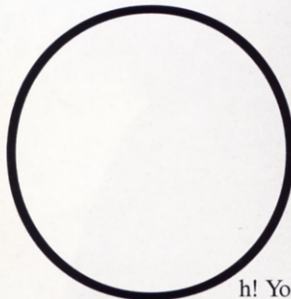


Clockwise from below: *Le Tabou*, 1947, by Robert Doisneau, from *Paris Jazz*; I House, from *Japan Houses*; the Relax-It massager, designed by Casper J. Miller, from *American Streamlined Design*.



h! You pretty things! **Robert Hofler** exposes dirty-dealing agent Henry Willson, famed for turning gay beefcake into teen-pinup-boy gold. Not only was he *The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson* (Carroll & Graf), he also gave us dreamy **Tab Hunter**, who relives his own glory days in *Tab Hunter Confidential* (Algonquin).

**John Berendt** once again captures the marvelous seamy side of midnight society; this time it's tourist-seducing Venice, *The City of Falling Angels* (Penguin Press). The late, lovely **Geoffrey Beene** stitched *Beene by Beene* (Vendome), a remembrance of his 40 years in fashion, with exquisite

detailing by **Pamela A. Parmal** and *V.F.* contributors **James Wolcott** and **Laura Jacobs**. In *The Year of Magical Thinking* (Knopf), **Joan Didion** ruminates on the sudden death of her husband—one week after her daughter's slip into a coma—with searing honesty and intensity. Solid-gold rock hagiographer **Peter Guralnick's** *Dream Boogie* (Little, Brown) recounts the life and times of soul legend Sam Cooke. *AA Gill Is Away* (Simon & Schuster) collects the caustically witty U.K. journalist and *V.F.* contributor's dispatches from far-flung locales. In *Blood Relation* (HarperCollins), **Eric Konigsberg** shears his family's black sheep, his great-uncle Heshy, a notorious Mafia hit man. Strange, beautiful, unsettling—**Sally Mann** uses 19th-century techniques to photograph the *Deep South* (Bulfinch). In *A Crack in the Edge of the World* (HarperCollins), **Simon Winchester** registers the damage of the great California quake of 1906. **William Wright** exposes the 1920 witch hunt of campus homosexuals by *Harvard's Secret Court* (St. Martin's).

Worthy and in brief: **Marcia Iwatate** and **Geeta K. Mehta** tour *Japan Houses* (Tuttle). **Michael Gross** checks into 740 Park (Broadway). **Julia Sheere's** memoir recounts her life in *Jesus Land* (Counterpoint). **Luke Miner** bebops in *Paris Jazz* (Little Bookroom). **Mark Seliger in My Stairwell** (Rizzoli) collects portraits shot in his impromptu studio.

**David A. Hanks** and **Anne Hoy** celebrate *American Streamlined Design* (Flammarion). **William G. Borchert** toasts the co-founder of Al-Anon in *The Lois Wilson Story* (Hazelden). Artist **Sloane Tanen's** puffball chicks are *Going for the Bronze* (Bloomsbury). Fifty female photographers document *A Day in the Life of the American Woman* (Bulfinch). Hint: it's not all bringing home the bacon, frying it up in a pan, and never, ever letting him forget he's a man ...

## French Sensation

JUSTINE LÉVY'S *ROMAN À CLEF*

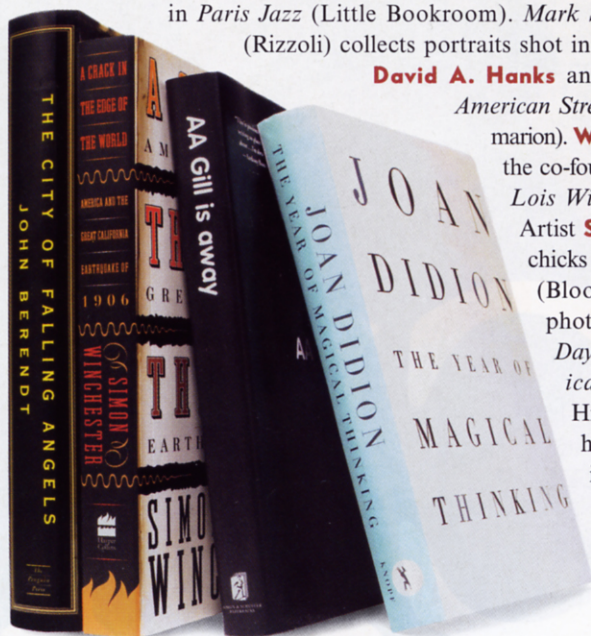
**Anais Nin** once said, "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." *Nothing Serious*, the new novel by **Justine Lévy**, daughter of the flamboyant French moralist and political philosopher **Bernard-Henri Lévy**, is a thinly veiled *roman à clef* that has set tongues a-wagging over its scandalous content, even knocking *The Da Vinci Code* off the top of European best-seller lists. *Nothing Serious*,

out from Melville House this month, features Louise, the jaded daughter of a famous European writer. Louise is in trouble: her mother is fighting cancer, her grandmother has died, and her marriage has fallen into ruin—a break seemingly precipitated by her husband's envy of her father's success, Louise's obsessive love of her father, and her husband's falling in love with his stepmother, supposedly modeled on **Mick Jagger's** nubile ex-lover **Carla Bruni**. Despite all this, Louise narrates the book with an appealing and cool *C'est la guerre* attitude. Whether she is in love or in pain, she speaks, sometimes maddeningly, as though she were squinting through a haze of cigarette smoke, shrugging her shoulders. This slim, sexy little book will make you want to steal away on your lunch break to savor its pleasures. —E.S.



### OOH LA LA

Justine Lévy, photographed in Paris on August 1, 2005.



PHOTOGRAPHS: BOTTOM, LEFT, BY TOM WATSON; BOTTOM, RIGHT, BY DAVID LAWRENCE; FOR DETAILS, SEE CREDITS PAGE