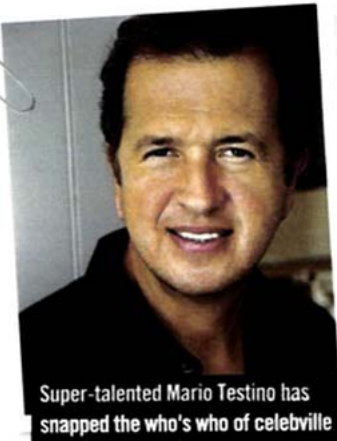


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Super-talented Mario Testino has snapped the who's who of celebville

SUPER MARIO

Want to know what it's like behind the scenes of the most glamorous photo shoots? We thought so, which is why we asked Mario Testino, the king of celebrity photography, to give us the lowdown on his new book *Let Me In!* and his beautiful images of the world's greatest stars in their private moments.

But we're not talking Britney with a razorblade through a long lens here. More like David Beckham between wardrobe changes on a *Vogue* fashion shoot. This is art, or as Peru-born Mario puts it, "A diary written with a camera".

So what inspired *Let Me In!*? "My career has given me the opportunity to capture many moments with the stars. I thought it was time to show what happens behind the scenes," says Mario.

And what scenes he's been privy to! As a top-notch photographer, Mario jets around the globe from his base in London, shooting fashion stories for the world's most elite magazines – *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* – and advertising campaigns for the likes of Gucci, Versace and Valentino.

Of all those breathtaking locations, says Mario, the carnival in Rio (where he snapped supermodel Amber Valetta) comes top. "You can almost hear the sounds when you look at the pictures," he says. Then, of course, there are the celebs: Madonna, Kate Winslet, Julia Roberts... and the list goes on. With

illustrious photographer to the stars, Mario Testino, talks exclusively to **GLAMOUR** and shares his photographs of stolen moments with Hollywood icons.
By Naomi Greenaway

those Hollywood connections come fabulous parties – the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party, front row at top designer shows, and American *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour's Costume Institute parties. "Wherever you look, there's someone beautiful and talented," he says of these exclusive *soirées*.

There's no doubt that Mario's lens reaches places others don't, making his collection of images totally unique. "It's easier to capture a person's essence when they're less aware and not posed,"

“Celebs always have incredible character in front of the lens.”

he explains. "You manage to see them more relaxed and have more insight into the real person."

That's certainly true of Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, who appear on the book's cover. Ever seen a picture of a superstar smearing lipstick on her husband? Neither had we. "I've become

great friends with Demi and Ashton. They're a great couple and I love photographing them," explains Mario when **GLAMOUR** asks why he chose them as his coverstars. "I think the intimacy of the shot is perfect... seeing stars behind closed doors, being let in."

According to Nicole Kidman, who's posed for Mario, there's no better place to be. "He makes you feel special," she says. And the feeling's mutual. "Celebs always have incredible character in front of the lens," Mario explains. "Although they can be difficult!" Especially when he needs to make them flash that extra centimetre of flesh.

His favourite shoot of all time? "Photographing Princess Di for *Vanity Fair* in '97," he says. The shoot captured the princess looking relaxed and sexy, as she'd never been seen. When she died tragically later that year, Mario's shots became the world's most intimate memory of the princess.

For Mario, intimacy is exactly what makes the photos in his latest book unique. "It's the feeling of total privacy," he says. And, luckily for us, we've been invited in... ▶

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JENNIFER LOPEZ

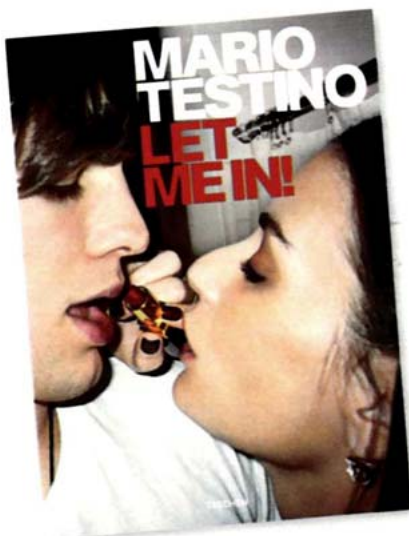
Los Angeles, 2003

"This was shot at the Oscars. Jennifer always looks so glamorous."

CAMERON DIAZ

Los Angeles, 2002

"For me, this picture shows the real Cameron. She's almost childlike, but sexy. She typifies the fun Los Angeles chick." ©



▲ *Let Me In!* by Mario Testino (Taschen, R5 834)
For more info, visit www.taschen.com



Photography: Mario Testino