Dorr Profile

MOTHER AND CHILD

From front cover of book

Nell Dorr's pictures are memorably powerful in their sometimes awesome stillness and in their contained love of childhood, of nature and its flowers and seasons. There is a humility here which is as profound as it is universal. Her work is that of a mature artist and is the flame of truth as she sees it.

Her text is a prose poem in praise of motherhood and of the home where God is honored and the simple events of the day are glorified by the gift of grace.

In private life Nell Dorr is the wife of the internationally known scientist and inventor, Dr. John Van Nostrand Dorr. The Dorrs divide their time between their homes in New York, Connecticut and New Hampshire. Mrs. Dorr is the mother of three daughters and has six young grandchildren. She is the author of that Florida fantasy of youth, In A Blue Moon, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons in 1939 and of the color film on the modern dance, The Singing Earth, now in the film library of the Museum of Modern Art. She also directed the international documentary color film, The Dorr Way. She is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of London, England.

Edward Steichen in U. S. Camera, 1939, says of the book, In A Blue Moon, "I have heretofore avoided reviewing books about photography or illustrated by photography. But a photographic book has recently been born that brings a new note into photographic books and does it with such exquisite grace and loveliness that I cannot resist the temptation to talk about it....One would have to go deep into the works of the poets to find an equivalent expression of lyric loveliness. Here is a document in photography that is the opposite of what is generally labelled documentary photography today, just as subjective is opposite to objective. Here is the autobiography of a sensitive, strong woman, a book containing essences distilled from a mingling of cool waters and warm earth."

"Nell Dorr, who both dances and sings with her camera." -- Carl Sandburg.

"The text and pictures evoke by suggestion what lies deep hidden in the reader's mind--that quality of the masterpieces of art. It is just paint and printers' ink--OR, it is the strong solvent that cuts through the coating of commonplace life to the shy heart beneath." --Arthur Rushmore.

"The lines are beautiful in their almost Biblical simplicity--their English is pure and luminous--a feeling of inspiration in every line." -- Sir Harold Hartley.

Mother and Child is the adventure in motherhood of one woman. She tells her story in picture and words--more in pictures than words.

To her, a mother is the instrument of far spheres. Something beyond is seeking to work through her...the destiny of the human race is in her hands. If only she could see this clearly, she would be perfectly quiet in her mind. From out of the depths would come wisdom and strength and beauty to her. She would know the consecration and high adventure of the scientist and of the man of knowledge; of the musician and the artist; of religion and pure revelation. Such knowledge is primative and primeval and comes directly to her. Mother and Child is a book that takes you gently by the hand and leads you into this luminous world.

Front- Large baby head
Back- Boy on stairs