



## Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word

*Nadia Abushanab Higgins*

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While most people say they believe in equal rights, the word *feminism*--America's new F-word--makes people uncomfortable. Explore the history of US feminism through pioneers such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Betty Friedan, Shirley Chisholm, and Gloria Steinem. Meet modern leaders such as Rebecca Walker and Julie Zeilinger, who are striving to empower women at work, in government, at home--and in cultural and personal arenas. Learn from interviews with movement leaders, scholars, pop stars, and average women, what it means to be a feminist--or to reject it altogether. After reading this book, readers will be able to respond to "Am I a feminist?" with a confident, informed voice.

## Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word Details

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Author : Nadia Abushanab Higgins

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## **From Reader Review Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word for online ebook**

### **Alicia says**

The best books are the ones that teach and I absolutely learned about the waves of feminism. I didn't realize history can pinpoint the first wave, second wave, and third wave of feminism, and like how Higgins left what the fourth wave could be/is. The chronological perspective helps and the introduction of all of these influential women gives great perspective, likewise, the personal stories bring it all home, especially (for me) the image and story of Emma Sulkowicz who carried around her mattress until her rapist was brought to justice (he never was and she and friends brought her mattress with her to graduation).

Powerful.

And it helps to answer questions even I had about what feminism is/isn't and questions that have arisen over the years.

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### **Amy says**

I will be honest, I made it 10 pages.

My blood pressure couldn't take any more.

The ridiculous MYTHS this book perpetrates (such as the gender wage gap) and the way it associates FEMINISM with SEXUAL "FREEDOM" as if the two are inseparable (can we talk about valuing women without mentioning our ability to have kids? Or be lesbian?) drove me crazy.

Was the world perfect 50 years ago? Of course not. Women have been given the short end of the stick throughout history. This book, however, is so blindly determined to paint a picture as women as the victim that it fails to even attempt to be balanced. Please, spare yourself.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word is a mainly good source for newcomers to feminism. It is a fairly thorough overview of most of the current issues that feminism is tackling, as well as a brief overview of the history of feminism.

This book has an appealing layout, and is well-suited for teenage newcomers to feminism. It's also a good introductory piece for those adults who have yet to fully educate themselves about current issues feminism is tackling, the history of feminism, or the evolution of feminism to what it is today. Abushanab Higgins has put together a solidly intersectional look into feminism as it stands, and anyone new to the movement would likely benefit from reading this. It never talks down, but manages to stay highly accessible.

I did have a few issues with some of the content. Most of the book manages to be inclusive, although parts of it could have done better. Disabled women are made reference to, but not much is done to actually speak of the unique issues that disabled women face as the result of discriminatory practices (even within the feminist movement). It also refers to a pair of women in an image as having been crippled, which is generally

frowned upon. While gender identity does get some page time, which I was glad to see, sexual identity doesn't get more than passing mentions. Reinventing the F-Word also manages to avoid discussing pornography, despite even talking about porn culture. It makes a good show of mentioning it, but does very little to discuss feminist views (positive or negative) on pornography, other than when being mentioned in combination with other forms of sex work.

Basically, this is a good introductory piece. Good, not great. It's definitely worth the read if you're a teenager or new to the movement, but it should be used as a stepping stone to more in depth books and articles. Fortunately, the of the book does provide detailed lists of book and website sources, as well as lists books, websites, videos, and documentaries, for readers to take a look into.

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### **Amy! says**

This is a good quick and dirty primer on feminism and some of the issues at the heart of it. The author talks about intersectionality a lot, as well as inclusiveness. It's a tad dry, but potentially because there wasn't any new information in here for me.

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### **Kelly says**

A very elementary and very white and very gender-based look at feminism which makes a number of gaffes -- the creator of Intersectionality is never once named (BASIC stuff) and after talking about the power of Sojourner Truth, Higgins then fails to mention any of the racial limitations placed on the passage of women's suffrage.

Too much time is spent on unimportant aspects of feminism, such as beauty and appearance, and not enough spent on issues like race, class, and other INTERSECTIONS of feminism. It's important to address rape culture, absolutely, but an entire chapter on that and nary a mention of the problems of white feminism is a huge disservice.

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### **Gabby says**

This book provided some decent information about feminism (most of which I had learned of just from perusing the internet). I had a few issues with the way things were worded and the information presented though. I understand that this book was a look at the issues women face in America, but I think it could have stood to mention some other genders facing the same issues. Like in the Violence Against Women part, when talking about rape and domestic abuse the author failed to mention that men can also fall victim to these atrocities, and later in the book said, "Men ... don't live under the threat of sexual assault the way women do" (page 63). I just find issue with that because it leads to more problems down the road of assaults against men not taken as seriously because they're "tough." I also really disliked how it seemed beauty was posed as this thing to stay away from, because it's distracting and making women view themselves as objects (maybe it was supposed to be seen differently, but that's how I saw it put as). The "Girly Feminists," who saw striving for one's own image of beauty as up to the individual, were posed as a whole other league than the "normal" feminists. I also was a little put off by some of the word choices (for example, "real women," "a feminist point of view" (as if the author speaks for all feminists), etc.). There was a fair bit of info I didn't

know though, which was nice, and I really like the Feminist Wish List at the end. Overall, I think this book offered some varying viewpoints and information, and would be a good intro to feminism in America (other countries and cultures weren't mentioned very often, and issues women in other countries face was hardly discussed, if at all). Disclaimer: there's still a lot I have to learn about a whole mess of things, so feel free to inform me if I misinterpreted something or got something wrong.

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### **Mackie Welch says**

I didn't really learn anything, but as an introduction to the movement for teens this was excellent.

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### **Lbsantini says**

A good overview for teens about feminist history and thinking. Heck, it was equally useful for me at 44. My favorite chapter was about the beauty cult. I want always to remember the words of Abra Fortune Chernik, a woman who struggled with anorexia and is quoted in the text. Higgins (the author) writes: "Chernik had reached a turning point in her recovery. She realized her eating disorder was more than just a personal trauma: 'Gazing in the mirror at my emaciated body, I observed a woman held up by her culture as the physical ideal because she was starving, self-obsessed and powerless, a woman called beautiful because she threatened no one except herself.'" This hit me like a rock to the chest for its truth and power.

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### **Naomi Ash says**

Very readable and informative introduction to feminism and its many dimensions. Lots of great references.

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### **Selene says**

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Thank you NetGalley and Twenty-First Century Books for the advanced reading copy of Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word by Nadia Abushanab Higgins. I can't wait to start this book.

This novel opens up the topic of Feminism for young women and girls. This is definitely inspiring for all women. This novel shows the history and current situations of all women's issues. This is a great starting place for any man or woman looking into Feminism for basic knowledge. It could even be aimed at young boys and girls.

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

This was a very complete history, and yes, it is important to rehash things 50 year olds may know, because most 14 year olds are woefully ignorant of history in general. My objection is that there is too much talk

about different topics involving sex. Can't we have a book about equal rights for women that would be suitable for middle school students? This had just a little too much information for me to put this on the shelf and have 11 year olds happen upon it. Great if their parents are okay with the topic, but not a place I want to venture.

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### **Helen Marquis says**

An awesome introduction to the history of women's rights and what it means to be a feminist. Starting from the very earliest stages of gaining the right to vote, via the Suffragettes movement, and taking the reader on a journey through womankind's struggles just to gain basic equalities with men, it's impressive to see how far we've come, but equally depressing to see how unjust things still are.

The struggle is real and continues. This is an inspiring introduction to the subject for the younger reader, including current topics of discussion around body image, LGBTQ rights and identity, sexual violence and what it means to be a woman in the modern age. This should be essential reading for all young adults regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

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### **Becky says**

This book has just surface-level information. The book design and layout is good, but I was annoyed by a few things, like not attributing Twitter posts, and a stock image of a teenager with a caption that implied she was a prostitute. I was disappointed how little the book actually covers the history of feminism and politics - the temperance movement was not even mentioned. Honestly, considering this book cites Buzzfeed and the quotes pages of Goodreads (instead of the actual book from which it is quoted), this book doesn't add much more than a teen would glean from being a regular user of tumblr.

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### **Anna Chappell says**

A good overview of feminism and what it has and should and maybe will mean. I wasn't very fond of the way it was structured though, from text-type to the chapter divisions and topics, since it was a little repetitive at times.

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### **Question says**

So this book is very terrible. It highlights most if not all the faults of feminism and makes a mockery of this group of people. The wage gap is a very big myth, think about it. If women made less than men for the EXACT SAME job, then there would be riots, there would be protest, people would not be silent. But, everyone gets paid the same amount if they work the same job and same amount of time. Misogyny is what these lot will scream over the most nonsensical conflicts. They like to say that men need to be taught not to rape, but ignore that way more men are raped than are reported and ignore other mens issues despite claiming equality for all. If that were the case they would be trying to combat things like men are 4 times as likely to be killed on the street at night, 4 times as likely to commit suicide, more likely to fail school, and that they are forced into parenthood without consent. These are the people who bicker over the 1st world

problems, and ignore children in poor countries who can't access clean water, women in the middle east who can't go to school, and others who simply can't afford to eat. If they really wanted to make a change, they wouldn't be making books that only appeal to their followers, but protesting for everyone's equal rights

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