Playboy is known for many things but nothing more than the Playmate. The magazine's second issue featured the first Playmate of the Month—Miss January 1954 Margie Harrison. (Marilyn Monroe was listed in the first issue as "Sweetheart of the Month.") Since then, every issue has featured a model who celebrates the fantasy of the ultimate girl next door—beautiful in every way and yet real enough for you to imagine sitting across from her on a date. Ellen Stratton (Miss December 1959) was the winner of the first Playmate of the Year contest. And from there? Well, enough with the history lesson. This Playboy Special Collector's Issue includes every Playmate of the Year ever crowned, from the smoking Miss Stratton to Lisa Baker of 1967 (pictured here) to Raquel Pomplun of 2013. The issue is an exaltation of beauty and sexual freedom, a walk down memory lane, an invitation to a very exclusive party. And it all starts with Miss Stratton herself, who awaits you on the next page.
First Playmate of the Year

ELLEN STRATTON

From legal secretary to an icon for the ages.
The Pride of Pittsburgh

LINDA GAMBLE

“Our champion has big green eyes for waterskiing and sports-car driving.”
Foreign Service

CHRISTA SPECK
A German Bunny at the Chicago Playboy Club.
Blonde Ambition

JUNE COCHRAN

“You know, I never thought I’d win.”
Renaissance Woman

DONNA MICHELLE

Model, actress, photographer, dancer and readers' choice for 1964.
The Patriot Act

JO COLLINS

Nicknamed “G.I. Jo” for her USO tours in Vietnam.
Model Behavior

ALLISON PARKS

This pictorial launched a long career in front of the camera.
The Babe From Detroit, Texas

LISA BAKER

“Being a Playmate is a natural thing for any girl to do.”
Out of This World

ANGELA DORIAN

A photo of this beauty rode NASA’s Apollo 12 into space.
Good, Clean Fun

CONNIE KRESKI

In the tub with the queen of 1969.
The New Decade

CLAUDIA JENNINGS

"I came to Hollywood at a lucky time, I think."
East of Eden

SHARON CLARK
She taught English in Micronesia.
British Intelligence

MARILYN COLE

The London Playboy Club Bunny hits the big time.
Girl on Film

CYNDI WOOD

You may recognize her from her role in *Apocalypse Now.*
Island Beauty

MARILYN LANGE

There's more to Hawaii than poi and pineapples.
Bicentennial Babe

LILLIAN MÜLLER
This PMOY later appeared in Van Halen’s “Hot for Teacher” video.
Once Upon a Time in Mexico

PATTI MCGUIRE

“Cabo San Lucas is a place for lovers and honeymooners.”
Southern Comfort
DEBRA JO FONDREN
The hottest lone star in Texas.
1979

L.A. Confidential

MONIQUE ST. PIERRE

“Los Angeles has been good to me. I think I’ll stay here for a while.”
Every Playmate of the Year

1980

Star 80
DOROTHY STRATTEN
A most extraordinary Playmate.
1981

The Friendly Skies

TERRI WELLES

She was an airline stewardess when *Playboy* discovered her.
Classic Beauty

SHANNON TWEED
An erotic icon of the 1980s and beyond.
White Hot

MARIANNE GRAVATTE

The perfect body? We think so.
Cocktail Time

BARBARA EDWARDS

Would you like soda with that?
Holiday in the Tropics

KAREN VELEZ

On the beach with the queen of 1985.
1986

Every Playmate of the Year

Bird of Paradise

KATHY SHOWER

She’s an actress, she’s a mom, and now Kathy Shower has a new title.
Wet and Wild

DONNA EDMONDSON

“I never imagined it would go this far.”
Sweet Virginia

INDIA ALLEN

A Southern belle gets her moment in the sun.
Dream Girl
KIMBERLY CONRAD
A gorgeous PMOY—and former Mrs. Hugh M. Hefner.
Welcome to the 1990s
RENEÉ TENISON
The first African American PMOY.
All-American Girl

LISA MATTHEWS

Ambitions: “To get a good education and be happy in life.”
Fairy Tale
CORINNA HARNEY
It looks like this model’s dreams just came true.
The One, the Only...

ANNA NICOLE SMITH
Guess girl, Playmate, timeless beauty.
Jenny McCarthy
It all started here, in the pages of Playboy.
Celluloid Heroine

JULIE LYNN CIALINI

“I’ve always loved the camera.”
And the camera loves you.
Desert Fox
STACY SANCHES
“Things happen for a reason. This was just meant to be.”
Swedish Dreams

VICTORIA SILVSTEDT

She modeled for Chanel, Dior, Armani—and *Playboy.*
Love Boat

KAREN MCDOU GAL
This PMOY enjoys the motion of the ocean.
Some Like It Hot

HEATHER KOZAR

“People have always told me I resemble Marilyn Monroe.”
Happy New Year!

JODI ANN PATERSON

What a way to start the century.
A Sip of Brandy
BRANDE RODERICK
The babe from Baywatch, minus her swimsuit.
Smoking Hot

DALENE KURTIS

This PMOY can put out our fire any day.
Sight Seeing

CHRISTINA SANTIAGO

How about this for a room with a view?

2003
2004

Every Playmate of the Year

Made in Cleveland
CARMELLA DECESARE

“When I got the call, I was in tears.”
Nurse! Nurse!

Tiffany Fallon

We've got a fever for Ms. Fallon.
Diamonds Are Forever

KARA MONACO

This pictorial sparked a future in reality TV.
Golden Girl
SARA JEAN UNDERWOOD
Clearly, she's on her way up in this world.
Respect
Jayde Nicole

"After my issue came out, that tattoo became the hottest topic of my life."
International Studies
IDA LJUNGQVIST
This Swedish-Tanzanian model speaks Swahili.
The Audacity of Hope

HOPE DWORACZYK

“I feel like this is all a dream.”
Jungle Love

CLAIRE SINCLAIR

A throwback to the classic days of the pinup.
Wild Child

JACLYN SWEDBERG

Our favorite daredevil pulls off her best feat yet.
Today’s Special

RAQUEL POMPLUN

The last but far from the least. It’s your 2013 PMOY.