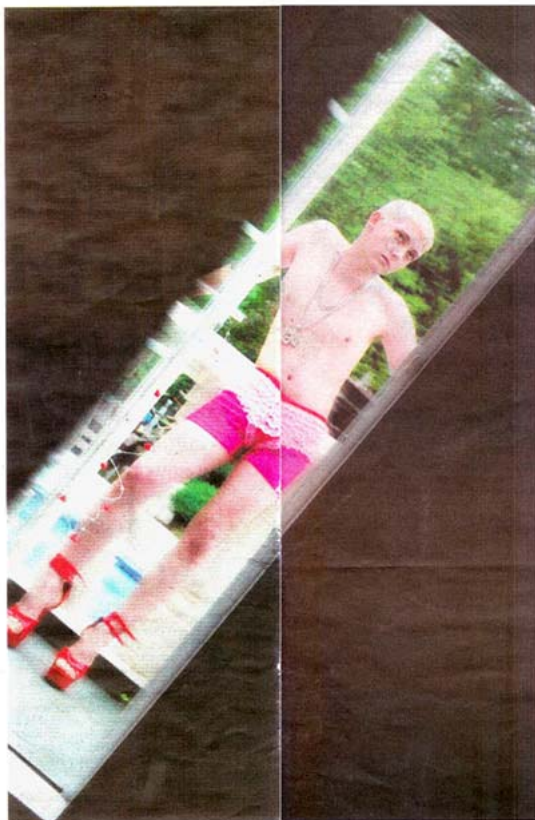


A right good read

Dark secrets, political sleaze, high society romps ... here are autumn's best page-turners



Images in Alison Jackson's Confidential include Eminem relaxing during an off-stage moment, left, and Nicole Kidman, above, attending to her rigorous beauty routine

CONFIDENTIAL Alison Jackson



TASCHEN

Below left: In *The Truth That Sticks*, Martin Bell tells how he beat the sleazy Neil Hamilton only to feel let down by Blair's government
Picture: REUTERS

ALISON JACKSON is the woman who takes photographs of celebrity lookalikes in compromising positions. You'll have seen her work before — what looks like the Queen perched on the loo; Tony Blair dressed up rodeo style by George Bush — and this glossy anthology delivers another round of such titillating images.

Whether or not these photographs — which range from the highly amusing to the mildly disturbing — work, depends largely on the quality of the lookalikes Jackson uses.

The veil of deception comes dangerously close to falling when a bloated Pete Doherty holds girlfriend Kate Moss's hair while she bends over to snort a line of coke. Cheekbones like theirs cannot, it appears, be replicated that easily.

But what Jackson does best is capture the zeitgeist of public opinion about her subjects, giving us exactly the photographs we want to see. Think Bill Gates dancing around to his iPod in a pair of boxer shorts, or Paris Hilton paying a fellow inmate to clean her toilet in prison. This speaks to the voyeur in anyone — it's Heat magazine as we wish it could be.

Ruby Warrington

'Think Paris Hilton paying a fellow inmate to clean her prison toilet. It's Heat magazine as we wish it could be'