



What Women Want: An Agenda for the Women's Movement

By Deborah L. Rhode

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What Women Want is a trenchant examination of the struggle for women's equality, and a prescription for what to focus on next in order to ensure maximum success. Feminism today is a movement that lacks leadership, unity, and definition, and it has gotten stuck in a boom and bust cycle when it comes to public opinion and action. Despite significant progress over the last fifty years, equality is still a distant goal in the political, social, and economic spheres. Only by identifying the barriers (both internal and external) that remain, Deborah Rhode argues, can we begin to identify solutions.

A rigorously researched and well-written answer to the glut of gender-related books that have come onto the market recently, *What Women Want* comprehensively analyzes the challenges the feminist movement faces today. Combining sharp academic analysis and interviews with notable figures such as Sheryl Sandberg, Rhode focuses on five main topics: employment issues such as pay discrimination, work-life balance and the government's pitiful response, the assault on women's reproductive rights and the limits it places on their economic mobility, sexual harassment and violence, and the detrimental effect that the unfashionable label "feminist" can have, especially in attracting young women to the movement. Despite these formidable obstacles, the goals and principles of feminism are widely accepted by the American mainstream, and Rhode, herself a pathbreaker in the fields of law and education, offers effective strategies for redefining and advancing the feminist agenda, thereby creating a movement that truly recognizes, and is responsive to, what all women want.

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Editorial Review

Review

"What Women Want brings new insights to longstanding questions of gender inequality. One of the nation's preeminent experts on women and the law offers a compelling agenda for the women's movement. With elegant and engaging prose, Rhode tackles issues such as pay inequity, work/family conflicts, violence against women, and economic and reproductive justice. This book is essential reading for anyone who cares about equal opportunity for women." --Kim Gandy, National Organization for Women, President 2001-2009

"As she has done for decades, Deborah Rhode argues again persuasively that American women still face a grinding uphill battle. We are paid less, work harder, experience greater violence, report less violence, and lack crucial policies and services long-established in other developed countries. Passionately articulated, unsentimental and clear-eyed, Rhode proves that What Women Want -- whatever they may choose to call it -- is feminism." -Dahlia Lithwick, Supreme Court Correspondent, Slate

"If you have any doubt that gender inequality persists in today's world, you won't after reading this evocative, data-packed book. What Women Want is the most comprehensive account of gender inequality out there. But Rhode goes beyond describing the problem; she offers compelling advice for achieving a gender equitable society." --Shelley J. Correll, Director, Clayman Institute for Gender Research and Professor of Sociology, Stanford University

"Whenever I need the latest statistic or the perfect quote on an extraordinarily broad range of feminist issues, I reach for the latest Deborah Rhode book." --Joan C. Williams, Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Hastings Foundation Chair, and Founding Director of the Center for WorkLife Law, UC Hastings College of the Law

"A thoroughly researched examination of the progress women in the United States have made toward gender equality and of the problems that still must be addressed."
--Kirkus Reviews

"[Rhode] presents clear agenda items for how legal remedies and improved corporate or government policies could foster progress. Rhode's ideas are well-articulated, specific, and reasonable." --Publishers Weekly

"[A] solid presentation of where the feminist movement is today (nowhere good) and offers practical agendas and legal reforms going forward . . . a very important book, indeed essential." --Jenny McPhee, Bookslut

"Rhode's book is a contemporary version of Susan Faludi's 1991 Backlash. Instead of giving us an account of the progress women have made toward social and political equality, it concentrates on all in our society that

remains resistant to that progress." --Boston Review

"In eight succinct, stimulating chapters on subjects including work and family, reproductive justice, and physical appearance, Rhode summarizes a great deal of sociological, political, and legal research. She keeps the narrative readable with stories of figures such as Hillary Clinton '73JD and Sheryl Sandberg and quotations from a broad array of sources, including Calvin Trillin '57, in the New Yorker, and an essay from Playboy magazine."

--Yale Alumni Magazine

"[A] tour de force, assembling vast research on each of the major battlefronts of feminism in America today, from equal pay and work-life balance to abortion rights and domestic violence." --Stanford Magazine

About the Author

Deborah L. Rhode is the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law, Stanford University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marianne Haglund:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or maybe goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will want this What Women Want: An Agenda for the Women's Movement.

Wm Schroeder:

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Gertrude Ponder:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, thrilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love *What Women Want: An Agenda for the Women's Movement*, you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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