

MARCH 2021 | ISSUE 1

mná magazine

WOMEN'S VOICES - GUTHANNA NA MBAN

WOMEN'S VOICES
WOMEN'S VOICES
NO RACISM
NO SEXISM
YES KINDNESS
YES PEACE
YES EQUALITY
YES LOVE

WOMEN'S THOUGHTS

Throughout this magazine, discover feminist inspirations that value women.

GAMES FOR WOMEN'S DAY

Will you be able to find every answers to the quiz? Or succeed in completing the crossword puzzle?

FEMINIST FICTION

We've compiled six recommendations of modern books, highlighting women's voices.

table of contents

-EDITORIAL	3
-DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE	4
-AWAKENING QUOTES	5
WOMEN'S THOUGHTS:	
-INTERNALIZED MISOGYNY	8
-GROWING UP TO BECOME A WOMAN	9
HISTORY SECTION:	
-LAS HERMANAS MIRABAL	10
HUMOUR SECTION:	
-AM I A FEMINIST?	11
-QUOTES	12
ART SECTION:	
-POETRY: I AM LIKE OTHER GIRLS	13
-10 EMPOWERING WOMEN ARTISTS THAT ARE NOT FRIDA KAHLO	14
BOOK SECTION:	
-6 RECOMMENDATIONS ON MODERN FEMINIST FICTION	18
CINEMA SECTION:	
-NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY	22
-TRINITY SYNDROME	23
GAMES SECTION:	
-QUIZ	24
-CROSSWORD PUZZLE	25

contributors

Daniela Ansaloni, Audrey Begliomini, Lisa Bourthoumieu, Margaux Coudray, Janis Detail, Lucile Duluc, Oihane Fernandez Unibaso, Giulia Gatti, Sandra Matschke, Lisa Prieur, Nathalie Trapp, Elena Villanueva, Thu Thao Vu



editor's note



Happy International Women's Day! What better day than 8 March to present the very first issue of Mháazine - The Women's Voices Magazine! Carried out within the framework of the undergraduate module for visiting students, European Women's Studies, under the tutelage of the coordinator Mary Clancy at National University of Ireland, Galway, this student project is really close to our hearts.

We are pleased to invite you to discover women's thoughts, which are sometimes very personal but also so open that everyone can relate to them, can identify with them, or can learn from them. Thus, it is possible for everyone to maybe change their behaviour or their way of seeing women. You can also read the Declaration of the Rights of People, that reflects the importance of respect and equality, which is sometimes not achieved everywhere.

You do not know what to read or what to watch? We have compiled some recommendations for you; feel free to have a look! In this issue, laugh at the written comedy and at the sometimes very crude feminist jokes, discover women artists who have had a great impact in art, but do not forget to complete the special Women's Day games page!

This magazine is the result of inspirations, experiences and learning from a female point of view, which we are glad to present to you. It may not be this magazine that will change the world we live in, but on a small scale, there will certainly be some change. So, we wish you a great discovery and a good time reading our magazine!

Margaux Coudray

Declaration of the Rights of People

A society exists to cater to the needs of its members. It is thus important to declare the rights of all its members, not only those of men and women. Here is a non-exhaustive selection of the Rights of People. This is a society. None of us are equal until all of us are equal.

I

Every member of the society has the inherent right to exist and live life to the fullest, with basic human rights guaranteed to them. Every political action must ensure and enhance the quality of life. No person may have more rights than the smallest, youngest, or weakest members of their society.

II

The right to love must not be regulated past the law of mutual consent. People have the right to love whomever they want as long as it happens between two consenting parties. No individual or group and no political or economical act is allowed to discriminate against non-heterosexual and non-monogamous relationships.

III

Every member of the society has the right to express themselves freely, and a right for their voice to be heard. Freedom of speech must not be granted to a selection of members only.

IV

Moreover, in a society built on mutual respect and acceptance, people have the responsibility to speak up for those without a voice and use their platform to raise awareness. This, however, must not result in ventriloquism of marginalised or minority groups.

V

In the name of mutual respect and understanding, every member of a society has the right and the responsibility to explore and understand their own identity – especially in regards of gender, sexuality, and potential privilege.

VI

As a direct consequence, they have the responsibility to acknowledge and break patriarchal patterns of thought and action, as they are inherently oppressive to all members of society that are not white cisgender males.

VII

Every member of society must be granted the same chances and opportunities for the level of education they strive for. Conversely, no economic or social discrimination must occur between professions that require higher education and those that do not. Every profession must be appreciated, and unconditional basic income must be granted to every member of society regardless of their socioeconomic background.



**“WHEN MEN
ARE OPPRESSED,
IT'S A TRAGEDY.
WHEN
WOMEN ARE
OPPRESSED,
IT'S TRADITION.”**

- LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN
ITSALLYOUBOO.COM



*“Do you have a vagina?
And do you want to be
in charge of it? If you
said ‘yes’ to both, then
congratulations –
you’re a feminist!” —
Caitlin Moran*

**“FOR MOST
OF HISTORY,
ANONYMOUS
WAS
A WOMAN.”**


— VIRGINIA WOOLF
ITSALLYOUBOO.COM

“Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.”


MAYA ANGELOU

GH

“I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat, or a prostitute.” — Rebecca West



“Feminism is the radical notion that women are human beings.” — Cheris Kramarae



“Life is not a competition between men and woman. It is a collaboration.”

**DAVID ALEJANDRO
FEARNHEAD**

GH

A real woman

~~*has curves*~~
~~*is skinny*~~
~~*has muscles*~~

*is whatever the hell she
wants to be*

“
TANT QU'IL Y AURA DES
FEMMES DISCRIMINÉES
EN RAISON DE LEUR SEXE,
JE SERAIS FÉMINISTE

LEÏA SLIMANI

AS LONG AS THERE ARE
WOMEN DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST BECAUSE OF
THEIR SEX/GENDER,
I WILL BE A FEMINIST.”

”

"I'M A FEMINIST.
I'VE BEEN A
FEMALE FOR A
LONG TIME NOW.
IT'D BE STUPID
NOT TO BE ON MY
OWN SIDE"

-Maya Angelo

I do not wish
women to have
power over men; but
over
themselves

- Mary Shelley



“
I WANT EVERY GIRL
TO KNOW THAT HER
VOICE CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Malala Fund

Internalized Misogyny

WOMEN'S THOUGHTS

BY DANIELA ANSALONI

Misogyny was once used to refer to the hatred of women, but its definition has broadened in recent years to also include a "deeply entrenched prejudice". This comprises all the casual ways women get debased in conversation and it discloses the issues of a society that still places womanhood at the bottom of the gender hierarchy. We have all heard about multiple examples of misogyny in everyday life, not only by men towards women but also amongst women themselves. If two people with similar experiences are hired for similar roles, they are not surprised when the paycheck comes back with a lower salary for the woman without any rational reason for it. A recent study even showed that more than two thirds of employers admit that they would less likely employ a woman if she did not wear makeup to the job interview.

Once you start paying attention, you see it everywhere

Never would we think of ourselves as misogynists. But you would be surprised to find out that we are all affected by it in our thinking and behavior. Do the test and find out about your inner misogynist! Give yourself a point for every sentence you agree with.

1. The sentence "You are not like other girls" is a compliment to you.
2. Women who put a lot of effort into their appearance are superficial.
3. I do not like clothes or products that are pink or floral or in any other way obviously estined/designed for a female target audience.

4. I would not like it if my boyfriend would spend a lot of time with other women.
5. I rather spend my freetime with men than with other women. It is more fun and there is less drama.
6. My favorite main characters in movies or books are male.
7. I do not like romcoms or "women's TV shows" like "Sex and the City". I think they are silly.
8. If my boyfriend cheats on me with another woman I would be so mad at her.

If you find yourself agreeing to many of these sentences, do not worry. We have been raised this way in a society where it is normal that women have an inferior role than men. Therefore, we unconsciously develop prejudiced thinking and opinions against womanhood, and it takes a lot of effort and time to break this habit.

It is very hard to change these entrenched modes of thinking. But there are simple ways to start: when you find yourself in a situation where you would be subjected to misogynist thinking, imagine that all the people involved are the same gender. Would you still make the same decision?

Instead of seeing other women as competition or trying to make ourselves feel superior when looking down on them, we should celebrate and support each other as women.



Growing up to Become a Woman

WOMEN'S THOUGHTS

BY AUDREY BEGLIOMINI

I have been raised as a girl, never has it ever been a problem for me. I have always been into those girly things: I played with dolls, I love looking pretty, watching romantic comedies, going shopping with my girlfriends and all those sorts of things that you may think a girl could like. Some may say that I am a "girly girl". But I would never say that these are the things that define me as a woman.

What I love most about being a woman is the strength and pride I hold while there are so many things that could have kicked me down. I remember learning French as a kid and hearing this grammar rule that states that masculine prevails over feminine in the use of the language. I was only six years old and at the time, I did not realize that society is built in such a way that it is not only the case in grammar. Now, I know how unfair it is, how if you are a woman people will discourage you from doing certain things because of your gender, how people rely on how you look before they wonder how you think, how you are constantly hearing comments about what you should and should not do.

I remember the very first time I realized how differently men and women are treated. It was at a dinner party, and I must have been 13 years old. A man asked me if I had already had my first period. I did not know what to answer, so I just said nothing and went to the bathroom to have a good cry as I felt so ashamed. Now, I realize that I should not have and that this man should have been ashamed for asking such a question and making me feel that way. I do not ever want to feel ashamed of being a woman. I want to feel like if the people around me cannot contain their sexist behavior, they should be the ones that are ashamed of thinking and acting in such a way.

Maybe this is how I would define womanhood: taking pride in the fact that there are so many things that could make you feel sorry that you are a woman - but being happy to be one.



Las Hermanas Mirabal

HISTORY SECTION



BY LISA BOURTHOUMIEU

The Mirabal Sisters, also known as "*Las Mariposas*" (Sp. "The Butterflies"), were three sisters from the Dominican Republic.

Patria, Minerva, and María Teresa were pillars of the rebellious movement against Dominican dictator Rafael Leónidas Trujillo around the 1950s. They led many missions against the oppressive regime along with their husbands. Sadly, this led them to being terribly tortured, incarcerated and later assassinated in 1960 - all by Trujillo's orders.



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) PATRIA, MINERVA AND MARÍA TERESA

Before being killed, Minerva Mirabal said, after being warned of the dangerous situation she was putting herself in:

"Si me matan, sacaré los brazos de la tumba y seré más fuerte"

(If they kill me, I will put my arms out of the grave and I will have become stronger)

Am I a feminist?

HUMOUR SECTION

BY ELENA VILLANUEVA

"Am I a feminist?" Is a question everyone should ask themselves. Am I a feminist? I would say I am. Yes, definitely I am. I am so feminist that I hate myself for not being a lesbian. Yes, I am feminist and heterosexual, but feminist first, so feminist that my boyfriend always do the dishes because I don't want to feel oppresed. I don't really know when I first realized that I wanted to be a feminist. Maybe when I waxed down there for the first time, or when I figured out how expensive the tampons were. I'm not sure about it.

When people ask me about my favourite sex position, I answer reverse cowgirl, because I don't like to see men happy. So I think I could say that I'm a proper feminist, it is true that sometimes I like men to open the door for me, but it is only because I don't know the difference between push and pull. Nevertheless, I don't shave my legs, and it's not because I'm a dirty person, it is because I am a feminist. Or maybe it is the opposite, and I'm feminist because I don't shave my legs, I don't really know.



Could it be that I'm feminist because the only two people that think I'm beautiful are my mum and James Blunt? It could be.

I am sure now, I am a feminist. Because otherwise, I wouldn't have had to experience all these uncomfortable family dinners. Even the exploited women who work for Amancio Ortega saw in my t-shirt that I am so. I am so feminist, that I would get pregnant only to abort, because it's my body and I have the right. Yes, it's true that I don't mind having free entrance to the discos. However, when I'm in I don't enjoy it that much, because I feel a little bit sexualized.

In spite of that, I can say that I'm a feminist, can't I? Of course, I have to be, I only let my boyfriend be the big spoon once a month, because I don't need his protection. I even have introduced him into the subtle art of finding the clitoris. Yes, I am a feminist, and not only the 8th of March, I'm a feminist during the whole year (including the days I don't have my period). So my answer is yes, I am. And I think everyone should be. Not because of the fact that we need equal rights and all that stuff, but because I've heard somewhere that the sensation of being free it's amazing.



I know what you are going to say: "I'm not sexist, my mother is a woman." But here you have some useful tips to try not to be sexist, just in case.

Tips not to be sexist:

- Do not show your dick (even if you are insecure about the size) to random women in the streets
- Do not fire a woman because she is pregnant
- Do NOT kill your wife
- Do not treat women as a sexual object (because, don't know why, they get offended)
- Do not give your opinion about women's body, because they probably don't give a f***
- Do not assume that she doesn't know about it, and please don't feel the necessity to explain everything to a woman
- Cry and show your feelings, it's okay

QUOTES:

- "If makes you feel ugly, fat, old and useless, it is because he is an abuser, or because it's a fashion magazine"



- "Finding the clitoris can't be that difficult if I did it when I was 11"

- "If you want to be judge for the size of your dick, don't cry if you don't succeed"

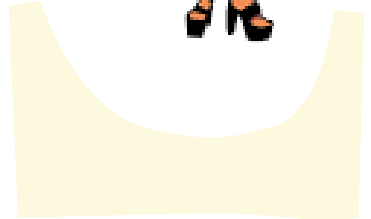
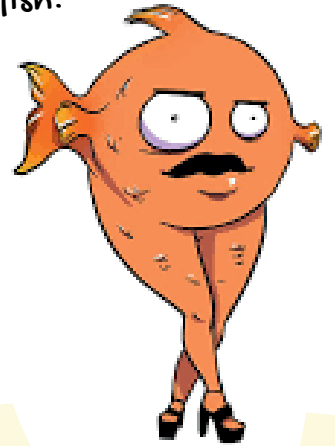
- "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle" - Irina Dunn



- "My boyfriend is always pushing me around and talking behind my back." - Caren, 27:



- The non-feminist fish:



"Have you noticed that her armpits are unshaven?"



FLAVIA BANANA





I Am Like Other Girls

Growing up I heard it often,
Boys were talking words not soften,
Making fun of things I enjoyed,
It left behind an unfilled void.

Special was what I longed to be,
And slowly it was changing me,
No pinks, no ponies, no more pearls,
"I am not like the other girls."

My teenage years I lived by that,
Did tomboyish, calculated chitchat,
Not realising me being so naïve,
I was following a patriarchal belief.

But as I grew older, I realised,
There is no reason for me being so disguised,
I should just be the way I want,
Without putting up a front.

I am strong, resilient, and kind,
Got wonderful ideas in my mind,
And slowly I realize bit by bit,
I am like the other girls and proud of it.

- Sandra Matschke



10 EMPOWERING WOMEN ARTISTS THAT ARE NOT FRIDA KAHLO

ART SECTION

BY OIHANE FERNANDEZ UNIBASO

THE KEY TO ALL WORKS TO DATE, HILMA AF KLINT (SWEDEN, 1862 – 1944).

Hilma af Klint could definitely be considered one of the most underrated female artists in history. Although, she is the pioneer of Western abstract art even a decade before Kandinsky or Malevich, she was not recognized as such for decades.



BREAKFAST IN BED, MARY CASSATT (UNITED STATES, 1844 – 1926)

Mary Cassatt was an invaluable impressionist artist, and also one of the first people to introduce European art to the United States. Most of her paintings portray females not as objects of display but as active protagonists of the scene.





THE POMPTS OF THE SUBSOIL, LEONORA CARRINGTON (GREAT BRITAIN/MEXICO, 1917-2011)

One could not get bored trying to figure out what is going on in each of Leonora Carrington's magical paintings. Full of fantastic creatures and dreamy scenes, this surrealist painter and novelist's art is packed with symbolism. Although being British, she spent most of her adult life in Mexico, which influenced her work deeply. Also, she became involved in the Women's Liberation Movement during the 70s.

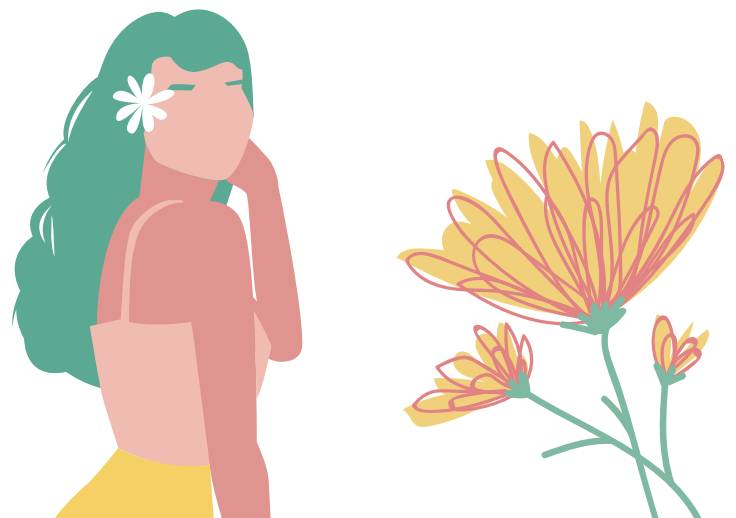
SELF-PORTRAIT WITH STRAW HAT, ELISABETH LOUISE VIGÉE LE BRUN (FRANCE, 1775 – 1842)

Praised for her sympathetic portraits of aristocratic women, Elisabeth Louis Vigée Le Brun managed to be an active artist in the late 18th century in Paris. She even was admitted into the French Academy as one of only four female members.



THE MADONNA CONTEMPLATING THE BABY JESUS, ELISABETTA SIRANI (ITALY, 1638 – 1665)

Elisabetta Sirani, a Bolognian baroque artist, is inspiring in the way she defended her work. As a well-known male artist's daughter, she was accused of not being the real creator of her paintings. What did she do then? She opened the doors of her studio so everyone could watch her paint.



REBELLIOUS SILENCE, SHIRIN NESHAT (IRAN, 1957 -)

Known for her work in photography, video and film, Shirin Neshat is probably one of the most confronting and critical artists. She is conscious of her country's issues of dictatorship and political injustice as well as gender oppression.



RYTHM 0, MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ (SERBIA, 1945 -)

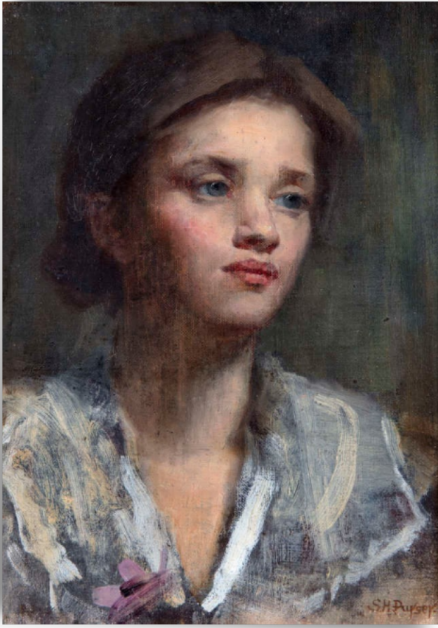
Marina Abramović is empowering in many ways. Born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she is a remarkable icon of contemporary art and a pioneer in performance. Her methods of art are provocative and revolutionary; she turns herself into the medium of her work, even sometimes taking dangerous physical risks.



**REALIZATION, AUGUSTA SAVAGE
(UNITED STATES, 1892 – 1962)**

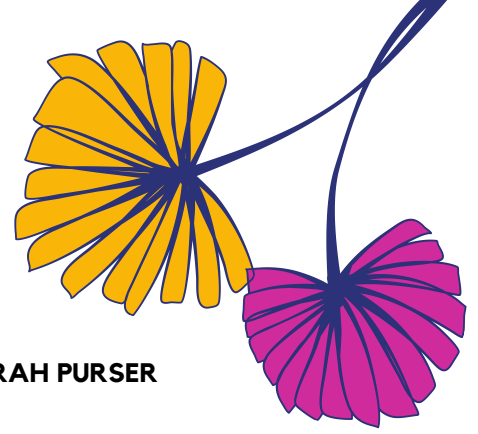
Augusta Savage was not only a great sculptor but also an influential activist and teacher who advocated for equal rights of African Americans in the arts. Though her work, she challenged racial discrimination.





**PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG GIRL, SARAH PURSER
(IRELAND, 1848 – 1943)**

Sarah Purser's work has been of enormous significance in Ireland for more than 70 years by now. She is one of the best-known female artists in the country, and mainly remembered for her portraits and work with stained glass.



**MAMAN, LOUIS BURGEONIS
(FRANCE, 1911 – 2010)**

Louis Bourgeois is probably the best-known contemporary female artist. However, it was not until the age of 70 that her work was recognized when The Museum of Modern Art exhibited her work and gave her a moment to shine. She is best remembered for her giant spider sculptures, fabric creations and human-like expressionist hanging figures.





MODERN FEMINIST FICTION

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

BY THU THAO VU

Why should you read feminist fiction ?

Literature, particularly the narrative form of fiction, is influenced by and influences various discourses in our societies. Therefore, fiction can impact and shape a person's thinking and behaviour by uncovering unfamiliar perspectives and issues. It also reflects upon various societies during different times in the past, present, potential futures. Often, these settings draw upon

reality to some extent, which can also reveal former, contemporary and future problems and injustices.

As a result, the significance of feminist fiction is in its support of the equality of sexes. By aiming to achieve political, economic, social and personal equality, it often draws attention to the power imbalance between the genders and the resulting disadvantages for women, female-assigned or female-presenting people. Consequently, feminist fiction deepens the audience's understanding of and knowledge about the motives of the feminist movement. Generally, these literary works enable female voices to be heard and put these into contexts associated with other concepts, such as sexuality or race and ethnicity.

1. MARGARET ATWOOD – THE HANDMAID'S TALE (1985)

Plot Summary: Atwood's dystopian novel retells the life of the protagonist Offred in the totalitarian Republic of Gilead. Offred is considered a Handmaid, a fertile woman who is assigned to a wealthy elite couple to conceive and carry out a pregnancy.

Key Issues: gender roles and their associated stereotypes | women's disempowerment | women's oppression, including restriction of freedom | objectification of women | fertility and reproduction rights | rape | effect of religion on women's lives (theocracy)



Why should you read this novel ?: In *The Handmaid's Tale*, the Canadian author Atwood captures a dystopian picture of a society, which is primarily focused on hierarchies between genders and even among the same gender. It appears as if those benefiting from this ideology are outnumbered by those who are at a disadvantage, especially Offred and other Handmaids. The novel portrays an extreme form of oppression justified by Christian values. This oppression encompasses nearly every aspect of a person's life, sometimes regardless of their sex and gender. Furthermore, it also familiarises readers with the concept of reproductive slavery. As Atwood has drawn inspiration from events around the early 1980s, she also addresses contemporary issues which could serve as a foundation for a state and society similar to the one of Gilead.



2. NAOMI ALDERMAN – THE POWER (2016)

Plot Summary: *The Power* illustrates the emergence of a matriarchal world through some women's sudden ability to emit electrical shocks from their hands. At first, this ability is used to defend themselves and to oppose the oppressing patriarchal society. However, over time, the gifted women start to abuse their powers by taking over countries and limiting the rights of men.

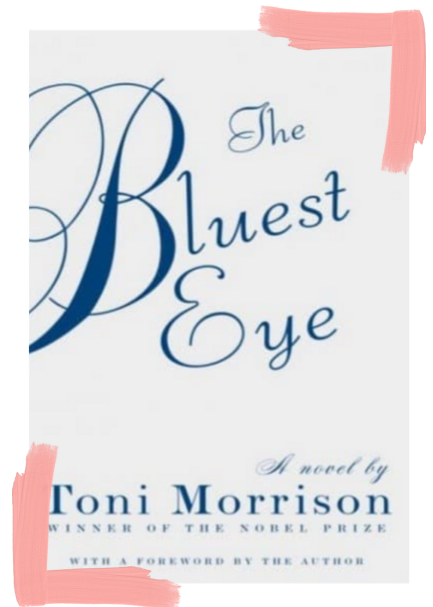
Key Issues: gender reversals | sexism | female-lead revolutions | abuse of power and violence by women | criticism of contemporary patriarchal society | criticism of toleration of women's discrimination | feminising religion

Why should you read this novel ?: In the science fiction novel, English writer Alderman creates a scenario that highlights the normalisation of sexism and discrimination experienced by women in the current time. By reversing the genders, the audience is able to realise that the shocking events experienced by the men in the novel already happen to women in the present. Therefore, the parallels between the plot and present-day society allow men and women to switch their points of view. Furthermore, the novel makes the use of religion and faith to push certain agendas, a subject of discussion.

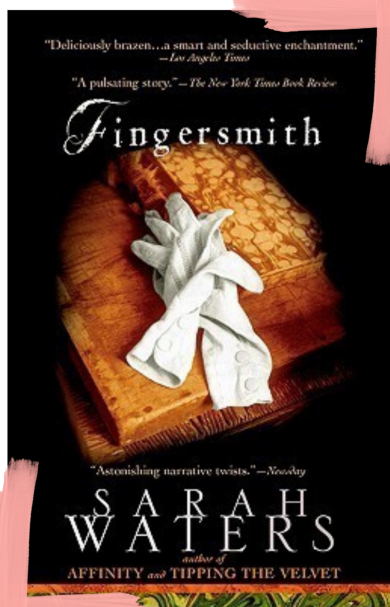
3. TONI MORRISON – THE BLUEST EYE (1970)

Plot Summary: In Ohio in the 1940s, the 11-year-old African American girl Pecola Breedlove temporarily lives with a foster family. Due to being referred to as ugly by members of her new community, Pecola develops an inferiority complex and a wish for blue eyes to achieve the white beauty standard. Her struggles also include being raped by her abusive father and the subsequent pregnancy, which later seems to cause her to drift into a state of insanity.

Key Issues: oppression of African American women, especially by other African American women | friendship between African American women | effects of racism and discrimination on women in a minority | verbal, physical, sexual abuse, especially child molestation | pregnancy of minors



Why should you read this novel ?: Written by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, the novel explores the life of female African Americans following the Great Depression and the damage internalised racism can cause. Especially, literary works about and by women of colour are often not considered in the analysis of feminist issues. Thus, the novel provides a perspective on the life and experience of African American women, such as the beauty standards imposed on women in the context of race and racism. Furthermore, the novel touches upon sensitive and so-called taboo topics, such as sexual abuse and the approach to a minor's pregnancy.



4. SARAH WATERS – FINGERSMITH (2002)

Plot Summary: The historical crime novel is set in Great Britain during Queen Victoria's reign. It follows Susan "Sue" Trinder's life, who is a fingersmith and pickpocket. She meets a man named Gentleman, who hires her to help him seduce and marry the wealthy heiress Maud Lilly to gain access to her fortune. Although Gentleman and Sue have initially planned to commit Maud to a madhouse after the marriage, the two women are attracted to each other and ultimately fall in love.

Key Issues: gender roles, especially Victorian ones | criticism of Victorian patriarchy and its norms | sexuality and LGBTQIA+ relationships | pornography | association of madness with women | baby farming

Why should you read this novel ?: Welsh novelist Waters addresses multiple issues in her neo-Victorian novel, most prominently the concern of sexual identity and Victorian gender roles. The author depicts Sue and Maud's relationship – a relationship between two marginalised women – as a genuine bond that withstands the gender politics and heterosexual norms at the time. Through her narrative, she allows readers to view Victorian Britain and its society centred on men from a contemporary perspective. Pornography becomes a crucial tool in opposition and support of the characters. Moreover, the false belief of women being more often insane, and thus more easily committed to mental institutions is addressed as well.

5. CHRISTA WOLF – MEDEA. STIMMEN [ENG. MEDEA: A MODERN RETELLING] (1996)

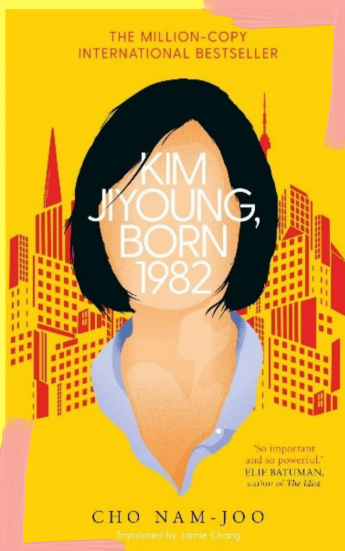
Plot Summary: As the English title suggests, Wolf reinterprets the Greek myth surrounding the mythical figure of Medea. The sorceress sacrifices her life as the daughter of King Aeëtes of Colchis for her lover Jason. However, she is later abandoned and betrayed by him. After being shunned by her new home country Corinth, she is eventually accused of murdering her own sons.

Key Issues: gender roles, especially women who oppose these roles | misogyny and oppression of women | women in marriages | the role of motherhood | women as scapegoats | rivalries between women

Christa Wolf
Medea.
Stimmen



Why should you read this book ?: As the novel is an adaptation, it draws upon the various Medea-myths as source material. In contrast to the most well-known one by Euripides, Wolf portrays Medea as a vulnerable woman who has fallen victim to others' intrigues and has to endure the resulting consequences by herself. Her role as a scapegoat and the misogynistic thinking of most characters underline these feminist concerns. Through her reinterpretation, the German author advocates for the mythical figure to be seen as a strong, progressive and independent woman and loving mother instead of the known image of a child murderer and an insane witch.



6. NAM-JOO CHO – KIM JIYOUNG, BORN 1982 (2016)

Plot Summary: The novel talks about the life of Kim Jiyoung, an ordinary South Korean woman in her 30s. Her struggles of studying, working and ultimately being a stay-at-home mother expose the daily horrors of gender discrimination in South Korea. Her experiences from her birth to adulthood are accompanied by the experiences of other women in her life.

Key Issues: everyday sexism and discrimination | systemic misogyny | treatment of women's mental health | criticism of extreme conservative views | motherhood | social pressure put on women

Why should you read this book ?: Despite the novel focusing on a South Korean main character and her environment, her experiences and these circumstances are universal. Thus, the book allows other women and people affected by these issues to identify with the protagonist and her situation. The setting can, therefore, be beneficial in drawing parallels to the readers' own experiences. However, it can also help to depict the specific events of an individual living in a certain environment. As the protagonist's name is one of the most common ones in the country, Cho further highlighted the ordinariness of the character's experiences. Furthermore, the novel is told from the perspective of Kim Jiyoung's male psychiatrist, which not only points towards the deep-rooted concern of South Korea's misogyny but also the society's dismissal of women's mental health problem. These concerns are supported by footnotes to studies about gender inequality, which underline the book's strong connection to reality.

Knock down the house:

the struggle working-class women endure to get into politics



CINEMA SECTION

BY GIULIA GATTI



"Knock down the house" is an inspiring documentary about the 2018 congressional primary campaigns of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Amy Vilela, Cori Bush, and Paula Jean Swearengin. The documentary charts their grassroots campaigns against long since established incumbents, without taking donations from corporations.

We can see from the very beginning that, at a moment of historic volatility in American politics, these four working-class women decided to fight back, thereby starting their challenging journey to change America for the better.

The documentary shows these four women living their normal life while conducting a political campaign to win the primary elections. Cori Bush, an African-American woman in the Missouri district where teenager Michael Brown was killed by police officers in 2014, Paula Jean Swearengin, a West Virginia woman whose community has been disrupted by fracking, and Amy Vilela, a single mother from Las Vegas whose core issue is healthcare because of the loss of her daughter due to not being covered by the right health insurance.

However, most of it revolves around Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who, at the time of her campaign, was working as a bartender and a waitress in a bar to help her mother fight foreclosure of their home. Therefore, she is an ordinary girl who then happens to be running for congress in New York's 14th district against 10-term incumbent Joseph Crowley, owing to her belief that America needed to change because, and I quote, "it's time for ordinary people to do extraordinary things".

All these strong women feel that those men they are fighting against have not been acting for the best of their communities. From a female perspective, we get to see how women struggle to conduct a political campaign because they are underestimated. Paula Jean Swearengin says that "we work harder because we're women, and we are not

white dudes in a suit". We understand that women have to put so much more effort than men in a political campaign, especially men who have not been challenged for years and, because of this, they now represent a certainty, an insurance to people. Why would a woman who has humble origins, no political experience and refuses to accept corporate funds be better than a man, even if this man has not lived up to expectations? The reason is simple: these women have experiences first hand every little thing that has been neglected by the establishment, and they know what needs to be changed and how. They want justice to happen, although when a woman is trying to gain such a powerful role in politics, it is harder for her voice to be heard. She must shout ten times louder than a man so as to be believed. Joseph Crowley did not attend a community debate in the Bronx against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, but sent Councilwoman Palma as a substitute, as if victory was already in his hands. However, he learned otherwise when he became aware that his opponent's donations, sign-ups and consensus kept rising, so he decided to finally debate her live. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was the only one out of these four respectable and determined women who, against all odds, won the vote with 57.2%.

This shows, dear women, that if you are willing to struggle and work hard, you can get wherever you want. They will say that you cannot, that you do not have experience, that a man does it better. So show them that you can "knock down the house"! You have true power in this world, and when a man truly hears your voice, no matter how confident he is, he is going to fear you.





Trinity Syndrome

CINEMA SECTION

BY MARGAUX COUDRAY



Do you know what Trinity Syndrome is? Well ... I think this is the perfect place to tell you about it.

You certainly know Hermione; she is one of the most powerful witches in the universe of J.K. Rowling. Well, without her, Harry Potter would have died at the beginning of the story!

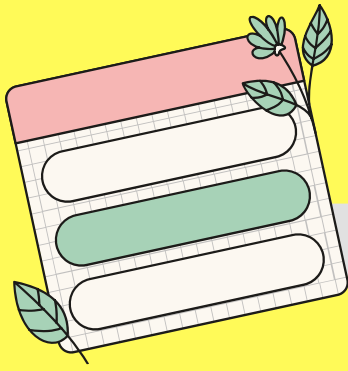
You see, Trinity Syndrome is the introduction to movies of a very competent and interesting female character. However, she is ultimately reduced to the function of the male hero's right hand or is portrayed miserably based on some aspect of her character such as excess anger - exactly like Trinity in The Matrix.

Now you see them coming into your mind, all those marginal heroines: Leïa in Star Wars, Tauriel in The Hobbit, Gamora in Guardians of the Galaxy, Valka in Dragons, Alice in Star Trek, Wyldstyle in The Lego Movie, Katniss in The Hunger Games, Hit-Girl in Kick-Ass, Angelina Jolie as Fox in Wanted, Trigrass in Kung Fu Panda, even Nala in The Lion King!

This is just an non-exhaustive list of characters in popular movies, but we would still be here tomorrow if we named them all.

Do you not think it is time to reverse the trend?





Quiz

GAME SECTION

1) Until what date were women forbidden to drive in Saudi Arabia?

1. June 2018
2. June 2020
3. They still can't drive

2) How many women alive today were forced to get married before their 18th birthday?

1. 450 million
2. 250 million
3. 650 million

3) True or false : There are discriminatory divorce rights.

4) True or false: Since 2019 all women have the right to pass citizenship on to their children.

5) In how many countries is marital rape not as prosecutable offence?

1. 29
2. 53
3. 67

6) According to you, what is an "honour crime"?

7) True or false : Poland is now the only country in the European Union where abortion is not a free choice. (allowed to preserve health)

8) True or false: Among the 200 million women who have female genital mutilation (FGM) in the world, in some cases it was necessary in term of health benefits for the women/girl.

9) True or false: Menstruating women are not allowed to enter in many Hindu temples.

10) In the world, for work of equal value, for every dollar earned by men, how much earn women?

1. 84 cents
2. 77 cents
3. 65 cents

11) Who is Ursula von der Leyen?

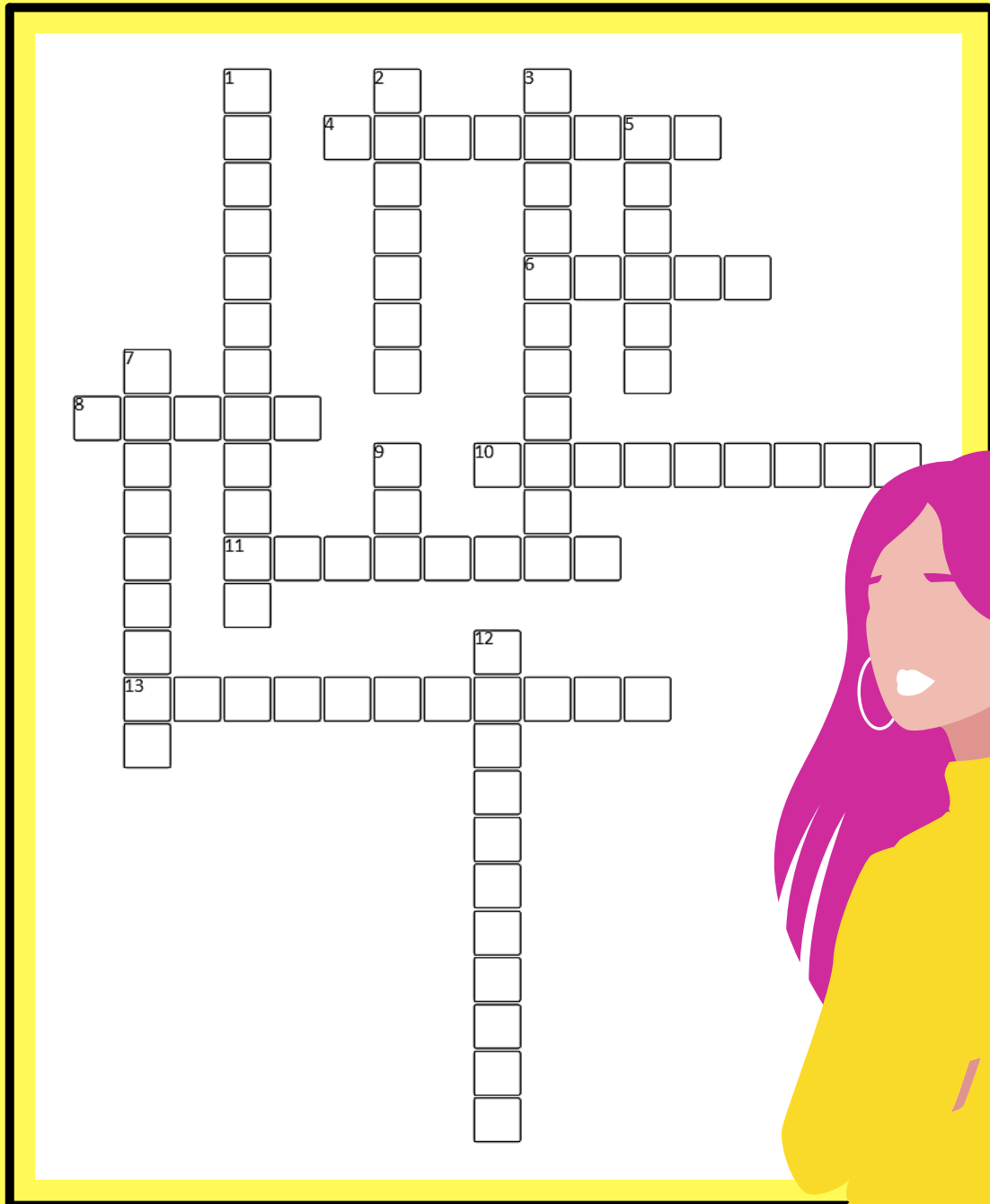
1. The Prime Minister of Finland
2. The President of the European Commission
3. The Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

12) What is the percentage of unsafe abortions per year?

1. 45%
2. 40%
3. 35%



Women's Day Crossword



Horizontal

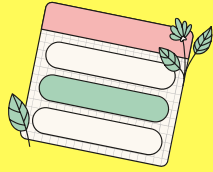
- 4. Belief in and desire for equality of the sexes.
- 6. To be happy with ourselves as women.
- 8. Strong and independent beings, put under the spotlight today.
- 10. What every woman (and person) is, no matter the body type.
- 11. Having the same rights and/or opportunities, without concerns for genders.
- 13. Process of becoming a stronger and more confident woman.

Vertical

- 1. The women who made it possible for us to vote today.
- 2. What every woman (and person) deserves.
- 3. To be free from any external and patriarchal influences.
- 5. Women who are not afraid to speak and be their confident self.
- 7. Women's dedication to what they are, love and want. Everywhere and anytime. (To be...)
- 9. Irish word for women, also the three first letters of this magazine.
- 12. Living without anyone to tell women what to do. (To be...)

Games answers

Quiz BY LUCILE DULUC



Answers:

1) **June 2018.** Until this date, Saudi Arabia was the only country where women were forbidden to drive motor vehicles. The Women to Drive Movement was a campaign by Saudi Arabian women who campaigned for women to be able to drive. Some even braved the risk of ending up in detention. The ban was officially lifted on 24th June 2018, while many of the women's rights activists remained under arrest.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_to_drive_movement

2) **650 million** women alive today were married as children. Despite its prohibition by the Convention on the Rights of the Child signed in 1989, the practice remains widespread. While the prevalence of child marriage is decreasing globally, every year at least 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18. This represents 28 girls every minute.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/ChildMarriage.aspx>

3) **True:** In most of the Middle East, countries are governed by religious ideals, and gender inequality is pervasive. As men are typically viewed as superior, they can divorce their wives relatively easily and even through mere oral renunciation. Women, on the other hand, face far more challenges. The obtaining of the divorce and the consequences (property, division, custody and guardianship of children) will also be different.

As an example, according to the Part V of the Islamic Family Law (Federal Territories) Act 1984, «*husbands may divorce a wife unilaterally. He can even pronounce talaq outside the court (even via sms (mobile telephone message)) and he will only be asked to pay a small fine for this offence when the couple goes to court to register the divorce. This is a far cry to what the wives have to go through, as they may only apply for dissolution of marriage in court or through lengthy arbitration or court proceedings*».

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/laws_that_discriminate_against_women.pdf_pages_103_-_111

4) **False:** Today, there are 27 countries in which men and women do not have an equal right to pass citizenship to their children. As a result, those women do not have the right to pass citizenship on to their own children while men have the ability to do so, and also they have the right to pass citizenship on to their non-national wives.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/08/05/27-countries-limit-a-womans-ability-to-pass-citizenship-to-her-child-or-spouse/>

5) **53:** The Secretary General's report against women (2006) on violence noted that «*Marital rape is not a prosecutable offence in at least 53 States*». Unfortunately this hasn't changed today.

As an example in Ghana, section 42(g) of the Criminal Code states that «*The use of force against a person may be justified on the ground of consent, but a person may revoke any consent which he has given to the use of force against him, and his consent when so revoked shall have no effect for justifying force; save that the consent given by a husband or wife at marriage for the purposes of marriage cannot be revoked until the parties are divorced or separated by a judgment or decree of a competent court*».

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/laws_that_discriminate_against_women.pdf_pages_93_-_96

6) **Honour crimes are acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonour upon the family.** A woman can be targeted by her family for a variety of reasons including: refusing to enter into an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce, even from an abusive husband, or committing adultery. The mere perception that a woman has acted in a manner to bring "dishonour" to the family is sufficient to trigger an attack.

https://www.hrw.org/legacy/press/2001/04/un_oral12_0405.htm

7) **False:** In Malta, abortion is illegal, same as in 27 other countries; without forgetting that in 39 it is allowed only to save the woman's life, and in 56 it is allowed only to preserve health. In 14 countries abortion is allowed on broad social or economic grounds (even if the law is generally interpreted liberally). Therefore it is only a real choice in 66 countries.

<http://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/World-Abortion-Map.pdf>

8) **False:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This practice which has no health benefits (quite the contrary, in fact), concerns 30 countries today.

https://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGMC_2016_brochure_final_UNICEF_SPREAD.pdf

9) **True:** They are considered impure and menstruation is generally a taboo topic in India. Since 2015, outraged women have launched a #HappyToBleed campaign to protest against the sexist statement. Nowadays, they are allowed to enter only to a few temples.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34900825>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-35595501>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/02/indian-women-form-620km-human-chain-in-support-of-lifting-of-temple-ban>

10) **77 cents for 1 dollar:** Across the globe, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at globally 23%. At this rate, it will take the next 257 years to close the global gender pay gap. Moreover, women are concentrated in lower-paid, lower-skill work with greater job insecurity and under-represented in decision-making roles.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/equal-pay-day>

11) **The President of the European Commission:** She is the first woman to be President of this institution. The Deputy Secretary General of the UN is Amina J. Mohammed and the Prime Minister of Finland is Sanna Marin.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_von_der_Leyen
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deputy_Secretary-General_of_the_United_Nations
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanna_Marin

12) **45%:** That means every second abortion is unsafe! This represents 25 million abortions per year (of about 56 million in total). Almost one-third (31%) of abortions are "less safe," meaning they might be performed by a trained provider using an unsafe or outdated method such as "sharp curettage". About 14% were "least safe" abortions provided by untrained people using dangerous methods, such as introduction of foreign objects and use of herbal concoctions. Deaths from complications of unsafe abortion are high in regions where most abortions happen in the least safe circumstances.

Complications from "least-safe" abortions can include incomplete abortion (failure to remove all of the pregnancy tissue from the uterus), haemorrhage, vaginal, cervical and uterine injury, and infections.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/28-09-2017-worldwide-an-estimated-25-million-unsafe-abortion-occur-each-year>

Crossword puzzle

BY JANIS DETAIL

Answers: 1. Suffragettes 2. Respect
3. Independent 4. Feminism 5. Strong 6. Proud
7. Committed 8. Women 9. Mná 10. Beautiful
11. Equality 12. Emancipated 13. Empowerment

EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED
THE MAGAZINE! SEE YOU
NEXT TIME!**

