



Larry Fink

Larry Fink's **Social Graces** (PowerHouse, \$55) is a powerful study in contrast, both technically and in the profoundly different socioeconomic worlds it represents. Using his trademark handheld off-camera flash to create searing highlights and deep shadows—a light that seems to feel its way through and around bodies, illuminating only their most telling parts—Fink photographed high-society events in New York City and down-home life in the small blue-collar town of

Martin's Creek, Pennsylvania. Fink's black-tie pictures cut his subjects to the quick, catching them in awkward moments when their buttoned-down cool seems to come apart. The same technique and insight reveal the more down-scale but emotionally rambunctious world of Martin's Creek, where Fink actually lived when the book was first published in 1984. The people in these pictures were, in fact, the photographer's neighbors.

This handsome reissue of Fink's

classic is more than a reprint. Though it preserves the original sequence of the photographs, the book has been completely redesigned, and new separations have been made from the originals. The reproductions do justice to the brilliance and density of Fink's prints. A brand new chapter features never-before-published images, including this outdoor birthday party in Martin's Creek (left)—one of Fink's rare existing-light shots. Call it a director's cut. —RUSSELL HART



This page:
"Jean Sabatine's
Sixtieth
Birthday, May
1992"; opposite:
"Benefit, The
Museum of
Modern Art,
New York City,
June 1977,"
by Larry Fink.