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Publicity contact: Crystal Patriarche
SparkPress, a BookSparks imprint
crystal@booksparkspr.com, 480.650.1688

The 4th Trimester Bodies Project Strikes Multi-Book Deal for Post-Pregnancy Photography Series

Photographer Ashlee Wells Jackson's touching tribute to motherhood has been featured on *Today*, *Good Morning America*, *O Magazine* and more

CHICAGO, IL. and TEMPE, Ariz., May 8, 2014- Ashlee Wells Jackson, the talented photographer behind The 4th Trimester Bodies Project (www.4thtrimesterbodies.com), has signed a multi-book deal with SparkPress (a BookSparks imprint) to bring her passionate project to life and showcase the emotional portraits she has captured during an ongoing, sold-out photography tour. SparkPress will release the first volume in 2015, which has already accumulated hundreds of preorders. Ashlee has photographed nearly 400 women and captured stories of women who have experienced everything from unplanned to extremely traumatic birth and post-partum experiences, leaving their minds, bodies, and hearts forever changed.

In 2012, Ashlee was devastated by the sudden and tragic loss of one of her identical twin daughters to twin to twin transfusion syndrome. She then went into labor and delivered her girls 16 weeks early. Her surviving daughter had to fight to thrive and though doing well, has lifelong medical needs as a result. Ashlee's grief and complications related to her pregnancy and childbirth left her body and soul ravaged.

Her photographic journey has been featured in *O Magazine* and *Parents*, on *Today* and *Good Morning America*, as well as online at Huffington Post, Jezebel, Upworthy, and more. The 4th Trimester Bodies Project, which began with an anything-but-simple black and white photo of Ashlee and her surviving daughter, seeks to encourage women that they are beautiful – stretches, stripes, scars and all.

Women in the project are photographed against a stark white backdrop, wearing their underwear and bras. Many women are photographed along with their children. The message is one of acceptance and empowerment, declaring the beauty in a woman's body after she has become a mother and encouraging women everywhere to embrace their forever-changed physique and promote body positivity, healing and self love in an era of over-photoshopping and self-loathing.



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“Some days it’s a struggle but most days I see myself with the wholeness, beauty, and self love I did before. On the difficult days I look at the women who surround me and find strength in their stories. I am grateful for each and every woman who has had the bravery to join me on this journey and for the thousands who are following along with us,” Ashlee says.

“As a mother and a publisher, I’m honored to be working with such a talented individual on a beautiful, meaningful, and important project dedicated to spreading the message that motherhood should be celebrated. This project is empowering women everywhere to embrace and celebrate their bodies, their children and their journey,” says Crystal Patriarche, founder of SparkPress.

Through The 4th Trimester Bodies Project, Ashlee and her business partner Laura Wilson, who is also a stylist for the project, continue to photograph women in Jackson’s hometown of Chicago, Illinois. They are in the midst of a three-year tour with stops planned throughout the entire United States and several international cities. By the end of the tour, the duo will have photographed several thousand women. For upcoming tour dates and locations, visit <http://4thtrimesterbodies.com/events/tour/>.

About SparkPress

SparkPress is an innovative hybrid publisher committed to partnering with authors, both debut and bestselling, to develop, create and share their stories with the largest audience possible in both digital and traditional ways. Fueled by an industry-wide reputation for innovative, creative, results-driven success, SparkPress represents a broad array of genres and voices through our catalog of both fiction and non-fiction titles, with an intentional focus on female-driven work. SparkPress, a BookSparks imprint, is a division of SparkPoint Studio, LLC. To learn more, visit us at www.sparkpointstudio.com.

About Ashlee Wells Jackson and The 4th Trimester Bodies Project

Ashlee is a woman, mother, wife, photographer and friend, though she’s quick to explain the order of said things is interchangeable depending on the day, or time of day. She is the mother to one son and identical twin daughters, one of whom passed away due to Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome. She created The 4th Trimester Bodies Project to combat the way women are judged for their bodies, especially after childbirth. She believes motherhood is sacred and should be celebrated and hopes to do just that through The 4th Trimester Bodies Project (www.4thtrimesterbodies.com). Find the project on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4thtrimesterbodiesproject.

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