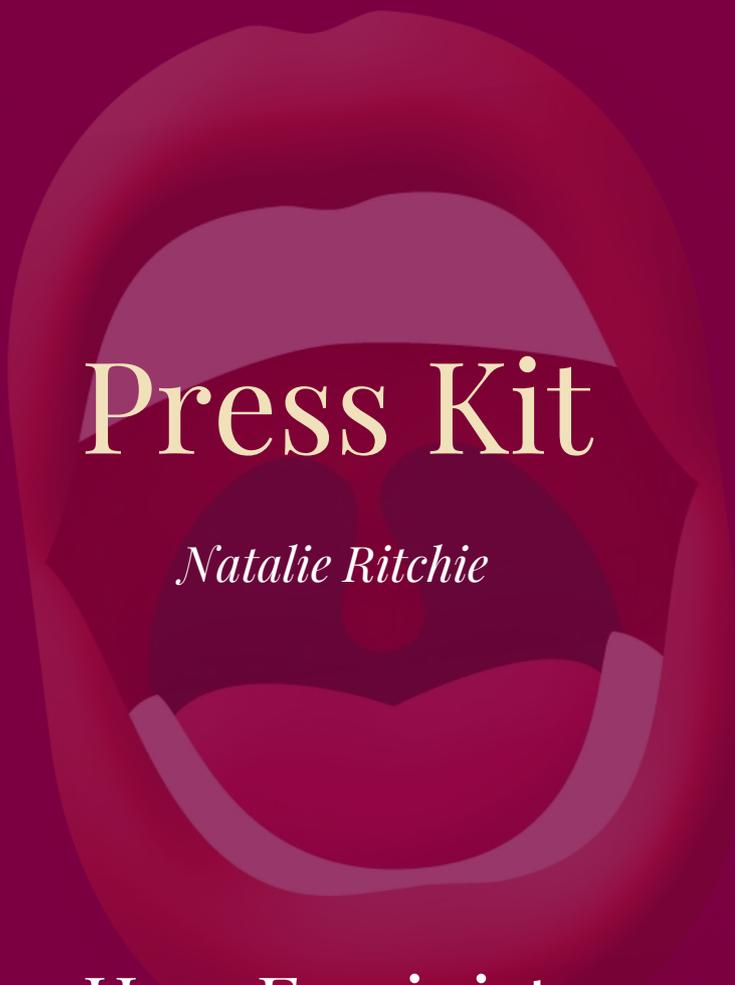


ROAR LIKE A WOMAN



Press Kit

Natalie Ritchie

How Feminists
Think Women Suck
and Men Rock

roarlikeawoman.com

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Why This Book

More than half a century after Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique*, almost every woman in the Western world has swallowed the feminist message that she is a failure without a man-identical career. Her female contribution as a mother, home-maker and a center of humanity is denied, derided and engineered out of society's recognition by feminists. Workplaces offer her a job only on terms designed for a man with a 24/7 wife at home, with feminism's blessing. She is expected to have nothing but the priorities, responses, feelings and experiences of a man, and any differences between her and a man are vehemently denied by feminists. 'Gender equality' is shorthand for "Let's make all the women do what men do." Feminists have become the very patriarchs they claimed they wanted to overthrow. Feminism has become masculinism.

Roar Like a Woman calls feminism out for its hostility to women, and argues for a world in which women's work, both inside and outside the workplace, is recognized, validated and accommodated.

The only real obstacle to women today is feminism itself.

Author Bio

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Introduction: “And What Do You Do?”

- “And what do you do?” So many women struggle to answer that question fully and accurately, in a way that pays tribute to their own wide-ranging contribution from both inside and outside the workplace. In today’s masculinist society created by feminism, they are expected to reply to that question only with a paid occupation, legitimized by the fact that men have paid occupations. Their unpaid work as housewife and mother is not considered an acceptable answer.

- What is a ‘feminist’? A definition for the purposes of this book.

- It is not ‘equality’ we are aiming for when we seek to make women over in men’s image; it is masculinization. A truly ‘equal’ world shapes itself around women’s needs, equally as much as it accommodates men’s needs. It is a world that gives a woman her due, equally as much as a man gets his due. That is the kind of equality women need.

1 Heroes and Zeroes

How Feminism Writes Men Up and Writes Women Down

- Women today carry a workload that is unequal to a shocking degree. Never in history has a woman been expected to perform not only her 50 percent of all the work that comes with motherhood and running a home, and much or all of her male partner's 50 percent share of that work, but to also match 100 percent of his paid work, before she is considered to be his 'equal'. A tally of a hypothetical mother's weekly workload against a father's working week sums as follows:

Mother (caring for a baby & toddler, performing no paid work)	Father (working a 40-hour week + some parenting work)
275 hrs/week	72 hrs/week
Ratio Mother:Father 3.8:1	
79%	21%
6.8 40-hr-week equivalents	1.8 40-hr-week equivalents
Total Household Hours Unpaid hours: 307 hrs Paid and unpaid hours: 347 hrs	

- In this table, the woman performs the equivalent of almost seven 40-hour weeks every week to a father's fewer than two—almost four times as hard as him. Feminism disregards this tremendous inequality.
- In feminists' eyes, a man doesn't have to take on 100 percent of a woman's workload in the home, or even one percent of it, to be 'equal' to her; but she must match 100 percent of his paid load before she is 'equal' to him.
- Feminism cares about career not because it sees career as women's work, but because it sees it as men's work, and therefore as the pathway to self-actualization for women. That is what feminism degenerated into in the 1980s after the first great explosion of positive self-awareness in the 1960s and '70s—a movement devoted to the self-actualization of women through man-identity. The strong feminists of the 1960s and '70s gave us our right to work; the weak feminists of the 1980s made it an imperative. Only when she does what he does can she break through into a place of truth, power and enlightenment, feminists told women. In its bid to bust the patriarchy, feminism has become the patriarchy.

- It is typically easier to be at work than to take care of the kids. Feminism never acknowledges that motherhood is quantitatively, and in many ways qualitatively, more demanding than a 40-hour per week paid job.
- Women today are working like a man for validation as a woman. That is a negative motive to work. A woman should feel like a valid human being, with or without a career. The only women who should be in the workforce are those who want to be, or financially have to be.
- ‘Gender equality’ is promoted by feminists as a 50/50 breakdown of women and men in any given career field. Feminism presents this ratio as ‘equality’, when what it really is, is masculinization. Fifty/fifty is just another way of saying 100/100; it is a goal to exhort/nudge/force 100 percent of women do what 100 percent of men do. It is 100 percent masculinism.

- If women are forced to do the things men do, it follows that there will be no women left over to do the things women do. She can only own a beauty salon, say, or run a ballet school, if he owns a beauty salon or runs a ballet school. Any uniquely female contribution to the economy is eradicated. In effect, women end up living in a state of permanent obedience to men, a state manifested through perpetual imitation.
- If women are not shadowing men activity for activity, feminism reasons that the only explanation is that ‘discrimination’ must be preventing them from reaching their ‘full potential’, by which feminism always means replication of a man’s life. That a woman might want to make non-masculine career choices, or that she is already laboring under the workload of motherhood and housework and so lacks the time or inclination to work, is never accepted as a possibility.
- In 1970, Germaine Greer in *The Female Eunuch* called on women to stop buying into their own disempowerment at the hands of men. However, women today buy into their own disempowerment at the hands of feminists. And when we do, we are still eunuchs.

2 Child's Play

A Mother's Working Day

- A 24-hour breakdown of a woman caring for an ever-crying baby and a toddler is work for as many as four women at once. It sums as follows:

Mother 1: caring for baby	13 hrs, 25 mins
Mother 2: caring for toddler	11 hrs, 45 mins
Mother 3: an 'extra pair of hands'	6 hrs, 30 mins
Mother 4: housekeeper	14 hrs, 20 mins
Total:	46 hrs

- A mother of two small children working 46 hours *every day* is working more than the weekly working hours of many men. Her workload diminishes only to the extent that her partner pitches in. And he only does that if he wants to. For most of the feminist era, he has been excused by feminists from contributing to the parenting workload. Equality is a one-way street under feminism.

- Feminism refuses to engage with the confounding reality of motherhood—the sleeplessness, the lack of social support like a ‘go to the head of the line’ custom for mothers grappling with toddlers at the airport check-in desk, the lack of civic infrastructure such as clean public breastfeeding rooms. A late twentieth century development that has had a devastating impact on mothers—that is, children’s inability to play without an adult—goes unacknowledged by feminism.
- One of feminism’s most central tasks was to make women’s experience as thoroughly understood as men’s experience already is. Yet under feminism, everyone is not just entitled to remain ignorant of a mother’s super-size contribution, but actively encouraged to be so. That goes for fathers and husbands, and women themselves who are yet to have kids. Once they become mothers, they can now throw off feminism’s oppressive silence about motherhood and take to the blogosphere to voice mothering’s immense reality, but femocrats and feminist employers in business can and do ignore them.

3 “Get a Cleaner”

Putting the ‘Work’ Back in Housework

- The word ‘housewife’ used to mean ‘a woman who runs a home’. In the feminist era, it means ‘imbecile’. It is time to do away with feminism’s misogynist insult to the virtually 100 percent of women who run homes.
- A well-run home is one of life’s greatest pleasures and *empowerments*. Feminism treats homes as worthless, and as an embarrassing place to be. In reality, running a home is a source of motivation, stimulation and fulfillment for a good many women, just as career can be, and often more so than career.

- This chapter includes lists of the housework tasks the author performs on a daily/weekly/occasional/one-off basis that do not get dispatched by the feminist fob-off to “get a cleaner.” The author estimates that she works 80+ hours on housework every week (including errands outside the home and household administration). She might not actually *get* to all of those 80+ hours—but those hours are there to be done.
- A woman *communes* with a house. A man does not. Men don’t dwell in the same space of constant anticipation and planning in the home that a woman occupies. That means that even if his quantitative contribution is the same—that is, even if he is putting in the same domestic hours—his qualitative contribution is usually less.
- What about his 50 percent share on the homefront? Why is feminism so silent about it? The ‘gender gap’ in the home far outstrips the largely mythical gender pay gap, yet feminism is happy to leave women with a brutally unequal domestic load.

4 9 to 3, Not 9 to 5

Working Hours That Work for Women

- When women entered the workplace en masse 40 years ago, we were supposed to see a seismic re-calibration of the relationship between her ‘private’ world of unpaid work, and his ‘public’ world of paid work. Those two great theaters of human activity, the home and the workplace, were supposed to splice. It didn’t happen—feminists kept the workplace timetable and conditions designed for a man with a woman at home, and left women to grapple with domestic reality entirely on their own.
- Equal Opportunity is not supposed to mean, “Women too can apply for this job designed for a man with a 24/7 wife at home!”. It is supposed to mean, “This job is tailored for women, who run homes and raise children, equally as much as it is tailored for men, who typically do not do those things.”

- What does a truly feminized workplace look like?

It comes with:

- ~ Part-time weeks
 - ~ Part-time days
 - ~ A 'mothering comes first' protocol to allow mothers to intersperse mothering tasks with paid duties throughout the day
 - ~ School vacations off or at reduced hours
 - ~ Workspaces that welcome or tolerate kids by setting aside play-lounges or at least a TV in a spare meeting room
-
- If feminists were the pro-equality champions they claim to be, they would call for a radical division of jobs into 20-hour increments so that men and women can enjoy equal access to work and take up equal responsibility for child care. Is there a single mainstream feminist in the world who advocates for 20-hour per week jobs? No.

5 I am Woman: Hear Me Roar Like a Man!

A Woman's Working Style

- “Speak up!” “Speak in a low voice!” “Shake hands with a firm grip.” “Never say sorry.” And whatever you do, don’t cry! Those pieces of advice have been meted out to working women for 40 years, and are still in force today, implicitly or explicitly. They are masculinist instructions designed to make women behave like men. That a man’s is the only approach to work has never been sufficiently questioned by feminism.

- Women and men are far more alike than different, but women do bring their own unique qualities to the workplace. This chapter takes an informal, subjective look at a woman’s approach to work (note: this is not a scientific exploration of gender differences):
 - ~ A woman’s values
 - ~ Her ability to give good service
 - ~ Volubility (the role of talk in a woman’s life)
 - ~ Emotionality
 - ~ Confidence

- One of the most tenacious stereotypes of our age is that of the career-woman carrying a briefcase and dressed in a suit. Whereas a suit is often an enabling conduit for a man's professional energy, it can be a cage for a woman, whose energy is warmer, looser, more fluid than his, connected where his is detached. Is a working woman's business suit just a form of male drag?

6 The Life-onomy vs. the Economy

To Be or to Work?

- One of the most damaging legacies of feminism's masculinism has been the lionization of the 'public' world of men and the denigration of the 'private' world of women. Under feminism, the 'private' has become a place of ignominy.
- This chapter argues that the Public dimension of life (mostly made up of the economy and government) is there to serve the Private dimension of life (the individual, home, family, social and community life, the personal and collective human soul). It is the Private, not the Public, that is the main game for all human beings. While men display their leadership in the Public, women display their leadership in the Private, irrespective of how impressive their careers may be. That is not to say 'a woman's place is in the home'; it is to say that the unique things women bring to the world manifest outside the workplace, not inside it.

- What priceless things do women contribute, experience and receive in the Private? This chapter examines some of them:
 - ~ Creativity
 - ~ Community
 - ~ Extended Family, and the Value of Caring
 - ~ ‘Secret Women’s Business’ (the profound power of girls’ get-togethers)
 - ~ Rest

- To Be or Not to Be? Beyond any career achievements a woman may enjoy and gift to the world, a woman’s most impressive power is To Be. Just *being* a woman is a kind of work in a way that being a man is not a kind of work. This is a difficult concept to convey, but it is fundamental to understanding the difference between men and women. A woman’s Being-power stands clear of her career-based deeds and is an active contribution in itself. When she is occupied outside the workplace in Being-work, she is manifesting humanity’s purpose – which is To Be - on behalf of all of us.

7 Who's a Strong Woman?

Pulling Off the Man-Goggles and Driving Like a Woman

- Feminists use three excuses for their masculinist attitude to womanhood:
 - 1) they “had to” force women into man-identical jobs, and in any case, it is for women’s own good
 - 2) it’s women’s right to work like a man
 - 3) it will all be better when women get to the top.

This chapter argues that:

- 1) feminists did not “have to” force women to take up careers like men, and a society that forces women to carry a double load is not acting for women’s good;
- 2) it is indeed women’s right to work like a man, but it is also women’s right to work like a woman, with career choices and workplace timetables and conditions suited to mothers and housewives (a right feminism refuses to campaign for)
- 3) feminist women at the top are a liability, not an asset, to women.

- What would a truly pro-woman alternative to the feminist revolution have looked like? The author uses her own grandmothers' lives to explore this question.
- What does 'power for women' look like? What are some of the many powers women already possess (and which feminism sneers at, or ignores, or seeks to deprive women of when it hounds them into the workplace)? And what are some of the powers feminism should have delivered to women, but didn't?
- One of feminism's greatest deceptions is to pretend that a career means the same thing to a woman that it does to a man. While men and women receive many identical gratifications from work, work does not sit in the same place in a woman's life as it sits in a man's. The key difference is this: that while work is the catalyst of a man's masculinity, work is *not* the catalyst of a woman's femininity.
- Feminists claim to be 'strong' women. Yet in place of respect for her own womanhood, a feminist feels shame. Shame is weakness. It is therefore possible to possess all the things feminism claims as 'strengths'—such as achievements, fulfillment, financial independence, a bold personality, a capacity for standing up for oneself—and still be a weak woman. So what makes a 'strong' woman?

8 Choices, Choices

Making 'Choice' a Reality

- Feminism purported to give women lots of options, but it really only replaced the one available choice of 'stay-at-home mom' with 'career-woman'. A career-free life is so vilified by feminism that it is a 'choice' virtually no woman dares make.

- Feminism is dishonest about the advantages and disadvantages of women's choices. This chapter aims to set out a more balanced view of the pros and cons of the many life-paths women can take:
 - ~ Full-time Mothers Who Are Happy to Be So
 - ~ Full-time Mothers Who Wish They Weren't
 - ~ Mothers Who Work Part-time
 - ~ Mothers Who Work Full-time
 - ~ Women Without Kids: Working, Part-time or Full-time
 - ~ Women Without Kids: Not Ever Working at All

- Ironically, that last ‘choice’, that of the child- and career-free woman, is the most ‘equal’ to men of all the life-paths a woman can take. That is because she is the one working closest to the 40 hours per week that a man works. A child-free career-free housewife may still outwork a man’s 40 hours every week in her efforts running a home (chapter 8 estimates that she easily works 50 to 60 hours per week as a housewife), and she will carry on performing those 50 to 60 hours in the home for two to three decades after he has retired. Feminism decrees that he is entitled to do nothing at all in those retired decades, and yet he is still his wife’s ‘equal’ in feminism’s eyes.

9 Single Mothers and Little Match Girls

Why ‘Single Motherhood’ is an Oxymoron

- In a pro-woman age, it should be a crime for a father to desert the mother of his children. The author uses her own experience as a divorced single mother to bring attention to the ways in which single motherhood breaks women.
- A mother of children too young to stay home alone is already occupied as a mother and is therefore almost certainly not free to earn a full-time living. That principle should inform all our attitudes and policy-making around single mothers. So should the principle that a man is equally responsible for the hard daily grind of his children’s care.
- Feminists are absolving deserting fathers from both the financial responsibility to support their children’s mother, and from child care responsibility itself. That is because to acknowledge that raising children is a job is to acknowledge that a woman is almost certainly not free to match a man’s paid work—and therefore is not his ‘equal’, according to feminism.

10 A Woman-Shaped World

Let's Make It Happen

- If feminists are the problem, what's the solution?

This chapter looks at 10 things individuals can do to create a world, inside and outside the workplace, that welcomes, validates and accommodates women as an asset to humankind, and a gender in their own right.

Introduction

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