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Idealization Of Motherhood And How It Has
Undermined Women

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Working mothers today confront not only conflicting demands on their time and energy but also conflicting ideas about how they are to behave: they must be nurturing and unselfish while engaged in child rearing but competitive and ambitious at work. As more and more

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women enter the workplace, it would seem reasonable for society to make mothering a simpler and more efficient task. Instead, Sharon Hays points out in this original and provocative book, an ideology of "intensive mothering" has developed that only exacerbates the tensions working mothers face. Drawing on ideas about mothering since the Middle Ages, on contemporary childrearing manuals, and on in-depth interviews with mothers from a range of

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social classes, Hays traces the evolution of the ideology of intensive mothering--an ideology that holds the individual mother primarily responsible for child rearing and dictates that the process is to be child-centered, expert-guided, emotionally absorbing, labor-intensive, and financially expensive. Hays argues that these ideas about appropriate mothering stem from a fundamental ambivalence about a system based solely on the competitive pursuit

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of individual interests. In attempting to deal with our deep uneasiness about self-interest, we have imposed unrealistic and unremunerated obligations and commitments on mothering, making it into an opposing force, a primary field on which this cultural ambivalence is played out.

WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS
CIRCLE AWARD FOR CRITICISM A FINALIST
FOR THE PEN/DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL
AWARD FOR THE ART OF THE ESSAY "If

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Hollywood's treatment of women leaves you wanting, you'll find good, heady company in *You Play the Girl*."—ELLE As a kid in the 1970s and 80s, Carina Chocano was confused by the mixed messages all around her; messages that told her who she could be—and who she couldn't. Dutifully absorbing all the conflicting information the culture has to offer on how to be a woman, Chocano grappled with sexed up sidekicks, princesses waiting to be saved, and

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morally infallible angels who seemed to have no opinions of their own. She learned that "the girl" is not a person, but a man's idea of what a woman should be—she's whatever the hero needs her to be in order to become himself. It wasn't until she spent five years as a movie critic, and was laid off just after her daughter was born, however, that she really came to understand how the stories the culture tells us about what it means to be a

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girl limit our lives and shape our destinies. She resolved to rewrite her own story. In *You Play the Girl*, Chocano blends formative personal stories with insightful and emotionally powerful analysis. Moving from *Bugs Bunny* to *Playboy Bunnies*, from *Flashdance* to *Frozen*, from the progressive '70s through the backlash '80s, the glib '90s, and the pornified aughts—and at stops in between—she explains how growing up in the shadow

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of “the girl” taught her to think about herself and the world and what it means to raise a daughter in the face of these contorted reflections. In the tradition of Roxane Gay, Rebecca Solnit, and Susan Sontag, Chocano brilliantly shows that our identities are more fluid than we think, and certainly more complex than anything we see on any kind of screen.

Talk to women under forty today, and you will hear that in spite of the fact

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that they have achieved goals previous generations of women could only dream of, they nonetheless feel more confused and insecure than ever. What has gone wrong? What can be done to set it right? These are the questions Danielle Crittenden answers in *What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us*. She examines the foremost issues in women's lives -- sex, marriage, motherhood, work, aging, and politics -- and argues that a generation of women has been misled:

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taught to blame men and pursue independence at all costs. Happiness is obtainable, Crittenden says, but only if women will free their minds from outdated feminist attitudes. By drawing on her own experience and a decade of research and analysis of modern female life, Crittenden passionately and engagingly tackles the myths that keep women from realizing the happiness they deserve. And she introduces a new way of thinking about society's problems

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that may, at long last, help women achieve the lives they desire.

Explores the maternal experience from the mother's point of view. The book questions a society that has devalued and sentimentalized motherhood, and presents images of generative and creative women who are also mothers. It also discusses the portrayal of mothers in art, film and literature.

Listening In

How Pop Culture Took Us from Girl Power

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to Girls Gone Wild

Enlightened Sexism

On Women Turning Fifty

How the News Media Scare Women

An Ideological Analysis of

Breastfeeding in Contemporary America

A Politics of the Heart

A THOROUGHLY GROWN-UP LOOK AT A

TWENTIETH-CENTURY MUSE OF OUTSTANDING

PROPORTIONS To some she's a collectible, to others she's trash. In *The Barbie Chronicles*, twenty-three writers join together to scrutinize Barbie's forty years of hateful,

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lovely disastrous, glorious influence on us all. No other tiny shoulders have ever, had to carry the weight of such affection and derision and no other book has ever paid this notorious little place of plastic her due. Whether you adore her or abhor her, The Barbie Chronicles will have you looking at her in ways you never imagined.

Essays explore a wide range of contemporary feminist mothering practices.

From the author of *Where the Girls Are*, a sharp and irreverent critique of how women are portrayed in today's popular culture Women today are inundated with conflicting messages from the mass media: they must either be strong leaders in complete command or sex

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kittens obsessed with finding and pleasing a man. In *Enlightened Sexism*, Susan J. Douglas, one of America's most entertaining and insightful cultural critics, takes readers on a spirited journey through the television programs, popular songs, movies, and news coverage of recent years, telling a story that is nothing less than the cultural biography of a new generation of American women. Revisiting cultural touchstones from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* to *Survivor* to *Desperate Housewives*, Douglas uses wit and wisdom to expose these images of women as mere fantasies of female power, assuring women and girls that the battle for equality has been won, so there's nothing wrong with resurrecting sexist

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stereotypes—all in good fun, of course. She shows that the portrayals not only distract us from the real-world challenges facing women today but also drive a wedge between baby-boom women and their "millennial" daughters. In seeking to bridge this generation gap, Douglas makes the case for casting aside these retrograde messages, showing us how to decode the mixed messages that restrict the ambitions of women of all ages. And what makes *Enlightened Sexism* such a pleasure to read is Douglas's unique voice, as she blends humor with insight and offers an empathetic and sisterly guide to the images so many women love and hate with equal measure. This important work presents the results of the most

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comprehensive scientific study to date of early child care and its relation to child development. In one volume, a critical selection of material from the most salient journal articles is brought together with new overviews and a concluding commentary. Provided is a wealth of authoritative information about the ways in which nonmaternal care is linked to health, psychological adjustment, and mother-child bonds in the first six years of life. The study addresses the full complexity of this vital issue, taking into account a range of family characteristics as well as the quality of child care experiences. An essential resource for developmentalists, early child care specialists, and educators, this volume offers compelling new

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perspectives on practice, policy, and research.

A Community Responds to the Need for Abortion and
Birth Control, 1961-1973

Toni Morrison and Motherhood

Wonder Women

Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman

All on One Plate

Celebrating Mid-Life Discoveries

The Myths of Motherhood

**Few inventions evoke such nostalgia, such deeply
personal and vivid memories as radio—from Amos
'n' Andy and Edward R. Murrow to Wolfman Jack
and Howard Stern. Listening In is the first in-depth**

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history of how radio culture and content have kneaded and expanded the American psyche. But Listening In is more than a history. It is also a reconsideration of what listening to radio has done to American culture in the twentieth century and how it has brought a completely new auditory dimension to our lives. Susan Douglas explores how listening has altered our day-to-day experiences and our own generational identities, cultivating different modes of listening in different eras; how radio has shaped our views of race, gender roles, ethnic barriers, family dynamics, leadership, and the generation gap. With her trademark wit, Douglas has created an eminently

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readable cultural history of radio.

Traces Morrison's theory of African American mothering as it is articulated in her novels, essays, speeches, and interviews. Mothering is a central issue for feminist theory, and motherhood is also a persistent presence in the work of Toni Morrison. Examining Morrison's novels, essays, speeches, and interviews, Andrea O'Reilly illustrates how Morrison builds upon black women's experiences of and perspectives on motherhood to develop a view of black motherhood that is, in terms of both maternal identity and role, radically different from motherhood as practiced and prescribed in the

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dominant culture. Motherhood, in Morrison's view, is fundamentally and profoundly an act of resistance, essential and integral to black women's fight against racism (and sexism) and their ability to achieve well-being for themselves and their culture. The power of motherhood and the empowerment of mothering are what make possible the better world we seek for ourselves and for our children. This, argues O'Reilly, is Morrison's maternal theory—a politics of the heart.

Before Roe v. Wade, somewhere between one and two million illegal abortions were performed every year in the United States. Illegal abortion affected

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millions of women and their families, yet their stories remain hidden. In *Creating Choice*, citizens of one community in Western Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley break that silence.

In *How to Be Childless: A History and Philosophy of Life Without Children*, Rachel Chrastil explores the long and fascinating history of childlessness, putting this often-overlooked legacy in conversation with the issues that childless women and men face in the twenty-first century. Eschewing two dominant narratives, that the childless are either barren and alone, or that they are carefree and selfish, *How to Be Childless* instead argues that the lives of

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childless individuals from the past can help all of us expand our range of possibilities for the good life. In uncovering the voices and experiences of childless women from the past five hundred years, Chrastil demonstrates that the pathways to childlessness, so often simplified as "choice" and "circumstance," are far more complex and interweaving. Balanced, deeply researched, and richly realized, How to be Childless will empower readers, parents and childless alike, to navigate their lives with purpose. On Playboy Bunnies, Stepford Wives, Train Wrecks, & Other Mixed Messages Why the Most Important Job in the World is Still the

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Least Valued

**The Seductive Message that Feminism's Work Is
Done**

Cultural Expectations on American Mothers

Motherhood in the Age of Anxiety

Forget "Having It All"

**How America Messed Up Motherhood--and How to
Fix It**

***A provocative and deeply important study of
women's lives, women's choices—and an
'unspoken taboo'—that questions the societal
pressures forcing women into motherhood***

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Women who opt not to be mothers are frequently warned that they will regret their decision later in life, yet we rarely talk about the possibility that the opposite might also be true—that women who have children might regret it. Drawing on years of research interviewing women from a variety of socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds, sociologist Orna Donath treats regret as a feminist issue: as regret marks the road not taken, we need to consider whether alternative paths for women

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currently are blocked off. She asks that we pay attention to what is forbidden by rules governing motherhood, time, and emotion, including the cultural assumption that motherhood is a “natural” role for women—for the sake of all women, not just those who regret becoming mothers. If we are disturbed by the idea that a woman might regret becoming a mother, Donath says, our response should not be to silence and shame these women; rather, we need to ask honest and difficult questions about how society

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pushes women into motherhood and why those who reconsider it are still seen as a danger to the status quo. Groundbreaking, thoughtful, and provocative, this is an especially needed book in our current political climate, as women's reproductive rights continue to be at the forefront of national debates.

Fifty years after the Equal Pay Act, why are women still living in a man's world? Debora L. Spar never thought of herself as a feminist. Raised after the tumult of the 1960s, she

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presumed the gender war was over. As one of the youngest female professors to be tenured at Harvard Business School and a mother of three, she swore to young women that they could have it all. "We thought we could just glide into the new era of equality, with babies, board seats, and husbands in tow," she writes. "We were wrong." Now she is the president of Barnard College, arguably the most important all-women's college in the United States. And in Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection—a fresh,

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wise, original book— she asks why, a half century after the publication of Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique, do women still feel stuck. In this groundbreaking and compulsively readable book, Spar explores how American women's lives have—and have not—changed over the past fifty years. Armed with reams of new research, she details how women struggled for power and instead got stuck in an endless quest for perfection. The challenges confronting women are more complex than ever, and they

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are challenges that come inherently and inevitably from being female. Spar is acutely aware that it's time to change course. Both deeply personal and statistically rich, Wonder Women is Spar's story and the story of our culture. It is cultural history at its best, and a road map for the future.

The oppressive and the empowering dimensions of maternity, as well as the complex relationship between the two, first identified by Adrienne Rich in Of Woman Born, has been the focus of feminist

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scholarship on motherhood over the last three decades. While feminist research on motherhood has focused on many topics, these studies have been informed and shaped by larger inquiries: namely, how do we challenge patriarchal motherhood? How do we create feminist mothering? And finally, how are the two aims interconnected? Rocking the Cradle, composed of twelve essays, will explore these questions. A former New York Times reporter tackles the difficult issue of gender economic equality,

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***confronting the financial penalties levied on
motherhood. Reprint. 40,000 first printing.***

***Growing Up Female With the Mass Media
Creating Choice***

Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection

Towards a Sociology of Childbirth

***Results from the NICHD Study of Early Child
Care and Youth Development***

How to Be Childless

A Study

A powerful and witty expose of how the media distorts news
about women"

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Esteemed psychologist Daphne de Marneffe examines women ' s desire to care for children in an updated reissue of her “ fascinating analysis that ’ s a welcome addition to the dialogues about motherhood ” (Publishers Weekly). If a century ago it was women ' s sexual desires that were unspeakable, today it is the female desire to mother that has become taboo. One hundred years of Freud and feminism have liberated women to acknowledge and explore their sexual selves, as well as their public and personal ambitions. What has remained inhibited is women ' s thinking about motherhood. *Maternal Desire* is the first book to treat women ' s desire to mother as a legitimate focus of intellectual inquiry and personal exploration. Shedding new light on old debates,

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Daphne de Marneffe provides an emotional road map for mothers who work and mothers who are at home. De Marneffe both explores the enjoyment and anxieties of motherhood and offers mothers in all situations valuable ways to think through their self-doubts and connect to their capacity for pleasure. Drawing on a rich tradition of writers, such as Simone de Beauvoir, Adrienne Rich, Carol Gilligan, and Susan Faludi, as well as her experience as a psychologist and mother of three, de Marneffe illuminates how we express our desire to care for children. By treating maternal desire as a central feature of women ' s identity—rather than as an inconvenient or slightly embarrassing detail—we can look with fresh insight at controversial issues, such as childcare, fertility,

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abortion, and the role of fathers. An “ absorbing look at the enormous personal pleasure that women derive from mothering....Maternal Desire is a stirring book that celebrates women ’ s love for their children and mothering while also supporting their interest in careers and other pursuits ” (Booklist).

Challenges idealized concepts about motherhood that the author believes compromise women's rights and empowerment without benefiting children, citing such factors as unrealistic parenting standards, media scare tactics, Reprint. 500,000 first printing.

A groundbreaking examination of the historical myth of motherhood looks at how different cultures have viewed

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motherhood, showing how our current idea of the "good mother" reflects a reaction to burgeoning women's rights.

25,000 first printing. National ad/promo. Tour.

Selling Anxiety

In Our Prime: How Older Women Are Reinventing the Road Ahead

The Rise of Enlightened Sexism

Representations of Motherhood

The Idealization of Motherhood and how it Has Undermined Women

A Living Doll Turns Forty

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An Ideological Analysis of Breastfeeding in Contemporary America: Disciplining the Maternal Body analyzes the discourses involved in the pro-breastfeeding, “breast is best” paradigm, highlighting how such politically charged rhetoric restrains women’s ability to make the choices that are best for them and their families. Loreen Olson and Jenni M. Simon combat the idea that is so often espoused by medical professionals, researchers, and society at large: to be a good parent, one must provide breast milk to the infant in order for the baby to grow into a healthy, productive citizen. By exposing the biases present, Olson and Simon advocate for the need to make discursive space for all

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parents and all feeding choices. Scholars of communication, rhetoric, gender and women's studies, and feminism will find this book particularly useful.

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On Women Turning Fifty honors the new faces of aging with powerful, positive images of fiftysomething women who share stories of mid-life discovery. Accomplished by beautiful photographs, these candid and engaging interviews reveal women whose challenges, conflicts, and triumphs are reshaping our attitudes toward work, relationships,

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and personal growth. From Gloria Steinem, Isabel Allende, Ellen Burstyn, and Mary Ellen Mark to single-parent school teacher Deanne Burke and breast cancer survivor Barbara Eddy, the diverse voices in On Women Turning Fifty offer exhilarating models of confidence, courage, and celebration.

A scholar and media critic takes a provocative look at the portrayal of women in American popular culture from the 1950s to the present day and assesses the impact of such images on women's real lives

The Barbie Chronicles

Maternal Desire

Radio and the American Imagination

The Time Bind

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Motherhood and Feminism

Where the Girls Are

Encyclopedia of Motherhood

Do you see women your age portrayed as puttering gardeners and docile grannies? Do you feel bombarded by anti-aging products that insist you must “defy” getting older? Do you feel invisible in professional and social situations? And have you had enough and are you ready to challenge the intertwining of sexism and ageism in our culture? Susan Douglas knows that you are not alone. She declares it is time now for the largest female generation over fifty to reinvent what it means to be an older woman and to challenge the outdated stereotypes—think doddering or shrewish—that Hollywood and TV have assigned them. She zones in on how

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the anti-aging cosmetics industry targets older and younger women alike with their products, and how Big Pharma ads equate getting older with disease and decline. Douglas exposes the ageism that mature women face at work and why conservatives' decades-long attacks on Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare disproportionately affect women. With a sharp sense of justice and fresh wit, *In Our Prime* sees a social movement emerging that may help to create a different view of and life for older women. It celebrates Gray Panther Maggie Kuhn, who broke down legal barriers in the past, as well as today's activists, career women, actors, and others who defy stereotypical images by embracing their age and remaining strong and socially involved. Ultimately, Douglas calls on women of all ages to join together now to

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fight against gendered ageism, to secure our country's financial safety net, and to make a brighter, more welcome future for older women.

A lively and provocative look at the modern culture of motherhood and at the social, economic, and political forces that shaped current ideas about parenting What is wrong with this picture? That's the question Judith Warner asks in this national bestseller after taking a good, hard look at the world of modern parenting--at anxious women at work and at home and in bed with unhappy husbands. When Warner had her first child, she was living in Paris, where parents routinely left their children home, with state-subsidized nannies, to join friends in the evening for dinner or to go on dates with their husbands. When she returned to the States, she was stunned

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by the cultural differences she found toward how people think about effective parenting--in particular, assumptions about motherhood. None of the mothers she met seemed happy; instead, they worried about the possibility of not having the perfect child, panicking as each developmental benchmark approached. Combining close readings of mainstream magazines, TV shows, and pop culture with a thorough command of dominant ideas in recent psychological, social, and economic theory, Perfect Madness addresses our cultural assumptions, and examines the forces that have shaped them. Working in the tradition of classics like Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* and Christopher Lasch's *The Culture of Narcissism*, and with an awareness of a readership that turned recent hits like *The Bitch in the House*

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and Allison Pearson's *I Don't Know How She Does It* into bestsellers, Warner offers a context in which to understand parenting culture and the way we live, as well as ways of imagining alternatives--actual concrete changes--that might better our lives.

Book clubs are everywhere these days. And women talk about the clubs they belong to with surprising emotion. But why are the clubs so important to them? And what do the women discuss when they meet? To answer questions like these, Elizabeth Long spent years observing and participating in women's book clubs and interviewing members from different discussion groups. Far from being an isolated activity, she finds reading for club members to be an active and social pursuit, a crucial way for women to reflect

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creatively on the meaning of their lives and their place in the social order.

A clear-eyed look at the history of American ideas about motherhood, how those ideas have impacted all women (whether they have kids or not), and how to fix the inequality that exists as a result. After filing a story only two hours after giving birth, and then getting straight back to full-time work the next morning, journalist Amy Westervelt had a revelation: America might claim to revere motherhood, but it treats women who have children like crap. From inadequate maternity leave to gender-based double standards, emotional labor to the "motherhood penalty" wage gap, racist devaluing of some mothers and overvaluing of others, and our tendency to consider women's value only in terms of their reproductive

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capacity, Westervelt became determined to understand how we got here and how the promise of "having it all" ever even became a thing when it was so far from reality for American women. In *Forget "Having It All,"* Westervelt traces the roots of our modern expectations of mothers and motherhood back to extremist ideas held by the first Puritans who attempted to colonize America and examines how those ideals shifted--or didn't--through every generation since. Using this historical backdrop, Westervelt draws out what we should replicate from our past (bringing back home economics, for example, this time with an emphasis on gender-balanced labor in the home), and what we must begin anew as we overhaul American motherhood (including taking a more intersectional view of motherhood, thinking deeply about the ways in which

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capitalism influences our views on reproduction, and incorporating working fathers into discussions about work-life balance). In looking for inspiration elsewhere in the world, Westervelt turned not to Scandinavia, where every work-life balance story inevitably ends up, but to Japan where politicians, in an increasingly desperate effort to increase the country's birth rates (sound familiar?), tried to apply Scandinavian-style policies atop a capitalist democracy not unlike America's, only to find that policy can't do much in the absence of cultural shift. Ultimately, Westervelt presents a measured, historically rooted and research-backed call for workplace policies, cultural norms, and personal attitudes about motherhood that will radically improve the lives of not just working moms but all Americans.

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The Mask of Motherhood

Disciplining the Maternal Body

On Children, Love, and the Inner Life

What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us

How Culture Reinvents the Good Mother

Parenting Culture Studies

When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work

American mothers routinely sacrifice their sleep, exercise, or leisure time to manage their busy lives. In *All on One Plate*, Dr.

Solveig Brown delves into the issues every mother faces. Based on in-depth research, this book reveals the contradictions

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between our cultural and individual ideals of being a good mother. It shows how mothers experience pressure, guilt, self-judgment, and judgment from others. It recounts how women and couples transition to parenthood, negotiate the division of labor, and decide how to balance making money and caring for children. We often criticize middle-class mothers for being over-involved in their children's lives. Parental involvement has dramatically increased for this generation of mothers because our culture primarily depends on

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parents to manage the effects of social change on childrearing. This book shows the diverse ways mothers deal with overseeing their children's safety; nutrition, exercise, and body image; screen time and social media; and consumerism, while fostering achievement, and raising good kids. Dr. Brown interweaves candid narratives filled with humor and wisdom, cultural analysis, and the latest research to address the multitude of things American mothers deal with daily. This book will shift our

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cultural conversation about mothers.

Women today are inundated with conflicting messages from the mass media: they must either be strong leaders in complete command or sex kittens obsessed with finding and pleasing a man. In *The Rise Of Enlightened Sexism*, Susan J. Douglas, one of America's most entertaining and insightful cultural critics, takes readers on a spirited journey through the television programs, popular songs, movies, and news coverage of recent years, telling a story that is nothing less than

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the cultural biography of a new generation of American women. Revisiting cultural touchstones from Buffy the Vampire Slayer to Survivor to Desperate Housewives, Douglas uses wit and wisdom to expose these images of women as mere fantasies of female power, assuring women and girls that the battle for equality has been won, so there's nothing wrong with resurrecting sexist stereotypes—all in good fun, of course. She shows that these portrayals not only distract us from the real-world challenges facing women today but also

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drive a wedge between baby-boom women and their "millennial" daughters. In seeking to bridge this generation gap, Douglas makes the case for casting aside these retrograde messages, showing us how to decode the mixed messages that restrict the ambitions of women of all ages. And what makes *The Rise Of Enlightened Sexism* such a pleasure to read is Douglas's unique voice, as she blends humor with insight and offers an empathetic and sisterly guide to the images so many American women love and hate with equal

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measure.

Challenges idealized concepts about motherhood that compromise women's rights and empowerment, citing unrealistic parenting standards, media scare tactics, and negative attitudes that victimize both working and stay-at-home moms.

A feminist classic and a valuable testimonial to the experience of mothering. Originally published in 1976 but still relevant today, this is a fierce, often funny, often painful description of Lazarre's first few years

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of motherhood.

Feminist Mothering

Mothering through Precarity

The Idealization of Motherhood and How It

Has Undermined All Women

How Mothering Changes Everything and Why

We Pretend It Doesn't

Book Clubs

The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood

The Price of Motherhood

How does feminism relate to motherhood,

how has it changed over time, and what

does the future of motherhood and feminism

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look like? These are just some of the questions Amber E. Kinser, PhD, tackles in this latest addition to the Seal Studies Series. *Motherhood and Feminism* examines the role of feminism within motherhood--a topic that has garnered a lot of attention lately as society shifts to adapt to new definitions of these roles--and offers insight into the core questions of motherhood: what it means to be a good mother, what role mothers play in the family and in society, and how motherhood has been redefined throughout time. Kinser

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also speculates on the future directions of feminism--focusing on the expansion of contemporary mother activism that has occurred in the last 15 years, and emphasizing the need for that expansion to continue--and examines how the changing world of motherhood fits into feminist activism.

Why have the minutiae of how parents raise their children become routine sources of public debate and policy making? This book provides in-depth answers to these features drawing on a wide range of

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sources from sociology, history, anthropology and psychology, covering developments in both Europe and North America.

A New York Times Notable Book

In *Mothering through Precarity* Julie A. Wilson and Emily Chivers Yochim explore how working- and middle-class mothers negotiate the difficulties of twenty-first-century mothering through their everyday engagement with digital media. From Facebook and Pinterest to couponing, health, and parenting websites, the women

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Wilson and Yochim study rely upon online resources and communities for material and emotional support. Feeling responsible for their family's economic security, these women often become "mamapreneurs," running side businesses out of their homes. They also feel the need to provide for their family's happiness, making successful mothering dependent upon economic and emotional labor. Questioning these standards of motherhood, Wilson and Yochim demonstrate that mothers' work is inseparable from digital media as it

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provides them the means for sustaining their families through such difficulties as health scares, underfunded schools, a weakening social safety net, and job losses.

A History and Philosophy of Life Without Children

Women and the Uses of Reading in Everyday Life

Women's Work and Digital Media

Rocking the Cradle

Regretting Motherhood

Mamá Desobediente

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Susan Douglas first took on the media's misrepresentation of women in her funny, scathing social commentary Where the Girls Are. Now, she and Meredith Michaels, have turned a sardonic (but never jaundiced) eye toward the cult of the new momism: a trend in American culture that is causing women to feel that only through the perfection of motherhood can true contentment be found. This vision of motherhood is highly romanticized and yet its standards for success remain forever out of reach, no matter how hard women may try to "have it all." The Mommy Myth takes a provocative tour through the past thirty years of media images about mothers: the superficial achievements of the celebrity mom, the news media's sensational coverage of dangerous day care, the staging of the "mommy wars" between working mothers and stay-at-home moms, and the onslaught of values-based marketing that raises mothering standards to

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impossible levels, just to name a few. In concert with this messaging, the authors contend, is a conservative backwater of talking heads propagating the myth of the modern mom. This nimble assessment of how motherhood has been shaped by out-of-date mores is not about whether women should have children or not, or about whether once they have kids mothers should work or stay at home. It is about how no matter what they do or how hard they try, women will never achieve the promised nirvana of idealized mothering. Douglas and Michaels skillfully map the distance traveled from the days when The Feminine Mystique demanded more for women than the unpaid labor of keeping house and raising children, to today's not-so-subtle pressure to reverse this thirty-year trend. A must-read for every woman. When a woman becomes a mother, her relationships, her professional identity and her sense of self will never be the same again. The

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presence of children does not simply add to the lives of parents, it transforms those lives completely. The precise nature of this transformation remains one of the best kept secrets of contemporary adult life, shrouded in a conspiracy of silence. For expectant mothers - whether that expectation is imminent or distant - The Mask of Motherhood provides a backstage look at the realities of contemporary mothering, from pregnancy and childbirth to the juggling act we all call 'working motherhood'.

To request a free 30-day online trial to this product, visit www.sagepub.com/freetrial In the last decade the topic of motherhood has emerged as a distinct and established field of scholarly inquiry. A cursory review of motherhood research reveals that hundreds of scholarly articles have been published on almost every motherhood theme imaginable. The first ever on the topic, this Encyclopedia of

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Motherhood helps to both demarcate motherhood as a scholarly field and an academic discipline and to direct its future development. With more than 700 entries, these three volumes provide information on the central terms, concepts, topics, issues, themes, debates, theories, and texts of this new discipline. Further, the encyclopedia examines the topic of motherhood in various contexts such as history and geography and by academic discipline. Key Features Provides an overview of the topic of motherhood in many and diverse disciplines, such as anthropology, sociology, psychology and philosophy Examines the meaning and experience of motherhood in many time periods from classic civilizations to present day Includes an entry for all the influential theorists of maternal scholarship from the pioneering theories to the more recent writings Covers issues and events of our current times including entries on the mommy blog, the motherhood

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memoir, terrorism, reproductive technologies, HIV/AIDS, and LGBT families Explores geographical, cultural, and ethnic diversity with an entry for almost every country in the world as well as entries on lesbian, immigrant, adoptive, single, nonresidential, young, poor mothers and mothers with disabilities Key Themes History of Motherhood Issues in Motherhood Motherhood and Family Motherhood and Health Motherhood and Society Motherhood Around the World Motherhood in the United States Motherhood Studies Prominent Mothers In human society, few institutions are as important as motherhood, and this unique encyclopedia captures the interdisciplinary foundation of the subject in one convenient reference. The scope of the Encyclopedia of Motherhood is focused on providing a comprehensive resource to understanding the complexities of motherhood for academic and public libraries, written

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by scholars and institutional experts in the social and behavioral sciences.

Thoughts on Feminism, Motherhood and the Possibility of Empowered Mothering

The Mommy Myth

Perfect Madness

The Mother Knot

Child Care and Child Development

You Play the Girl

Women Confined