

LAURA DARK PHOTOGRAPHY

BOUDOIR

PREPARATION GUIDE



THE ART OF FEELING LIKE YOURSELF

This experience is yours.

*Romantic. Powerful. Playful. Dramatic.
There is more than one way to be beautiful.*

Boudoir is about creating portraits that feel like you. You do not need to fit a particular size, age, shape, or definition of beauty to belong here.

Your comfort shapes the session

You choose your wardrobe and how much you want to show. Tell us what you love, what you would rather keep covered, and what would help you feel at ease. You can change your mind at any point.

We guide you throughout

We help with posing, expression, hands, and angles. No modeling experience is needed. You bring yourself; we help you create the portrait.

Laura Dark is an award-winning, internationally published fine-art photographer, PPA Master of Photography, and Certified Professional Photographer. Groveport studio / Columbus, Ohio.



Your guide to boudoir.

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Check your booked package before shopping. Your number of looks, sets, and styling services is determined by your booking. **Hair and makeup are included only when specified in your package.**



Choose your mood.

*Soft romance. Old Hollywood. Dark glamour.
A quiet moment, or a bold entrance.*

Use our portfolio to explore lighting, textures, sets, and styling. Your inspiration is a starting point for a session that belongs to you.

Plan the experience.

Complete your pre-shoot intake

Fill out the form fully before your appointment. Share your likes and dislikes, inspiration, wardrobe ideas, hair and makeup preferences, and editing requests. This gives us time to prepare thoughtfully.

Tell us your boundaries

Be clear about what you are comfortable showing and what you prefer to keep covered. Tell us about product allergies, sensitivities, mobility needs, or anything that may affect your comfort or posing.

Work within your booked package

Check your client portal for the number of looks and sets included, your appointment time, and any special instructions. Bringing extra options does not automatically add outfit changes or shooting time.

Ask before you buy

If you are choosing between two looks, bring both so we can discuss the best option for the set and time available. If a particular studio item or beauty service is essential to your vision, confirm it ahead of time.

Hair and makeup are included only when specified in your booked package. If styling is not included, plan to arrive with your hair and makeup finished.

Buy for the fit, not the label.

Beautiful lingerie begins with comfort, support, and a fit that lets you move.

Start with accurate measurements

Use the size chart for each brand and garment. Lingerie sizing can vary from your everyday clothing size, and padded, unpadded, and specialty bras may fit differently. A professional bra fitting or measurements from a knowledgeable fitter or seamstress can help.

Size the top and bottom separately

Your bra and panty sizes may not match. A set sold in one size may fit one area well and another poorly. Look for separates, adjustable pieces, or sets that let you choose both sizes.

Shop for your proportions

For fuller figures, consider brands that design specifically for plus sizes and your support needs. A larger size in a straight-size design may not have the same cup depth, strap placement, or proportions.

Choose the size that fits your body comfortably today. The number on the label does not determine how beautifully a garment photographs.

The fitting-room test.

Check the support

Cups should sit smoothly without spilling or gaping. The band should feel secure without digging in, and straps should stay in place. Check underwires, boning, seams, and closures for pressure or pinching.

Move in every piece

Sit, stand, bend, lift your arms, and gently turn. A garment should stay in place through different poses. For teddies and bodysuits, check torso length as well as bust and hip fit. Corsets should allow comfortable breathing and movement.

Test the whole outfit

Try lingerie with its intended underwear, stockings, garters, and shoes. Check clips, straps, lacing, and fastenings. Bring the inserts or pads you plan to use, and make sure they stay discreetly in place.

Leave time to exchange

Order well before your appointment so you can try everything on and arrange returns, exchanges, or alterations. Follow the retailer's try-on instructions and return policy; keep tags attached until you are sure.

Try every outfit on before your shoot. The session should be spent making photographs, not discovering that a new garment does not fit.

Softness & movement.

Babydolls

Usually fitted at the bust, with fabric flowing beneath it and a short hemline. They create softness and movement while offering more coverage around the waist and hips. Some are sold with matching panties or hosiery; check what is included.

Chemises & slips

Slip-like garments with a continuous drape, available in different lengths. They are often more fitted than a babydoll and may not include coordinating underwear. Choose lace, satin, or a soft fabric that suits your mood.

Camisoles & coordinating sets

A fitted or softly draped top with matching shorts or underwear can create a relaxed, luxurious look without showing as much skin. These are lovely for cozy or understated portraits.

Bra & panty sets

A versatile foundation for many looks. Choose the support, rise, coverage, and texture you prefer. A matching set can be simple and still make a strong photograph.

You do not need to buy the most revealing option. Choose a silhouette that makes you feel comfortable and expressive.



Structure & drama.

Bustiers

Structured tops designed to support the bust and shape the torso. Construction varies: some use boning, hooks, or lacing, and some include garter attachments. Check that the bust and waist fit together comfortably.

Corsets

More structured garments that create a defined waist, often with boning and adjustable lacing. Overbust styles cover the bust; underbust styles sit below it and can be paired with a bra. Garters are optional and depend on the design. Fit matters more than tightness.

Teddies & bodysuits

One-piece styles that create a continuous line. Options range from substantial coverage to sheer lace or dramatic cutouts. Check torso length, bust support, leg openings, and closures before your session.

Robes & layers

A robe, oversized shirt, sweater, or flowing layer can change the mood and coverage of a look. Layers can be added or removed as your comfort changes.

Shapewear, corsets, and high heels are choices, never requirements. You can create beautiful boudoir portraits without them.



Bust & neckline.

Your body is not a problem to solve. These are options for the silhouette you want.

For a fuller bust or more support

A professional bra fitting is especially helpful. Consider full-coverage cups, well-fitted underwire, longline bras, and wider straps. Check that the band and cups do not create uncomfortable overflow. Heavy padding, string straps, or strapless designs may offer less support, depending on their construction.

For more fullness or definition

Padded or gel-filled cups, push-up bras, structured bustiers, or removable bra inserts can create a rounder outline if you want that effect. Avoid cups that gap, and test inserts with the garment before your shoot. A correctly fitted unpadded bra or bralette can be equally beautiful.

To direct attention with a neckline

Halter shapes, lace details, ruffles, and structured necklines change where the eye is drawn. Try a few styles rather than relying only on size labels or rigid body-type rules.

Tell us which features you want to emphasize. Wardrobe, posing, lighting, and camera angles work together to create the final portrait.

Waist & midsection.

For a softer drape

Opaque babydolls, chemises, flowing slips, and open robes let fabric fall gently over the midsection. Choose enough room for the garment to move rather than cling where you would prefer more coverage.

For a more defined waist

An underbust corset, structured bustier, fitted bodysuit, or waist belt can create a stronger waistline. Choose a secure, comfortable fit; you should be able to breathe, sit, and pose without painful pressure.

For a retro silhouette

High-waisted two-piece sets or a vintage-inspired girdle with garters and a coordinating bra can give the waist and hips a distinctive line. Shapewear is an option if you enjoy wearing it, but it is not required.

Think about your editing preferences

If you want detailed smoothing on your stomach, hips, or bottom, discuss it with us before choosing fabric. Lace, fishnet, and patterned mesh over an area make skin and shape adjustments more complex.

You can celebrate your waist and curves, soften a line, or add coverage. Choose what feels right to you and share that preference in your intake.

Hips, bottom & legs.

For more coverage or a softer hip line

A slip or negligee fitted at the bust and flowing at the hips, an A-line babydoll, or a robe can create a softer drape. A structured bustier, bandeau, or detail at the neckline can draw attention upward.

To emphasize or balance a silhouette

Fitted teddies, high-cut bodysuits, high-waisted sets, lace panties, and thongs create different lines around the hips and bottom. Halter necklines, ruffles, or a detailed bra can shift the balance. A camisole set is a lovely option for a quieter look.

Stockings or a longer layer can add coverage around the thighs. We will guide your pose and angles; there is no single correct shape or outfit.





Make each look complete.

Bring your own lingerie

The studio provides select boudoir corsets, robes, wings, and accessories. We do not provide a complete boudoir lingerie wardrobe, so clients generally bring their own lingerie and personal garments unless we have confirmed something specific.

Explore beyond lingerie

A favorite sweater, an oversized button-down, a camisole set, or a simple slip can be just as striking. Choose outfits that suit your vision and the amount of coverage you want.

Pack by look

Keep each outfit together with its coordinating underwear, stockings, garters, shoes, jewelry, and any inserts. Clean and steam garments beforehand, and protect delicate fabric and structured pieces during travel.

Confirm studio pieces in advance

If you are planning around a particular corset, robe, wing color, or accessory, ask about availability and fit before the session. Studio items can complement your wardrobe, but should not be assumed to replace it.

Your package determines the number of looks and sets. Bring useful options while keeping the planned session and available time in mind.



The finishing touches.

Shoes that belong to the look

Bring clean shoes that coordinate with each outfit. Heels and platforms can create a longer leg line, but comfortable flats or a barefoot look may also suit the concept. Choose shoes you can safely stand and pose in; test them with your stockings.

Stockings & garters

For garter belts or attached garters, buy stockings designed for garter clips. Self-supporting stockings with silicone or elastic tops may not work well with clips. Test the length, fit, and attachments before your shoot.

Color & toe details

For a classic coordinated look, stockings in a lighter or similar tone to the shoes can work well. Closed-toe shoes conceal visible stocking seams. These are styling options; your chosen concept may call for a different effect.

Jewelry & studio accessories

Keep necklaces, earrings, rings, bracelets, and hair accessories intentional. One meaningful piece can be enough. The studio has select jewelry, headpieces, vintage-inspired robes, corsets, and black, white, and gold wings; ask if you have a specific item in mind.

Check straps, seams, stockings, fastenings, and shoes together. Small details are easiest to fix before you arrive.



The shopping edit.

Starting points from our lingerie guide. Compare each garment's measurements, support, fabric, and return policy; not every brand offers every size or silhouette.

TRY ON & EXPLORE IN PERSON

Cirilla's

Lion's Den

Victoria's Secret

Soma

Torrid

Lane Bryant / Cacique

ONLINE BOUTIQUES & COLLECTIONS

Frederick's of Hollywood

Agent Provocateur

HerRoom

Thistle and Spire

Bluebella

Videnoir

Savage X Fenty

Honey Birdette

Adore Me

Confirm store locations and fitting appointments before traveling. For online orders, leave time for delivery and exchanges. Retailer links are clickable in the digital edition.

A polished portrait. Still you.

Our aim is the best, most rested version of you, with your identity intact.

Basic skin retouching

Our standard skin editing addresses temporary blemishes, acne, minor facial distractions, and softening of lines or wrinkles. It is not intended to erase decades, remove all texture, or turn you into someone else.

Cellulite, stretch marks & excess skin

Smoothing or softening these areas can be discussed. They do not need to be removed to create a beautiful portrait. Tell us which features you would like softened and which you want preserved in your pre-shoot intake.

Scars, tattoos & medical devices

If you would like a scar, small tattoo, or medical appliance minimized or removed, ask in advance and provide a clear example photo with your intake or separately. Feasibility depends on the image, placement, and surrounding detail; removal cannot be guaranteed.

Be specific about both kinds of preference: what you would like changed, and what you would like left exactly as it is.

Plan the details.

Subtle shape adjustments

Small refinements to skin folds, pressure marks, clothing edges, or distracting lumps may be possible when requested. We do not promise dramatic body-size changes or a completely different shape. Discuss the degree of adjustment you want before the shoot.

Hair fullness

Hair thickening or filling may be possible through styling, post-production, or a combination of the two. Ask before your appointment so we can plan for the look and assess any additional work.

Advanced glamour retouching

More extensive beauty work or high-end glamour editing can carry an additional fee. Ask for options and pricing before the session; do not assume that every specialty edit is included in your booked package.

Choose fabric with editing in mind

If detailed smoothing on your legs, tummy, hips, or bottom is important to you, avoid covering that area with fishnet or lace unless we have discussed it. Texture and pattern make edits more complex and can limit what is possible.

Share editing requests in your intake before the session. Good planning lets wardrobe, lighting, posing, and retouching support the same vision.



Your beauty preparation.

When professional styling is included

Hair and makeup are included only when specified in your booked package. Unless your stylist gives you different instructions, arrive with clean, completely dry hair and a clean, moisturized face without makeup.

When styling is not included

Arrive camera-ready with your hair and makeup finished. If you would like to add a service, contact the studio before your appointment to confirm availability, timing, and cost.

Share the look you love

Add examples to your intake, preferably from our website, Facebook, or Instagram portfolio. Tell us what you like about the eyes, lips, hair, or overall mood, and what you dislike. Advance notice helps the artist prepare any specialty products.

Lashes & product sensitivities

Lashes are included with studio makeup applications. Tell us in advance about cosmetic, adhesive, latex, or other product allergies and sensitivities, including lash-glue concerns, so the artist can discuss suitable options.

If you are unsure whether beauty services are included, check your booking details in the client portal before your appointment.

Hair, wigs & finishing details.

If you plan to wear your own extensions, have them installed before the session unless another arrangement has been confirmed. Tell us about them in your intake so your styling plan accounts for the length, texture, and attachment method.

The studio has a selection of wigs, half wigs, and other hair additions for different lengths or colors. Ask ahead if you want a specific look; availability and suitability should be confirmed rather than assumed.



Keep your preparation simple and familiar. Give us time to plan the details that matter to you.

Prepare without the pressure.

Once you have booked

Review your package and complete your intake. Choose the mood, coverage, and editing preferences you want. Confirm any studio wardrobe pieces, beauty services, or accommodations before building your outfits around them.

In the weeks before

Shop early, compare size charts, and leave time for returns or alterations. Try every complete look on. If you plan hair coloring, waxing, or other familiar grooming services, allow time for your skin and hair to settle.

During the final week

Avoid experimenting with unfamiliar skincare or major last-minute beauty changes. Check outfit straps, closures, stocking clips, and shoe fit. Share final questions with the studio before the session.

The night before

Steam or prepare garments as needed and pack by look. Set out loose arrival clothing, charge your phone, and check your appointment details and directions. Keep skincare gentle and familiar, and get the rest that works for you.

You do not need a crash diet, a new body, or a complete transformation to be ready for your photographs.



Your session-day checklist.

- ☐ Pre-shoot intake completed, with inspiration, boundaries, allergies, and editing preferences.
- ☐ Each outfit tried on, cleaned, and packed with its coordinating pieces.
- ☐ Correct underwear, inserts, stockings, garters, shoes, and personal accessories.
- ☐ Clean, dry hair and a clean, moisturized face if professional styling is included; otherwise, hair and makeup finished.
- ☐ Water, personal touch-up items, medications, and any essentials you may need.
- ☐ Loose, comfortable arrival clothing to reduce temporary pressure marks.
- ☐ Appointment time, studio directions, package details, and session instructions checked in your client portal.

A spare pair of stockings and a backup outfit can be useful. Extra options are for flexibility; your booked package still determines the number of looks.

Arrive as yourself.

Bring the outfits you feel good in and the preferences you want us to know. We will talk through your chosen look and guide your posing, hands, expression, and angles.

Tell us if a garment pinches, a pose feels uncomfortable, or you want more coverage. Your comfort is part of making the photograph. You can ask questions and adjust your boundaries throughout the session.



*You do not have
to arrive knowing
how to pose.*

*That is what
we are here for.*



Come as you are.

You bring the story.

We will help you tell it beautifully.

Questions before your session?

Message the studio through your client portal
or visit lauradark.net.

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