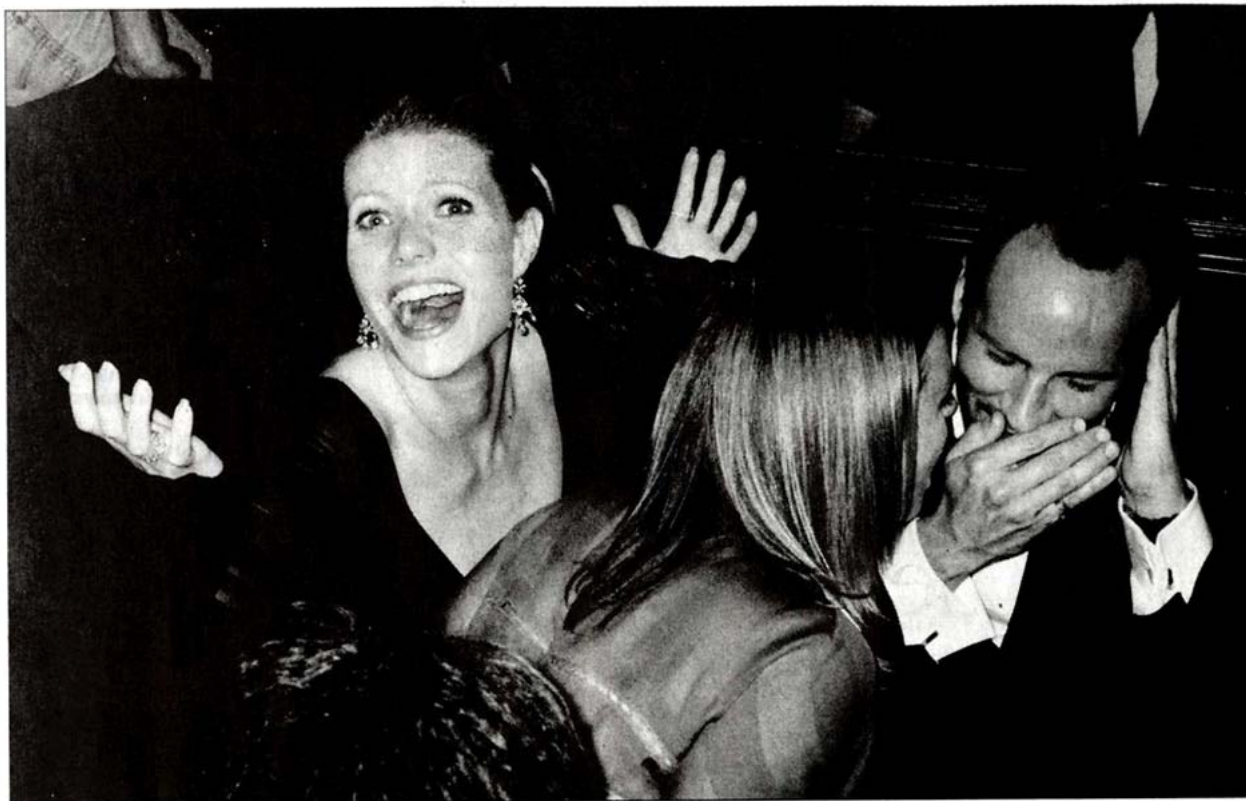


## [ PHOTOGRAPHY ]



Star quality (clockwise from top): Gwyneth Paltrow pulls a face for the camera while Tom Ford and Stella McCartney gossip; Jennifer Lopez; Anjelica Huston and Matt Dillon. Taschen

## He's always got stars in his eyes

### Let Me In!

Mario Testino

Taschen £24.99, pp304

Mario Testino's high-octane photographs have long been a fixture in such style bibles as *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. His portraits have captivated fans of fashion and celebrity alike. This latest collection of his images will have an added frisson for the latter group: it is, in Testino's words, 'a diary written with a camera'. Far from his stage-managed magazine shoots, these are snapshots from the photographer's private world – before and after official

sittings, at parties and benefits, in hotel suites and living rooms.

Many provide a fleeting entry to a gilded world, a view into the backstage parties with glittering guest lists and behind firmly closed doors. Gwyneth Paltrow pulls faces while Tom Ford gossips with Stella McCartney; Adrien Brody is sitting beside Nicole Kidman with Kate Hudson leaning over to say hello; Maria Carey and Beyonce flank Donatella Versace at a dinner party.

Others show individual stars playing for Testino, off-duty: Robbie Williams in a negligee; the famously demure Paltrow dancing, wearing silly hats or

in a yoga position that would challenge the most advanced contortionist.

And everyone, it seems, is flirting not just with the lens but with Mario behind it, his talent with the camera enhanced by his subjects' palpable desire to please him. Rougher than his previous work and often surprisingly intimate, this book might almost be a private album from say, Demi and Ashton's coffee table. **FRANCESCA SEGAL**

To order *Let Me In!* for £22.99 with free UK p&tp, go to [observer.co.uk/books](http://observer.co.uk/books) or call 0870 836 0885