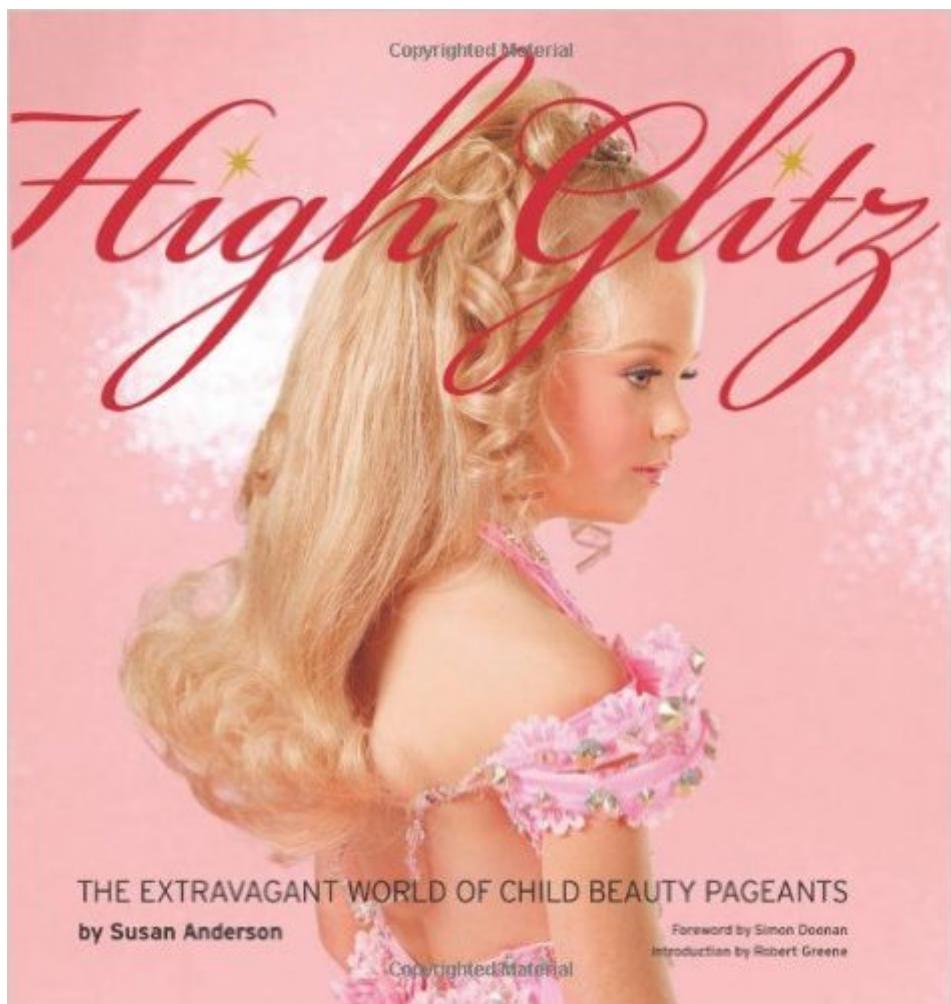


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# High Glitz: The Extravagant World Of Child Beauty Pageants



## Synopsis

High Glitz is a close-up and intimate look at America's child beauty pageants, and in turn our society's obsession with youth, beauty, fame, and fortune. Susan Anderson's vibrant portraits of pageant contestants twist notions of sexuality and identity, with a new perspective on this uniquely American subculture. "High Glitz" is a subgenre of child beauty pageants characterized by couture "glitz" - costumes and a broad array of cosmetic preparations including, among other tricks of the trade: glamour makeup, elaborate hairstyles, and "flippers" (false front teeth veneers). Anderson's stunning visuals are complimented by a "High Glitz Style Guide," defining and providing examples of the following categories: Beauty/Formal Wear, Western Wear, Sportswear, and Swimwear, with a special section on hairstyles such as "the Barbie" and the "Up-do." Each year as many as 100,000 children under the age of 12 participate in U.S. child beauty pageants, and it has recently become a billion-dollar industry. Parents invest thousands of dollars on costumes and private coaches to give their children a competitive edge. Countless hours are spent by professional hair and makeup artists on each child in preparation for the competition. The girls are spray-tanned, made-up, and groomed to a glossy perfection. Anderson captures the results of this time-consuming transformation process in exquisite detail. In seeing how our society's values of beauty, glamour, and celebrity are reflected in the hopes and dreams of thousands of young girls, we come to see that these pageants are a reflection of American culture itself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The photographs in this book will haunt you for a very long time, so be prepared. It's also the quantity that makes it so gripping. Brilliant pictures, yes. Very glamourous; I am sure the girls and their families will love this book. But there are different ways the pictures can be interpreted and that makes it such a good book. There are the names and ages of the girls but they don't match. You have to do a double take: This girl is 6 years old??? Three??? You could also see it as a study on the early age society starts demanding girls to be obsessed with their looks. Look for yourself, and wonder: Should this be allowed? What is this teaching the girls? At the same time you will see beautiful pictures of beautiful girls, too much make up and a lot of fake smiles. Very intriguing and thought provoking. I loved it!

This book proves that a picture is worth a thousand words. Each one made me want to cry. Look at their eyes, so weary, so sad. The photos are brilliant, beautiful portraits that leave viewers to draw their own conclusions. Mine - I wouldn't do this to my dog, let alone my children.

A remarkable slice of pure Americana beautifully captured by photographer Susan Anderson. Where else in the world could you find parents (mostly mothers I suppose) who would subject their kids to this bizarre pageantry style. The book's title refers to an offshoot of the youth beauty pageant circuit that focusses on extravagant costumes, hairstyles and makeup. It's the hair and makeup that gives photos a peculiar edge: the trappings of adult commercial sex appeal have been carefully added to young unblemished faces to make them something that is totally un-childlike. The ages of the girls, even tots, in the photos range from an eighteen month Gracie to a very adult looking Devan at thirteen. The animated poses, which would look quite normal in the adult glamor market, here only reinforce how artificial it all is. Some of the facial expressions suggest that these youngsters might be thinking: just what am I doing here looking like this! I was a bit disappointed with the book's production (so four stars). Great photos have been handled in a rather dull way. They are mostly on right-hand pages but don't bleed off the page because of a white strip across the bottom for a caption, left-hand pages just have the girl's names centered in a decorative typeface. Really the captions should have been centered under their names to eliminate the white strip and allow the photos to bleed off the page. The back of the book has twelve pages of a 'High glitz style guide' with an intriguing photo on page 141 with a close-up of a smiling mouth and the caption 'Flippers: false front teeth veneers'. Susan Anderson's photographic style perfectly captures the contestants from this artificial beauty pageant environment and the images say so much more than just what is before

your eyes.

I purchased this book expecting it to be jam packed with interviews, behind the scenes fun facts and an overall introduction to the world of child beauty pageants. Sort of like Toddlers and Tiaras but in book form. Wow, was I disappointed. The book is nothing but glamour shots of young girls. I'm trying to understand what the appeal of the book is? Who would buy this knowing what the content is? I'm embarrassed to have it in my home.

The pictures are good quality, the book is a nice keepsake of you have family in pageantry and want others to understand the child beauty pageant world. Has a page marking ribbon.

A highly-problematic glorification of child beauty pageants. Small girls in sexualized poses...

Love

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