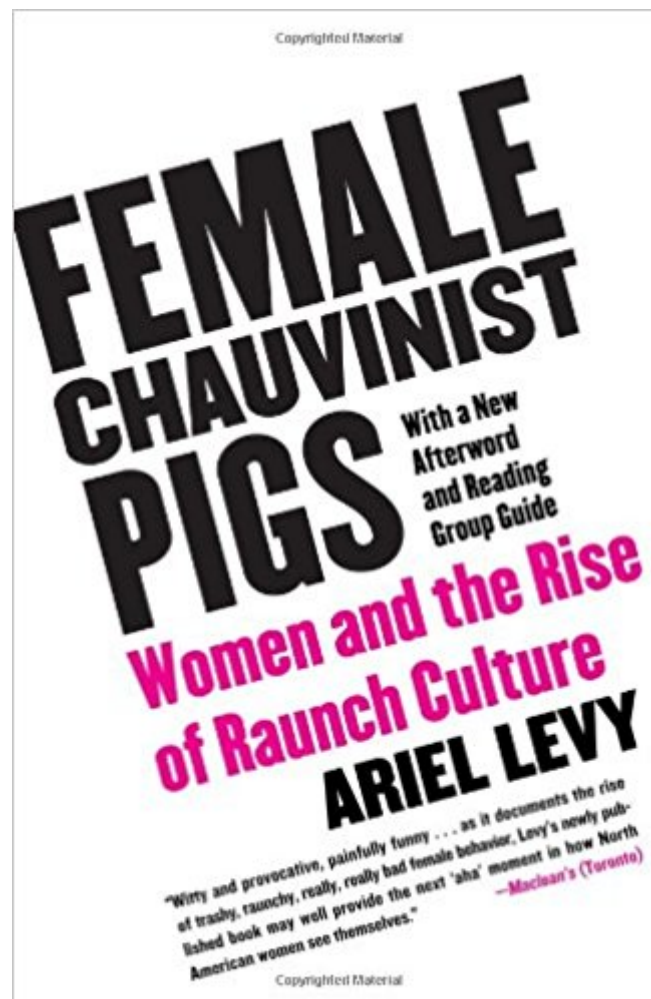




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Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women And The Rise Of Raunch Culture



Synopsis

A classic work on gender culture exploring how the women's movement has evolved to Girls Gone Wild in a new, self-imposed chauvinism. In the tradition of Susan Faludi and Naomi Wolf, writer Ariel Levy studies the effects of modern feminism on women today. Meet the Female Chauvinist Pig—the new brand of “empowered woman” who wears the Playboy bunny as a talisman, bares all for Girls Gone Wild, pursues casual sex as if it were a sport, and embraces “raunch culture” wherever she finds it. If male chauvinist pigs of years past thought of women as pieces of meat, Female Chauvinist Pigs of today are doing them one better, making sex objects of other women—and of themselves. They think they’re being brave, they think they’re being funny, but in >, Ariel Levy asks if the joke is on them. In her quest to uncover why this is happening, Levy interviews college women who flash for the cameras on spring break and teens raised on Paris Hilton and breast implants. She examines a culture in which every music video seems to feature a stripper on a pole, the memoirs of porn stars are climbing the bestseller lists, Olympic athletes parade their Brazilian bikini waxes in the pages of Playboy, and thongs are marketed to prepubescent girls. Levy meets the high-powered women who create raunch culture—the new oinking women warriors of the corporate and entertainment worlds who eagerly defend their efforts to be “one of the guys.” And she traces the history of this trend back to conflicts between the women's movement and the sexual revolution long left unresolved. Levy pulls apart the myth of the Female Chauvinist Pig and argues that what has come to pass for liberating rebellion is actually a kind of limiting conformity. Irresistibly witty and wickedly intelligent, > makes the case that the rise of raunch does not represent how far women have come, it only proves how far they have left to go.

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Customer Reviews

Ariel Levy's debut book is a bold, piercing examination of how twenty-first century American society perceives sex and women. Writing vividly, she brings her readers to places she visited to make her assessment; the elevator of Playboy Enterprises with women auditioning to be Playmates in the fiftieth anniversary edition, a Florida beach where sunbathers urge a woman to take off her bathing suit for the camera crew of *Girls Gone Wild*, a San Francisco Italian restaurant where a lesbian worries she's not dressed up enough for her date, a CAKE party in New York, with women grinding each other's pelvises in time to pulsating dance rhythms, and outside a juice bar in Oakland where a beautiful high school student shares disappointment at her experiences with sex. Levy cleverly leads us to explore the role models women aspire to emulate. We are not pursuing the confident, self-determined, powerful, free ideal the women's liberation movement would have dreamed for its daughters. Instead, our icons are porn stars and strippers and prostitutes. Paris Hilton and Jenna Jameson flaunt their successes in the pornography industry, and in doing so seem to earn our adulation. Levy relates our embracing of this raunchy culture to unresolved tensions thirty years ago between the sexual revolution and the women's liberation movement, and amongst feminists; joy at discovering the delights of our clitoris conflicting with disgust at pornography's objectification of women. She creates a convincing argument by analyzing a diverse spectrum of material; presents a fascinating palette of interviews with revolutionary women's libbers, nouvelle raunchy feminists, and everyday women and men. Detailed facts and recurring names are sometimes cumbersome, albeit worth ploughing through for the 'a-ha moments'. The reality that we model ourselves on images whose "individuality is erased" is harsh, yet Levy's work is imbued with hope; hope that women can celebrate their uniqueness instead of their 'hotness', explore their sexuality as delight rather than consume sex as currency, and succeed professionally because of their brilliant minds and personalities, not because of their brilliant bodies.--Megan Jones Ady --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. What does sexy mean today? Levy, smartly expanding on reporting for an article in New York magazine, argues that the term is defined by a pervasive raunch culture wherein women

make sex objects of other women and of ourselves. The voracious search for what's sexy, she writes, has reincarnated a day when Playboy Bunnies (and airbrushed and surgically altered nudity) epitomized female beauty. It has elevated porn above sexual pleasure. Most insidiously, it has usurped the keywords of the women's movement (liberation, empowerment) to serve as buzzwords for a female sexuality that denies passion (in all its forms) and embraces consumerism. To understand how this happened, Levy examines the women's movement, identifying the residue of divisive, unresolved issues about women's relationship to men and sex. The resulting raunch feminism, she writes, is a garbled attempt at continuing the work of the women's movement and asks, how is resurrecting every stereotype of female sexuality that feminism endeavored to banish good for women? Why is laboring to look like Pamela Anderson empowering? Levy's insightful reporting and analysis chill the hype of what's hot. It will create many aha! moments for readers who have been wondering how porn got to be pop and why feminism is such a dirty word. (Sept. 13)

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I was apprehensive about this book. I read it out of necessity for a class about sex. As with 90% of the books assigned, I had a nagging feeling this book was going to be both terrible and boring. Much to my surprise, it was neither. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It puts an intriguing spin on how we perceive just about everything about sex except sex itself. As it turns out, everything is about sex except sex. Sex is about power, and both genders have that power.

Before reading this book, I wasn't completely aware of what role some women played in the objectification of women. I think Levy does a good job at pointing out attitudes and behaviors that are often viewed as empowering but that are actually exploitive. It's pretty sad that chauvinistic attitudes are so accepted in today's society that most people fail to understand the difference between empowering and exploitation.

As someone new to learning about feminism I enjoyed the way ideas are laid out and explained. helps me to understand why something is sexist even if presented as liberating. Particularly sexuality (image of sex) vs sexual (engage in sex) is put under the microscope. Motivates me to learn more and be more aware in my daily life.

This book is important for many reasons. All women should read this and really start looking around

at what society and our culture has become. It's not just in back rooms, or major cities that this is all happening in. It's in every aspect of our lives now, and the damaging effect on our children (and thus our future) is shocking, to say the least. This book highlights just how much is still needed to be done. We are not Post Feminism, it's not over, it's not something of the past. It needs to become alive again, but with real purpose, not the fake ideals we've been shouldered with and now accept as normal.

I highly recommend this book. I was nervous, based on the title, that it would be judgmental toward other women, but it really wasn't. Very eye opening. I loved her snarky writing style. Felt like I was having an honest conversation not just reading. I read it cover to cover in a few days and promptly passed it on to my sister!

Ideally recommended for young men and women who seem to think that their worth is justified by sex and marketable images. A broad look at sex and beauty that's insightful and accurate.

Reading this book made me reevaluate my whole thought process. I had previously thought of myself and feminine, independent and enlightened but I still compared my strong points to being "like a man." It is odd how brainwashed you can be and not even know it. Ignorance is bliss I suppose. Anyway, this is a great novel on feminism that won't make the reader uncomfortable. It makes you question some of our culture and assess your own personal thought process. It also made me think of the adult industry in a different light. It's like a beginners look at today's take on feminism.

"We skipped over the part where we just accept & respect that SOME women like to seem exhibitionistic & lickerish, and decided instead that EVERYONE who is sexually liberated ought to be imitating strippers and porn stars" I chose that quote because it illustrates what drew me to this book. It examines our fascination with raunch culture without being A) a prudish lecture telling us all to behave, cover up and be good little girls or B) trying to convince us that by acting as wild, slutty and uninhibited as we can we are really showing how empowered and liberated we are. This is something I haven't really seen accomplished before and makes reading it worthwhile. The writing itself does come across a bit like a series of articles; however it didn't bother me very much at all.

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