

the feminine mystique

the feminine mystique is a groundbreaking concept that ignited the modern feminist movement and forever changed the discourse surrounding women's roles in society. This article delves deep into the origins, themes, and lasting impact of "The Feminine Mystique," a term and book that challenged the idealized image of womanhood in mid-20th-century America. Readers will explore the historical context, the life of author Betty Friedan, and the cultural forces that shaped the narrative. The article also examines the core arguments of the book, its reception, and the way it influenced the fight for gender equality. By understanding "the feminine mystique," readers can better appreciate its significance in the past and its resonance in contemporary conversations about women's rights, gender roles, and societal expectations. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply curious about feminist history, this comprehensive guide provides valuable insights into one of the most influential works of the twentieth century. Discover the themes, criticisms, and ongoing relevance of "the feminine mystique" in the sections below.

- Introduction
- The Origins of the Feminine Mystique
- Betty Friedan: The Author Behind the Movement
- Key Themes and Arguments in The Feminine Mystique
- Cultural and Societal Impact
- Criticisms and Limitations of the Feminine Mystique
- The Legacy and Continuing Relevance
- Frequently Asked Questions about The Feminine Mystique

The Origins of the Feminine Mystique

The phrase "the feminine mystique" was popularized in the early 1960s, during a period of significant social and cultural change in the United States. This era saw a post-World War II return to traditional gender roles, with women encouraged to embrace domesticity and motherhood as their primary identities. The concept emerged as a critique of the pervasive belief that women could find true fulfillment only through homemaking, marriage, and child-rearing. This "mystique" was perpetuated by media, advertising, education, and even psychology, reinforcing a narrow definition of femininity that excluded

ambition outside the home.

The origins of "the feminine mystique" are deeply rooted in the historical context of the 1950s and 1960s, when societal expectations pressured women to abandon personal aspirations for the sake of family and domestic stability. This climate stifled women's intellectual growth, economic independence, and self-actualization, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among educated, middle-class women. The emergence of this term marked a pivotal moment in the evolution of feminist thought, exposing a collective identity crisis and setting the stage for widespread activism.

Betty Friedan: The Author Behind the Movement

Betty Friedan, an American writer, activist, and feminist, is credited with coining and popularizing "the feminine mystique" through her influential 1963 book of the same name. Friedan's background as a journalist and her personal experiences as a suburban housewife informed her incisive critique of American society's expectations for women.

Friedan conducted extensive interviews with women across the United States, gathering firsthand accounts of dissatisfaction and frustration. Her findings revealed a pervasive sense of emptiness and lack of purpose among women who seemingly had "everything"—a home, husband, and children—but still felt unfulfilled. By articulating these experiences, Friedan gave a voice to millions of women who had previously suffered in silence.

- Born in 1921, Friedan graduated from Smith College and began her career as a journalist.
- She was a founding member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966.
- Her activism extended beyond writing, as she advocated for women's rights in employment, education, and politics.
- Friedan's work remains an essential reference in feminist literature and continues to inspire new generations.

Key Themes and Arguments in The Feminine Mystique

The core arguments of "the feminine mystique" revolve around the limitations of traditional gender roles and the need for women to pursue meaningful lives

outside the confines of domesticity. Betty Friedan's analysis highlights several recurring themes that resonated with readers and challenged prevailing norms.

The Problem That Has No Name

One of the most significant concepts introduced in "the feminine mystique" is "the problem that has no name." This phrase describes the silent suffering of women who, despite outward appearances of happiness, felt unfulfilled and discontented with their restricted roles as wives and mothers. Friedan argued that this problem stemmed from the suppression of women's individuality and aspirations.

Media and Cultural Reinforcement

Friedan explored the ways in which mass media, advertising, and popular culture perpetuated the feminine mystique. Magazines, television, and advertisements consistently portrayed the ideal woman as a devoted homemaker, reinforcing the notion that women's primary value lay in their domestic contributions. This cultural messaging contributed to widespread acceptance of limited gender roles.

The Role of Education

Another key theme is the impact of education on women's opportunities and self-image. Friedan criticized the educational system for discouraging women from pursuing careers or intellectual interests, instead steering them toward courses and activities that prepared them for domestic life. She advocated for equal educational opportunities as a means of empowering women to reach their full potential.

Psychology and the Feminine Mystique

Friedan also examined the role of psychology in shaping and justifying the feminine mystique. She critiqued prominent psychologists of the era for pathologizing women's ambition and desire for independence, often labeling such behaviors as neurotic or abnormal. This perspective contributed to the stigmatization of women who sought fulfillment beyond motherhood.

Cultural and Societal Impact

"The Feminine Mystique" had a profound effect on American society, sparking widespread debate and inspiring collective action. The book's publication is often credited with launching the second wave of feminism, a movement focused on addressing broader issues of gender equality, workplace rights, reproductive freedom, and social justice.

The influence of "the feminine mystique" extended beyond literature, shaping public policy, educational reform, and cultural norms. Women's organizations, advocacy groups, and policymakers drew on Friedan's arguments to demand legal and social changes, including equal pay, anti-discrimination laws, and expanded educational access.

1. Raised awareness about the realities of women's dissatisfaction in domestic roles.
2. Encouraged the formation of women's rights organizations and support networks.
3. Contributed to the passage of landmark legislation, such as the Equal Pay Act and Title IX.
4. Challenged stereotypes and inspired generations of women to pursue diverse careers.

Criticisms and Limitations of the Feminine Mystique

While "the feminine mystique" is widely regarded as a transformative work, it has also faced criticism for its limitations and lack of inclusivity. Critics have pointed out that Friedan's analysis primarily reflected the experiences of white, middle-class, suburban women, often overlooking the struggles of women of color, working-class women, and those from different cultural backgrounds.

Additionally, some scholars argue that the book did not adequately address issues such as intersectionality, sexuality, and the unique challenges faced by marginalized groups. Later feminist thinkers have expanded upon Friedan's work to create a more comprehensive and inclusive vision of gender equality.

Despite these criticisms, "the feminine mystique" remains a foundational text in feminist literature, serving as a catalyst for ongoing dialogue and progress.

The Legacy and Continuing Relevance

The legacy of "the feminine mystique" endures in modern discussions of gender roles, workplace equality, and societal expectations. Its impact is evident in the continued advocacy for women's rights, the evolution of feminist theory, and the increasing visibility of diverse women in leadership positions.

Contemporary debates surrounding work-life balance, reproductive rights, and the representation of women in media can all trace their roots to the conversations sparked by Friedan's analysis. By shedding light on the constraints imposed by the feminine mystique, the book paved the way for greater individual freedom and social change.

As society continues to grapple with questions of gender, identity, and equality, the lessons of "the feminine mystique" remain as relevant as ever, encouraging critical reflection and inspiring action for a more just and equitable future.

Frequently Asked Questions about The Feminine Mystique

Q: What is the main idea of "The Feminine Mystique"?

A: The main idea of "The Feminine Mystique" is that the traditional role of women as solely homemakers and mothers leads to widespread dissatisfaction and unfulfillment. Betty Friedan argued that women should be free to pursue education, careers, and personal growth beyond domestic life.

Q: Who wrote "The Feminine Mystique" and when was it published?

A: "The Feminine Mystique" was written by Betty Friedan and published in 1963. It quickly became a bestseller and is considered a key text in the history of feminism.

Q: How did "The Feminine Mystique" impact the feminist movement?

A: "The Feminine Mystique" inspired the second wave of feminism by raising awareness of women's dissatisfaction and advocating for equality in education, the workplace, and society. It led to the formation of women's organizations and significant legal reforms.

Q: What is "the problem that has no name" described by Betty Friedan?

A: "The problem that has no name" refers to the widespread unhappiness and lack of fulfillment experienced by women confined to traditional domestic roles despite appearing to have ideal lives.

Q: What are some criticisms of "The Feminine Mystique"?

A: Critics argue that "The Feminine Mystique" mainly reflects the experiences of white, middle-class women and overlooks the struggles of women of color, working-class women, and other marginalized groups. It is also critiqued for not addressing intersectionality.

Q: Why is "The Feminine Mystique" still relevant today?

A: The book remains relevant because many of the issues it addressed, such as gender stereotypes, work-life balance, and women's rights, are still debated and have not been fully resolved in many societies.

Q: Did "The Feminine Mystique" lead to any specific legal changes?

A: Yes, "The Feminine Mystique" contributed to the momentum for legal changes such as the Equal Pay Act, Title IX, and greater protections against gender discrimination in education and employment.

Q: How did Betty Friedan research for "The Feminine Mystique"?

A: Friedan conducted interviews with women across America and analyzed media, advertising, and educational materials to uncover the widespread nature of women's dissatisfaction with their prescribed roles.

Q: What does the term "feminine mystique" refer to?

A: The term refers to the idealized image of women as naturally fulfilled by domesticity, marriage, and motherhood—a stereotype promoted by media, education, and culture in mid-20th-century America.

Q: How has feminist theory evolved since the publication of "The Feminine Mystique"?

A: Feminist theory has become more inclusive and intersectional, addressing the diverse experiences of women across race, class, sexuality, and nationality while building on the foundational arguments of "The Feminine Mystique."

[The Feminine Mystique](#)

Find other PDF articles:

<https://fc1.getfilecloud.com/t5-goramblers-10/pdf?docid=LKb52-6616&title=writing-algebraic-expressions-worksheet.pdf>

The Feminine Mystique: Unpacking Betty Friedan's Enduring Legacy

Introduction:

Have you ever felt a nagging sense of unease, a subtle dissatisfaction despite outward appearances of a successful life? Betty Friedan's seminal work, *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, explored this very feeling, giving voice to a generation of women grappling with the limitations of societal expectations. This post delves deep into Friedan's groundbreaking book, examining its central arguments, its impact on the feminist movement, and its continued relevance in today's world. We'll explore the "problem that has no name," analyze the book's criticisms, and consider its lasting legacy in shaping our understanding of gender roles and female identity.

H2: The Problem That Has No Name: Unveiling the Core Argument

Friedan's masterpiece centers around the "problem that has no name"—a pervasive sense of discontent and unfulfillment experienced by many American housewives in the 1950s and 60s. These women, often educated and intelligent, found themselves trapped in a cycle of domesticity, their aspirations stifled by societal expectations that relegated them to the roles of wife and mother. Friedan argued that this wasn't a personal failing but a systemic issue stemming from a restrictive cultural narrative that limited women's potential and aspirations. She challenged the idealized image of the happy homemaker, revealing the profound psychological and emotional toll of this constricted lifestyle.

H2: Beyond the Home: Exploring the Societal Constraints

The Feminine Mystique didn't simply point out the unhappiness of housewives; it meticulously dissected the societal structures that perpetuated this unhappiness. Friedan examined the influence of advertising, media portrayals, and educational systems in reinforcing the idea that a woman's fulfillment lay solely within the domestic sphere. She highlighted the subtle but powerful ways these forces shaped women's self-perception and limited their opportunities for personal and professional growth.

H3: The Role of Education and Career Paths:

Friedan pointed out the irony of highly educated women being relegated to domestic life, their intellectual capacities untapped and underutilized. The societal pressure to abandon career aspirations for marriage and motherhood was a significant contributor to the "problem that has no name."

H3: The Media's Influence on Feminine Identity:

The media played a crucial role in shaping the idealized image of the American housewife, portraying her as perpetually content and fulfilled in her domestic role. This portrayal, Friedan argued, was a deliberate construction designed to maintain the status quo and suppress female ambition.

H2: The Impact and Legacy of The Feminine Mystique

The Feminine Mystique ignited a firestorm of debate and sparked the second wave of feminism. Its publication is considered a watershed moment in the women's rights movement, galvanizing women across the country and providing a powerful intellectual framework for challenging patriarchal structures.

H3: The Birth of a Movement:

Friedan's book provided a crucial articulation of the discontent felt by many women, transforming a diffuse sense of unease into a collective movement demanding social and political change. It empowered women to question their roles and demand greater opportunities.

H3: Long-Term Effects on Society:

The book's legacy extends beyond the initial surge of feminist activism. It continues to inform discussions about gender equality, work-life balance, and the challenges women face in navigating personal and professional aspirations. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to highlight the persistent societal pressures that limit women's potential.

H2: Criticisms and Counterarguments:

While The Feminine Mystique had a profound impact, it also faced criticism. Some argued that Friedan's focus on white, middle-class housewives neglected the experiences of women from other backgrounds. Others criticized her approach as overly pessimistic and lacking in concrete solutions. Understanding these criticisms is crucial for a complete appreciation of the book's complexities.

H2: The Feminine Mystique Today: Continued Relevance

Despite being written over half a century ago, *The Feminine Mystique* remains remarkably relevant. The pressures women face to balance career ambitions with family responsibilities, the persistence of gender pay gaps, and the ongoing struggle for equal representation in leadership roles all resonate with Friedan's original arguments. The book serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for gender equality is an ongoing process.

Conclusion:

Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* stands as a landmark achievement in feminist literature. Its unflinching examination of societal constraints on women, its articulation of the "problem that has no name," and its lasting impact on the women's rights movement solidify its place as a cornerstone of feminist thought. While its criticisms are valid and important to consider, its central message – that women deserve the opportunity to pursue their full potential – remains powerfully resonant in the 21st century.

FAQs:

1. Was Betty Friedan a radical feminist? While *The Feminine Mystique* is considered a pivotal text in second-wave feminism, Friedan's views weren't necessarily aligned with all branches of radical feminism. Her focus was primarily on achieving equal opportunities within existing societal structures, rather than dismantling those structures entirely.
2. What are some of the key differences between the first and second waves of feminism? The first wave focused primarily on suffrage (the right to vote), while the second wave, heavily influenced by *The Feminine Mystique*, broadened the focus to include issues like reproductive rights, workplace equality, and challenging societal expectations surrounding gender roles.
3. How did *The Feminine Mystique* impact the workplace for women? The book's publication contributed to increased awareness of the barriers women faced in the workplace, leading to greater advocacy for equal pay, equal opportunities, and the challenging of gender-segregated occupations.
4. Is the "problem that has no name" still relevant today? While the specific context has changed, the underlying feeling of dissatisfaction and unfulfillment that Friedan described continues to resonate with many women who struggle to balance career aspirations, family responsibilities, and societal expectations.
5. What are some alternative perspectives on the issues raised in *The Feminine Mystique*? Many scholars and writers have offered alternative perspectives, focusing on the experiences of women of color, working-class women, and other marginalized groups whose experiences were not fully represented in Friedan's work. These perspectives enrich and broaden our understanding of the complexities of gender inequality.

the feminine mystique: *The Feminine Mystique* Betty Friedan, 2010 When Betty Friedan produced *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, she could not have realized how the discovery and debate of her contemporaries' general malaise would shake up society. Victims of a false belief system, these women were following strict social convention by loyally conforming to the pretty image of the

magazines, and found themselves forced to seek meaning in their lives only through a family and a home. Friedan's controversial book about these women - and every woman - would ultimately set Second Wave feminism in motion and begin the battle for equality. This groundbreaking and life-changing work remains just as powerful, important and true as it was forty-five years ago, and is essential reading both as a historical document and as a study of women living in a man's world. 'One of the most influential nonfiction books of the twentieth century.' New York Times 'Feminism began with the work of a single person: Friedan.' Nicholas Lemann With a new Introduction by Lionel Shriver

the feminine mystique: *The Feminine Mystique* Betty Friedan, 1992 This novel was the major inspiration for the Women's Movement and continues to be a powerful and illuminating analysis of the position of women in Western society__

the feminine mystique: *Betty Friedan and the Making of the Feminine Mystique* Daniel Horowitz, 2000 An examination of the development of Betty Friedan's feminist outlook. Horowitz (American studies, Smith College) looks at Friedan's life from her childhood in Peoria, Illinois through her wartime years at Smith College and Berkeley, to her decade-long career as a writer for two radical labor journals, the Federated Press and the United Electrical Workers' UE News. He argues that this history, combined with the fact that Friedan continued to work on behalf of many social causes after her marriage, contradicts Friedan's claim that her commitment to women's rights grew solely out of her experience as an alienated suburban housewife. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

the feminine mystique: *The Feminine Mystique* Betty Friedan, 1977

the feminine mystique: *The Feminine Mystique* Betty Friedan, 2013-02-12 A 50th-anniversary edition of the trailblazing book that changed women's lives, with a new introduction by Gail Collins. Landmark, groundbreaking, classic—these adjectives barely do justice to the pioneering vision and lasting impact of *The Feminine Mystique*. Published in 1963, it gave a pitch-perfect description of “the problem that has no name”: the insidious beliefs and institutions that undermined women's confidence in their intellectual capabilities and kept them in the home. Writing in a time when the average woman first married in her teens and 60 percent of women students dropped out of college to marry, Betty Friedan captured the frustrations and thwarted ambitions of a generation and showed women how they could reclaim their lives. Part social chronicle, part manifesto, *The Feminine Mystique* is filled with fascinating anecdotes and interviews as well as insights that continue to inspire. This 50th-anniversary edition features an afterword by best-selling author Anna Quindlen as well as a new introduction by Gail Collins.

the feminine mystique: *The Feminine Mystique* Betty Friedan, 2021-03-08 The book that sparked a feminist revolution, now with a new introduction by Gaby Hinsliff. ‘Love and children and home are good but they are not the whole world, even if most of the words now written for women pretend they are. Why should women accept this picture of a half-life, instead of a share in the whole of human destiny?’ First published in 1963, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* changed the world. Widely credited with inspiring second-wave feminism, the book spoke to women across the globe and defined ‘the problem that has no name’. It showed women that they could and should aim for a life beyond the home and the family, and that they could never find true fulfilment as long as their roles and ambitions were so narrowly defined. Based on interviews with suburban housewives, as well as researching psychology and how women were portrayed in media and advertising, *The Feminine Mystique* showed that many women were in fact deeply unsatisfied, but unable to find a voice to express their feelings. A powerful and ground-breaking piece of feminist writing and a historically important literary work, it laid the foundations for many feminist activists following in Friedan's footsteps, and had significant societal and political influence on the progression of gender equality. This new edition, published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Betty Friedan's birth, includes a new introduction by Gaby Hinsliff, which discusses the reasons why Friedan's book still has so much to say to women today. Praise for *The Feminine Mystique*: 'One of the most influential non-fiction books of the twentieth century' The New York Times 'If American women look at their

lives today, they are seeing Betty Friedan's legacy in action.' Naomi Wolf, Time 'Brilliant... succeeded where no other feminist writer had. She touched the lives of ordinary readers.' The New Yorker 'The Feminine Mystique forever changed the conversation as well as the way women view themselves. If you've never read it, read it now and reflect on what our mothers and grandmothers were feeling at the time. It's a great moment to celebrate this milestone work, which fundamentally altered the course of women's lives.' Arianna Huffington, O, The Oprah Magazine 'A highly readable, provocative book.' New York Times Book Review 'The Feminine Mystique is the Tupac Shakur of literary feminism, reincarnated at least once every decade with new insights that engender old beefs while at the same time serving as a reminder of why it's a classic.' The Los Angeles Review of Books

the feminine mystique: A Strange Stirring Stephanie Coontz, 2012-03-06 In 1963, Betty Friedan unleashed a storm of controversy with her bestselling book, *The Feminine Mystique*. Women wrote to her by the hundreds to say that the book had transformed, even saved, their lives. Nearly half a century later, many women still recall where they were and what they were doing when they first read the book. In *A Strange Stirring*, prominent historian of women and marriage Stephanie Coontz strips away the myths, examining what *The Feminine Mystique* actually said, and which groups of women were affected. Coontz takes us back to the early 1960s – the age of *Mad Men* – when the sexual revolution was barely nascent, middle class wives stayed at home, and husbands retained legal control over almost every aspect of family life. Based on extensive research in the magazines and popular culture of the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, as well as interviews with women and men who read *The Feminine Mystique* shortly after its publication, *A Strange Stirring* brilliantly illuminates how Friedan's book emboldened a generation of women to realize that their boredom and dissatisfaction stemmed from political injustice rather than personal weakness.

the feminine mystique: The Feminine Mystique Elizabeth Whitaker, 2017-07-05 Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique* is possibly the best-selling of all the titles analysed in the Macat library, and arguably one of the most important. Yet it was the product of an apparently minor, meaningless assignment. Undertaking to approach former classmates who had attended Smith College with her, 10 years after their graduation, the high-achieving Friedan was astonished to discover that the survey she had undertaken for a magazine feature revealed a high proportion of her contemporaries were suffering from a malaise she had thought was unique to her: profound dissatisfaction at the 'ideal' lives they had been living as wives, mothers and homemakers. For Friedan, this discovery stimulated a remarkable burst of creative thinking, as she began to connect the elements of her own life together in new ways. The popular idea that men and women were equal, but different – that men found their greatest fulfilment through work, while women were most fulfilled in the home – stood revealed as a fallacy, and the depression and even despair she and so many other women felt as a result was recast not as a failure to adapt to a role that was the truest expression of femininity, but as the natural product of undertaking repetitive, unfulfilling and unremunerated labor. Friedan's seminal expression of these new ideas redefined an issue central to many women's lives so successfully that it fuelled a movement – the 'second wave' feminism of the 1960s and 1970s that fundamentally challenged the legal and social framework underpinning an entire society.

the feminine mystique: The 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time Robert McCrum, 2018 Beginning in 1611 with the King James Bible and ending in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert's 'The Sixth Extinction', this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture examines universally-acclaimed classics such as Pepys' 'Diaries', Charles Darwin's 'The Origin of Species', Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' and a whole host of additional works --

the feminine mystique: The Second Stage Betty Friedan, 1998 Betty Friedan argues that once past the initial stages of describing and working against political and economic injustices, the women's movement should focus on working with men to remake private and public tasks and attitudes.

the feminine mystique: The Feminine Mystique Betty Friedan, 2013 Contains a section of scholarship on *The feminine mystique*, with excerpts from many prominent historians, including

Daniel Horowitz, Joanne Meyerowitz, Ruth Rosen, and Stephanie Coontz, among others. --Back cover.

the feminine mystique: The Problem that Has No Name Betty Friedan, 2018 'What if she isn't happy - does she think men are happy in this world? Doesn't she know how lucky she is to be a woman?' The pioneering Betty Friedan here identifies the strange problem plaguing American housewives, and examines the malignant role advertising plays in perpetuating the myth of the 'happy housewife heroine'. Penguin Modern: fifty new books celebrating the pioneering spirit of the iconic Penguin Modern Classics series, with each one offering a concentrated hit of its contemporary, international flavour. Here are authors ranging from Kathy Acker to James Baldwin, Truman Capote to Stanislaw Lem and George Orwell to Shirley Jackson; essays radical and inspiring; poems moving and disturbing; stories surreal and fabulous; taking us from the deep South to modern Japan, New York's underground scene to the farthest reaches of outer space.

the feminine mystique: The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off! Gloria Steinem, 2019-10-29 A beautifully illustrated collection of Gloria Steinem's most inspirational and outrageous quotes, with an introduction and essays by the feminist activist herself "A fearless book full of passion, resolute perspective, and unbiased hope for the future."—Janelle Monáe For decades—and especially now, in these times of crisis—people around the world have found guidance, humor, and unity in Gloria Steinem's gift for creating quotes that offer hope and inspire action. From her early days as a journalist and feminist activist, Steinem's words have helped generations to empower themselves and work together. Covering topics from relationships ("Many are looking for the right person. Too few are trying to be the right person.") to the patriarchy ("Men are liked better when they win. Women are liked better when they lose. This is how the patriarchy is enforced every day.") and activism ("Revolutions, like trees, grow from the bottom up."), this is the definitive collection of Steinem's words on what matters most. Steinem sees quotes as "the poetry of everyday life," so she also has included a few favorites from friends, including bell hooks, Flo Kennedy, and Michelle Obama, in this book that will make you want to laugh, march, and create some quotes of your own. In fact, at the end of the book, there's a special space for readers to add their own quotes and others they've found inspiring. The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off! is both timeless and timely. It is a gift of hope from Steinem to readers, and a book to share with friends.

the feminine mystique: A Jewish Feminine Mystique? Hasia R. Diner, Shira M. Kohn, Rachel Kranson, 2010 Shira Kohn and Rachel Kranson are doctoral candidates in New York University's joint Ph. D. program in history and Hebrew and Judaic studies --Book Jacket.

the feminine mystique: Interviews with Betty Friedan Janann Sherman, 2002 Thinkers. Book jacket.

the feminine mystique: *The End of Men* Hanna Rosin, 2012-10-11 What Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, and Naomi Wolf did for feminism, senior editor of The Atlantic Hanna Rosin does for a new generation of women: an explosive new argument for why women are winning the battle of the sexes. Women are no longer catching up with men. By almost every measure, they are out-performing them. ·Women in Britain hold half the jobs ·Women own over 40% of China's private businesses ·75% of couples in fertility clinics are requesting girls, not boy ·Women will outnumber men in the UK medical profession by 2017 ·In 1970, women in the US contributed to 2-6% of the family income. Now it is 42.2% This is an astonishing time. In a job market that favours people skills and intelligence, women's adaptability and flexibility makes them better suited to the modern world. In *The End of Men*, Hanna Rosin reveals how this has come to pass and explains its implications for marriage, sex, children, work, families and society. Exposing old assumptions and drawing on examples from across the globe, Rosin shows us how we must all adapt to a radically new way of working and living. 'One of the most controversial books since Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*' *Stylist* 'Explosive' *Daily Mail* 'Fascinating' *Sunday Times*

the feminine mystique: *It Changed My Life* Betty Friedan, 1998 First published in 1976, this modern feminist classic brings back years of struggle for those who were there, and recreates the past for readers who were not yet born during these struggles for opportunity and respect to which

women can now feel entitled. In changing women's lives, the women's movement has changed everything.

the feminine mystique: A Strange Stirring Stephanie Coontz, 2011-01-04 In 1963, Betty Friedan unleashed a storm of controversy with her bestselling book, *The Feminine Mystique*. Hundreds of women wrote to her to say that the book had transformed, even saved, their lives. Nearly half a century later, many women still recall where they were when they first read it. In *A Strange Stirring*, historian Stephanie Coontz examines the dawn of the 1960s, when the sexual revolution had barely begun, newspapers advertised for perky, attractive gal typists, but married women were told to stay home, and husbands controlled almost every aspect of family life. Based on exhaustive research and interviews, and challenging both conservative and liberal myths about Friedan, *A Strange Stirring* brilliantly illuminates how a generation of women came to realize that their dissatisfaction with domestic life didn't reflect their personal weakness but rather a social and political injustice.

the feminine mystique: Life So Far Betty Friedan, 2006-08 At last Betty Friedan herself speaks about her life and career. With the same unsparing frankness that made *The Feminine Mystique* one of the most influential books of our era, Friedan looks back and tells us what it took -- and what it cost -- to change the world. Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, started the women's movement it sold more than four million copies and was recently named one of the one hundred most important books of the century. In *Life So Far*, Friedan takes us on an intimate journey through her life -- a lonely childhood in Peoria, Illinois salvation at Smith College her days as a labor reporter for a union newspaper in New York (from which she was dismissed when she became pregnant) unfulfilling and painful years as a suburban housewife finding great joy as a mother and writing *The Feminine Mystique*, which grew out of a survey of her Smith classmates and started it all. Friedan chronicles the secret underground of women in Washington, D.C., who drafted her in the early 1960s to spearhead an NAACP for women, and recounts the courage of many, including some Catholic nuns who played a brave part in those early days of NOW, the National Organization for Women. Friedan's feminist thinking, a philosophy of evolution, is reflected throughout her book. She recognized early that the women's movement would falter if institutions did not change to reflect the new realities of women's lives, and she fought to keep the movement practical and free of extremism, including man-hating. She describes candidly the movement's political infighting that brought her to the point of legal action and resulted in a long breach with fellow leaders Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug. Friedan is frank about her twenty-two-year marriage to Carl Friedan, an advertising entrepreneur. She writes about the explosive cycle of drinking, arguing, and physical battering she endured and explores her prolonged inability to leave the marriage. (They are now friends and the grandparents of nine.) Friedan was not only pivotal in the founding of NOW, she was also the driving force behind the creation of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), and the First Women's Bank and Trust Company. She made history by introducing the issue of sex discrimination as an argument against the ratification of a Supreme Court nominee. She convinced the Secretary General of the United Nations to declare 1975 the International Year of the Woman. In this volume, Friedan brings to extraordinary life her bold and contentious leadership in the movement. She lectures, writes, leads think tanks, and organizes women and men to work together in political, legal, and social battles on behalf of women's rights.--From publisher description.

the feminine mystique: The Motherhood Jamila Rizvi, 2018-04-30 'Welcome to The Motherhood, my dear.' After her son was born, Jamila Rizvi felt isolated, exhausted and confused. While desperately in love with her new baby, the world she'd known had disappeared overnight and so had her sense of self. Jamila's salvation came in the form of a letter. A dear friend, Clare Bowditch - who had been there herself - wrote to tell Jamila she would get through this. Her comforting words reassured Jamila that she was seen, that she was supported and that she was not alone. Now Jamila wants to pay it forward to the next generation of new mothers. *The Motherhood* is a collection of letters from some of Australia's favourite women, sharing what they wish they'd known about life

with a newborn. Coming from writers with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, no two stories are alike – but all are generous, compassionate and deeply honest. As the old adage goes, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’ – and it also takes a village to properly support a new mother. Here is your village. These sisters (with babes) in arms are here to share the joy, the fear, the love, the laughter, the tears and the frustration, and to hold your hand in the dark. Contributors include Zoë Foster Blake, Clementine Ford, Holly Wainwright, Clare Bowditch, Em Rusciano, and more. Together, they will give you the strength and courage to find your feet as a new mum.

‘All new mothers need to read this book . . . Bravo to these women who have bravely put themselves out there in the hope that their stories will help new mothers find the strength to push on through.’ Books+Publishing

the feminine mystique: *The Post-Birthday World* Lionel Shriver, 2009-03-17 “Complex and nervy, Shriver’s clever meditation will intrigue anyone who has ever wondered how things might have turned out had they followed, or ignored, a life-changing impulse.” — People (Critic's Choice) This dazzling novel from the Orange Prize-winning author of the international bestseller *We Need to Talk About Kevin* takes a psychological and deeply human look at love and volition Does the course of life hinge on a single kiss? Whether the American expatriate Irena McGovern does or doesn’t lean into a certain pair of lips in London will determine whether she stays with her smart, disciplined, intellectual American partner Lawrence, or runs off with Ramsey—a wild, exuberant British snooker star the couple has known for years. Employing a parallel-universe structure, Shriver follows Irena’s life as it unfolds under the influence of two drastically different men. In a tour de force that, remarkably, has no villains, Shriver explores the implications, both large and small, of our choice of mate—a subject of timeless, universal fascination for both sexes.

the feminine mystique: *Fountain of Age* Betty Friedan, 2006-08 Betty Friedan launches a new revolution with this powerful, bestselling book breaking through the American mystique of aging as decline. Through hundreds of interviews, Friedan confronts our denial and demolishes society’s compassionate contempt—to offer a vision of what can be embraced.

the feminine mystique: *Unattached* Angelica Malin, 2022-02-03 Powerful. Self-assured. Independent. Unattached. Thirty women, from Megan Barton-Hanson and Shaparak Khorsandi to Shon Faye and Stephanie Yeboah write on what single womanhood in the modern age means to them. Have you ever worried about going on holiday alone? Felt queasy at the thought of Valentine's Day without a date? Thought to yourself, I want what she has? This book is the tonic you need. ANGELICA MALIN - MEGAN BARTON HANSON - ANNIE LORD - STEPHANIE YEBOAH - SHAPARAK KHORSANDI - POORNA BELL - CHARLIE CRAGGS - REBECCA REID - ASHLEY JAMES - CHANTÉ JOSEPH - ROSIE WILBY - SALMA EL-WARDANY - NATALIE BYRNE - SHON FAYE - VENUS LIBIDO - JESSICA MORGAN - FRANCESCA SPECTER - SHANI SILVER - RACHEL THOMPSON - BELLA DEPAULO - MIA LEVITIN - FELICITY MORSE - KETAKI CHOWKHANI - LUCIE BROWNLEE - CHLOE PIERRE - SOPHIA MONEY-COUTTS - NICOLA SLAWSON - RAHEL AKLILU - SOPHIA LEONIE - ROSE STOKES - MADELEINE SPENCER Curated by journalist and author Angelica Malin, *Unattached* explores the nuances of being single today through the voices of thirty women; with personal essays reflecting both the unique challenges (hello, going to a wedding alone), and the glorious benefits (goodbye, joint bank account). *Unattached* shines a light on brilliant women stepping into their power, owning being alone, and reveals the true depth of female potential when we choose to go against what society expects of us and revel in our own strength.

the feminine mystique: *Zohar, the Book of Enlightenment* Daniel Chanan Matt, 1983 This is the first translation with commentary of selections from *The Zohar*, the major text of the Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical tradition. This work was written in 13th-century Spain by Moses de Leon, a Spanish scholar.

the feminine mystique: **Hood Feminism** Mikki Kendall, 2020-02-25 'It is absolutely brilliant, I think every woman should read it' PANDORA SYKES, *THE HIGH LOW* 'My wish is that every white woman who calls herself a feminist will read this book in a state of hushed and humble respect ... Essential reading' ELIZABETH GILBERT All too often the focus of mainstream feminism is not on

basic survival for the many, but on increasing privilege for the few. Meeting basic needs is a feminist issue. Food insecurity, the living wage and access to education are feminist issues. The fight against racism, ableism and transmisogyny are all feminist issues. White feminists often fail to see how race, class, sexual orientation and disability intersect with gender. How can feminists stand in solidarity as a movement when there is a distinct likelihood that some women are oppressing others? Insightful, incendiary and ultimately hopeful, Hood Feminism is both an irrefutable indictment of a movement in flux and also clear-eyed assessment of how to save it.

the feminine mystique: Woman's Work Lisa Frederiksen Bohannon, 2004 Betty Friedan's seminal work, *The Feminine Mystique*, is often credited with launching the women's rights movement. The book was published in 1963 and was informed by Betty's difficult relationship with her own mother, her training in psychology (she graduated summa cum laude from Smith College), and her experience raising three children in an unhappy marriage. Betty's unwillingness to accept the status quo led her to challenge traditional notions about women's roles and she became an outspoken leader in the feminist movement, co-founding the National Organization for Women along the way. Yet Friedan also became a lightning rod for controversy, eventually leaving NOW to pursue other interests that included helping women from other countries achieve equality and advocating for the rights of the elderly. *Woman's Work: The Story of Betty Friedan* presents the multi-faceted life and work of this complicated, fascinating woman, offering insight into the determination and dedication that shaped her into an icon to those who have followed in her wake. Book jacket.

the feminine mystique: The Feminist Mystic, and Other Essays on Women and Spirituality Mary E. Giles, 1982

the feminine mystique: Wall Street Women Melissa S. Fisher, 2012-06-19 *Wall Street Women* tells the story of the first generation of women to establish themselves as professionals on Wall Street. Since these women, who began their careers in the 1960s, faced blatant discrimination and barriers to advancement, they created formal and informal associations to bolster one another's careers. In this important historical ethnography, Melissa S. Fisher draws on fieldwork, archival research, and extensive interviews with a very successful cohort of first-generation Wall Street women. She describes their professional and political associations, most notably the Financial Women's Association of New York City and the Women's Campaign Fund, a bipartisan group formed to promote the election of pro-choice women. Fisher charts the evolution of the women's careers, the growth of their political and economic clout, changes in their perspectives and the cultural climate on Wall Street, and their experiences of the 2008 financial collapse. While most of the pioneering subjects of *Wall Street Women* did not participate in the women's movement as it was happening in the 1960s and 1970s, Fisher argues that they did produce a market feminism which aligned liberal feminist ideals about meritocracy and gender equity with the logic of the market.

the feminine mystique: Beyond Gender Betty Friedan, 1997-10-10 Once again, Betty Friedan has challenged her readers to rethink the context within which they view both the relations of the sexes and the relations of the marketplace.

the feminine mystique: The World Split Open Ruth Rosen, 2013-02-05 In this enthralling narrative-the first of its kind-historian and journalist Ruth Rosen chronicles the history of the American women's movement from its beginnings in the 1960s to the present. Interweaving the personal with the political, she vividly evokes the events and people who participated in our era's most far-reaching social revolution.

the feminine mystique: The Female Eunuch Germaine Greer, 2009-02-06 The publication of Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* in 1970 was a landmark event, raising eyebrows and ire while creating a shock wave of recognition in women around the world with its steadfast assertion that sexual liberation is the key to women's liberation. Today, Greer's searing examination of the oppression of women in contemporary society is both an important historical record of where we've been and a shockingly relevant treatise on what still remains to be achieved.

the feminine mystique: An Analysis of Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique Elizabeth Whitaker, 2017-07-05 In 1963's *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan challenged the vision 1950s

America had of itself as a nation of happy housewives and contented families.

the feminine mystique: Kubla Khan Samuel Coleridge, 2015-12-15 Though left uncompleted, "Kubla Khan" is one of the most famous examples of Romantic era poetry. In it, Samuel Coleridge provides a stunning and detailed example of the power of the poet's imagination through his whimsical description of Xanadu, the capital city of Kublai Khan's empire. Samuel Coleridge penned "Kubla Khan" after waking up from an opium-induced dream in which he experienced and imagined the realities of the great Mongol ruler's capital city. Coleridge began writing what he remembered of his dream immediately upon waking from it, and intended to write two to three hundred lines. However, Coleridge was interrupted soon after and, his memory of the dream dimming, was ultimately unable to complete the poem. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

the feminine mystique: The Space Between Zara McDonald, Michelle Andrews, 2020-09-01 There's this weird gap in life that's fuelled by cheap tacos and even cheaper tequila - also known as our twenties. It's a specific limbo between being a teenager and a Proper Adult, and though it's wildly confusing, often lonely, sometimes embarrassing and frequently daunting, there's also a whole lot of magic to be found in the chaos. It's a time when we're finding our own voices, cementing our relationships and starting to fulfil our big ambitions (or simply just working out what they are). Michelle Andrews and Zara McDonald, creators of the award-winning pop culture podcast Shameless, are two of the many twentysomething women trying to make sense of it all. They definitely don't have all the answers but they know that mapping out our place in the world is a little bit easier when we do it together. Brimming with wit and unflinching honesty, these are their stories and personal puzzles about life as twentysomethings: from heartbreak and mental health challenges to overcoming career setbacks and letting go of fear. (Not forgetting the deeper meaning behind the states of their fridges and why it's so damn good to ghost out of a friend's party.) Join Zara and Michelle as they figure out who they are now and who they want to be. You just might find tiny pieces of yourself in the space between the first page and the last.

the feminine mystique: Why you should give a f*ck about farming Gabrielle Chan, 2021-08-31 There is no farmers and others. If you eat or wear clothes, the decisions you make influence farming. 'Eaters will be the ultimate arbiter of where and how food is grown and how the land is cared for ... We all have a stake in the future of food and farming. I am going to show you why.' Farming sits at the intersection of the world's biggest challenges around climate change, soil, water, energy, natural disasters and zoonotic diseases. Yet Australia has no national food policy. No national agriculture strategy. Our water policy is close to the Hunger Games. People with means can shop at farmers' markets and order brunch, by the provenance of their eggs, bacon, butter, tomatoes and greens. But do they really understand the trade-offs required to grow it? In this book Gabrielle Chan examines the past, present and future of farming with her characteristically forensic eye. She lays out how our nation, its leaders, farmers and eaters can usher in new ways for us to work and live on our unique and precious land. We must forge a new social contract if we are to grow healthy food on a thriving landscape, while mitigating climate and biodiversity loss. This important book will change your thinking about food, farming and how you eat.

the feminine mystique: Desperately Seeking Sisterhood Magdalene Ang-Lygate, Millsom S. Henry, Chris Corrin, 1997 First Published in 1997. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

the feminine mystique: Toxic Richard Flanagan, 2021-04-26 In a triumph of marketing, the Tasmanian salmon industry has for decades succeeded in presenting itself as world's best practice and its product as healthy and clean, grown in environmentally pristine conditions. What could be more appealing than the idea of Atlantic salmon sustainably harvested in some of the world's purest waters? But what are we eating when we eat Tasmanian salmon? Richard Flanagan's exposé of the salmon farming industry in Tasmania is chilling. In the way that Rachel Carson took on the pesticide

industry in her ground-breaking book *Silent Spring*, Flanagan tears open an industry that is as secretive as its practices are destructive and its product disturbing. From the burning forests of the Amazon to the petrochemicals you aren't told about to the endangered species being pushed to extinction you don't know about; from synthetically pink-dyed flesh to seal bombs . . . If you care about what you eat, if you care about the environment, this is a book you need to read. *Toxic* is set to become a landmark book of the twenty-first century.

the feminine mystique: When Everything Changed Gail Collins, 2009-10-14 Gail Collins, New York Times columnist and bestselling author, recounts the astounding revolution in women's lives over the past 50 years, with her usual sly wit and unfussy style (People). *When Everything Changed* begins in 1960, when most American women had to get their husbands' permission to apply for a credit card. It ends in 2008 with Hillary Clinton's historic presidential campaign. This was a time of cataclysmic change, when, after four hundred years, expectations about the lives of American women were smashed in just a generation. A comprehensive mix of oral history and Gail Collins's keen research -- covering politics, fashion, popular culture, economics, sex, families, and work -- *When Everything Changed* is the definitive book on five crucial decades of progress. The enormous strides made since 1960 include the advent of the birth control pill, the end of Help Wanted -- Male and Help Wanted -- Female ads, and the lifting of quotas for women in admission to medical and law schools. Gail Collins describes what has happened in every realm of women's lives, partly through the testimonies of both those who made history and those who simply made their way. Picking up where her highly lauded book *America's Women* left off, *When Everything Changed* is a dynamic story, told with the down-to-earth, amusing, and agenda-free tone for which this beloved New York Times columnist is known. Older readers, men and women alike, will be startled as they are reminded of what their lives once were -- Father Knows Best and My Little Margie on TV; daily weigh-ins for stewardesses; few female professors; no women in the Boston marathon, in combat zones, or in the police department. Younger readers will see their history in a rich new way. It has been an era packed with drama and dreams -- some dashed and others realized beyond anyone's imagining.

the feminine mystique: Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism Donald T. Critchlow, 2018-06-05 Longtime activist, author, and antifeminist leader Phyllis Schlafly is for many the symbol of the conservative movement in America. In this provocative new book, historian Donald T. Critchlow sheds new light on Schlafly's life and on the unappreciated role her grassroots activism played in transforming America's political landscape. Based on exclusive and unrestricted access to Schlafly's papers as well as sixty other archival collections, the book reveals for the first time the inside story of this Missouri-born mother of six who became one of the most controversial forces in modern political history. It takes us from Schlafly's political beginnings in the Republican Right after the World War II through her years as an anticommunist crusader to her more recent efforts to thwart same-sex marriage and stem the flow of illegal immigrants. Schlafly's political career took off after her book *A Choice Not an Echo* helped secure Barry Goldwater's nomination. With sales of more than 3 million copies, the book established her as a national voice within the conservative movement. But it was Schlafly's bid to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment that gained her a grassroots following. Her anti-ERA crusade attracted hundreds of thousands of women into the conservative fold and earned her a name as feminism's most ardent opponent. In the 1970s, Schlafly founded the Eagle Forum, a Washington-based conservative policy organization that today claims a membership of 50,000 women. Filled with fresh insights into these and other initiatives, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism* provides a telling profile of one of the most influential activists in recent history. Sure to invite spirited debate, it casts new light on a major shift in American politics, the emergence of the Republican Right.

the feminine mystique: Reading Women Stephanie Staal, 2011-02-22 When Stephanie Staal first read *The Feminine Mystique* in college, she found it a mildly interesting relic from another era. But more than a decade later, as a married stay-at-home mom in the suburbs, Staal rediscovered Betty Friedan's classic work -- and was surprised how much she identified with the laments and

misgivings of 1950s housewives. She set out on a quest: to reenroll at Barnard and re-read the great books she had first encountered as an undergrad. From the banishment of Eve to Judith Butler's Gender Trouble, Staal explores the significance of each of these classic tales by and of women, highlighting the relevance these ideas still have today. This process leads Staal to find the self she thought she had lost -- curious and ambitious, zany and critical -- and inspires new understandings of her relationships with her husband, her mother, and her daughter.

Back to Home: <https://fc1.getfilecloud.com>