins gives us not only a look into the bras that hold women's breasts, but uncovers the history and honesty of what women wear beneath their garments...Throughout, we never leave what holds up the breasts, what women desire in a bra, what women might do without them, even how these intimate garments are cared for over time. This is a book about the female body and what adorns it, what is bought and given away in so many forms." - Connotation Press

"What we wear under our clothes tells a quiet story, as playfully and artfully explored in the book "Intimates and Fools," with poetry by Laura Madeline Wiseman and artwork by Sally Deskins... The concept of having a book of illustrated poems dedicated to breasts and undergarments is charming and yet sweetly simple... The artwork of Deskins is so vibrant, with playful poems surrounding their form... the overall feeling from the collection is that of simple joys in these sacred garments we hold close." - Busting and Droning Magazine
