



Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism

By Leslie Heywood

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Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism By Leslie Heywood

Young feminists have grown up with a plethora of cultural choices and images -- in the distance from Gloria Steinem to Courtney Love, a chasm has been traversed and an entire history made. In *Third Wave Agenda*, feminists born between the years 1964 and 1973 discuss the things that matter now, both in looking back at the accomplishments and failures of the past and in planning for the challenges of the future.

The women and men writing here are activists, teachers, cultural critics, artists, and journalists. They distinguish themselves from a group of young, conservative feminists, including Naomi Wolf and Katie Roiphe, who criticize second wave feminists and are regularly called on to speak for the "next generation" of feminism. In contrast, *Third Wave Agenda* seeks to complicate our understanding of feminism by not only embracing the second wave critique of beauty culture, sexual abuse, and power structures, but also emphasizing ways that desires and pleasures such as beauty and power can be used to enliven activist work, even while recognizing the importance of maintaining a critique of them.

Combining research, theory, and social practice with an autobiographical style, these writers are hard at work creating a new feminism that draws on the submerged histories of other feminisms -- black feminism, "womanism", and working-class feminism, among others. Some topics explored in *Third Wave Agenda* include feminism in popular music, interracial coalitions, and tensions between individual ambitions and collective action.

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Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism By Leslie Heywood Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1792873 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Univ Of Minnesota Press
- Published on: 1997-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .63" w x 5.88" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

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