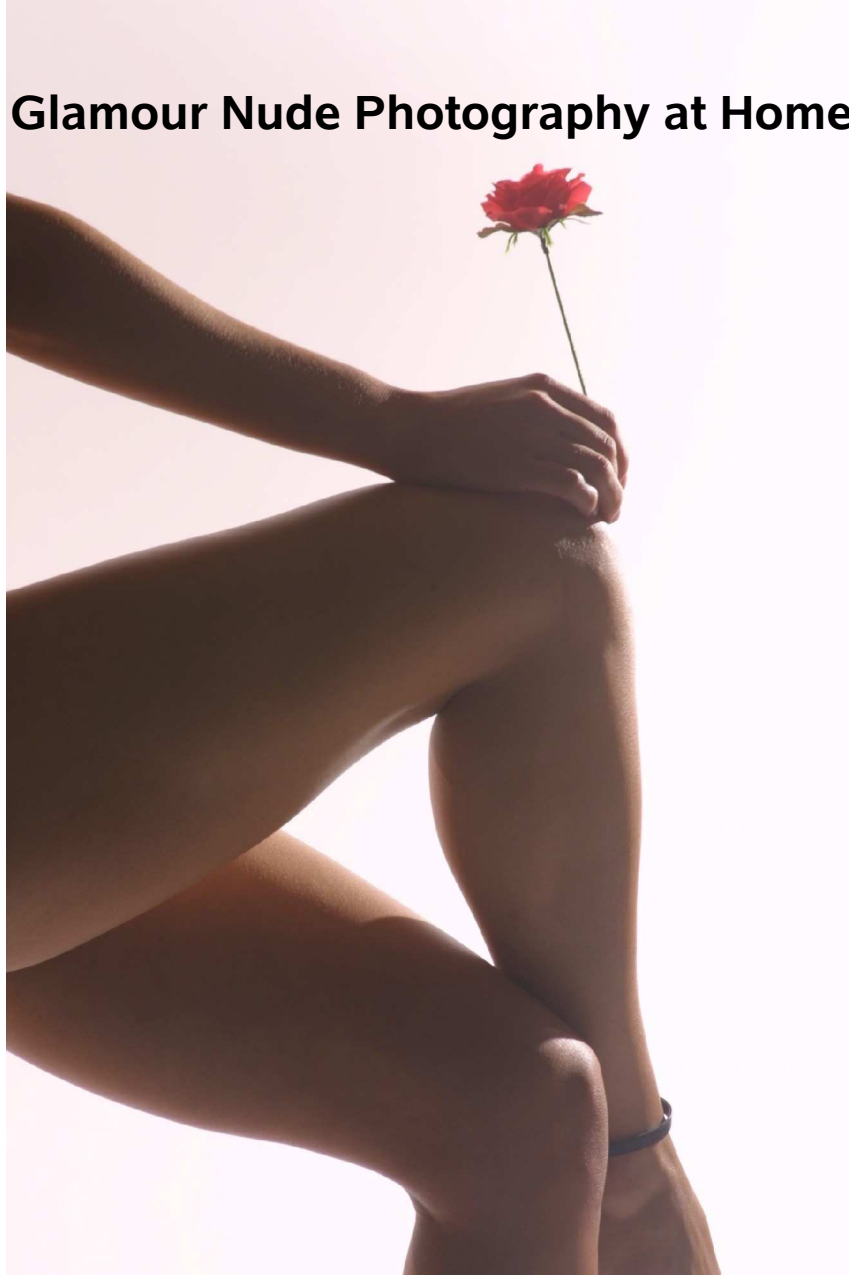


Glamour Nude Photography at Home



Forward

For years I have not only shot pictures, but taught others how to use their cameras. Often I have found that a few tips can drastically improve the quality of the photo and the satisfaction of the photographer with their results. This book is intended not only for the amateur photographer but also for couples that would like to experiment at home. It not only has information on equipment you might like to have but also how to use what you already have, to produce better pictures.

I would like to thank my wife Brenda for her support and assistance in the production of the photos and materials for this book. Also Diana Atkinson for her encouragement and insistence that I could do this.

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Photography

It is common for people to under estimate the importance of the photographer. It is the photographer's skill and vision that makes the difference between a photograph and a snapshot. Most people can't tell you what makes the difference but they can see it in the images. It is the photographer's job to know how to make that difference. Photography is a blend of technical skill and imagination.

Many years ago I was at a photo club shoot in which there were a number of models participating. I was shooting at one of the indoor sets with several other photographers when the studio flashes started malfunctioning. At that point I figured there was no reason to continue since anything I shot would be of poor quality so I disconnected and walked over to a table to set my camera up for shooting outside. Someone else came to the same table and was setting his camera up to connect to the defective lighting rig. When I let him know about the problem he just shrugged and said, "That's where the girl is". It is important to remember that just having an attractive woman in the image is not enough to make it a good photograph. Every photo has a story to tell and it should not be "the photographer didn't care"

Figure photography is not as easy as it might seem. It is more than just having a pretty girl take her clothes off. The photographer is often expected to direct hairstyle, wardrobe, posing and to set the mood. Background composition and lighting are also major components of the image. Also no woman is perfect so there may be things that you wish to conceal, often without letting her know that you are doing it.

The technical aspects of photography intimidate many people and many of the cameras don't help that with the myriad of features and menus that are provided. However basic operation of a camera is not as complex as you might think and most people can take better pictures with just a few simple tips.

When it all comes together the results can be magic. The image is a split second frozen in time. It can reflect a mood or tell a story. It is a reflection of both the model and the photographer. I have received many compliments from the models that I have worked with but the one that stands out the most for me is a friend who told me that the images made her feel better about herself. I often think about this and it has been my goal that whether I am working with a professional or amateur model, at the end of the day she is happy with the images as well.

Choosing a camera

You will probably want to start out with a camera that you already have but this section should be useful both for recognizing features that you may already have or as a guide if you should choose to upgrade.

Digital vs. Film

This is often the subject of heated debates among photographers, some being very happy with their new digital cameras and others not wanting to give up their film cameras. Given this it help to have a little information when making this choice.

Film

Most film cameras are lower cost for the equipment and many people prefer the color and tone qualities of the pictures. There are several drawbacks though

1. The cost of film and developing. This will often make you think twice before pressing the shutter release.
2. The lack of privacy. Unless you intend to set up a darkroom the file will have to go to the lab. If you are shooting nude images this could be a consideration.
3. Stopping to change film. Most digital cameras can hold enough memory to take over a hundred pictures.
4. You have to wait to see the pictures
5. They must be scanned if you intend to use them on a computer
6. Retouching is very difficult also requiring a darkroom.

If you do choose to get a film camera the size of the film is the first consideration. The general rule is the larger the film the better the quality. Cameras using film smaller than 35mm should be avoided because film grain will be visible in the pictures, especially if they are enlarge beyond normal snapshot size. Larger formats such as 120 will of course cost more to purchase and process. Most people choose the 35mm as a good balance between quality and cost.

Digital

While I still have film cameras my preference is to use my digital cameras now. Most models have come to expect it and enjoy being able to get copies of the images at the end of a shoot. Resolution is not really an issue anymore since most digital cameras now will produce images good enough to make 8X10 or larger prints. Some photographers however do not like the tone and contrast of the images. There are a number of advantages.

