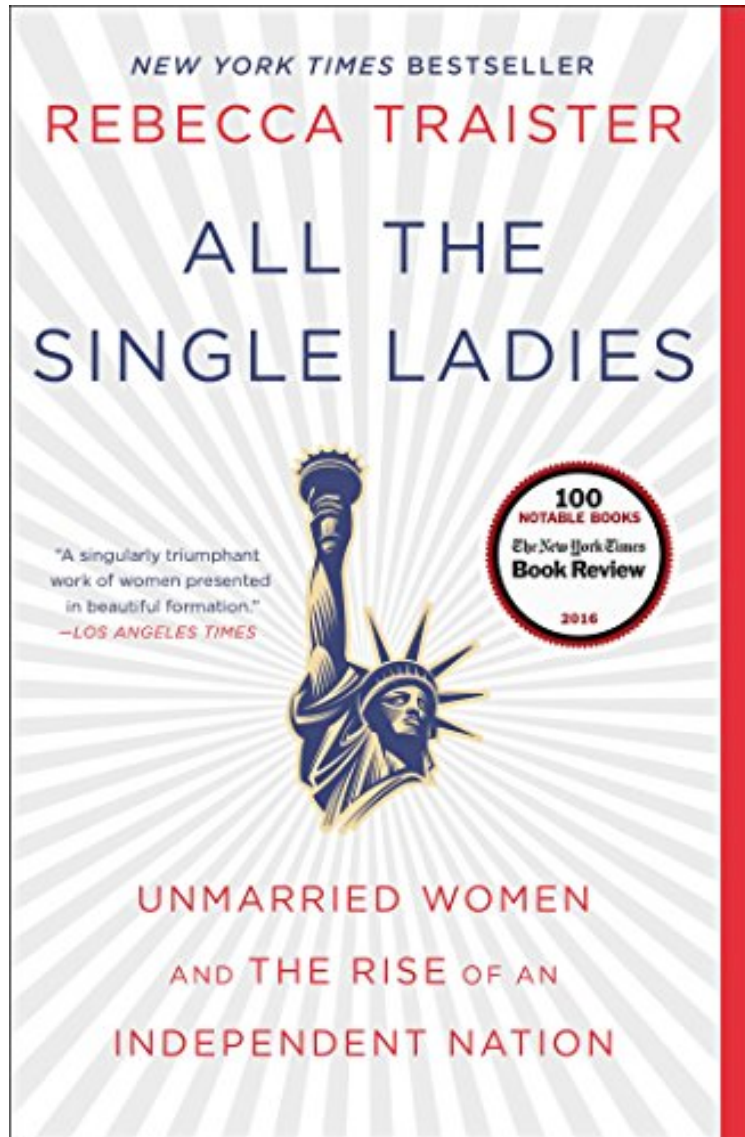


(Download ebook) All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation

All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation

Rebecca Traister

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#22081 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-10-11 2016-10-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.37 x .90 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 1476716579368 pagesAll the Single Ladies Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation | File size: 59.Mb

Rebecca Traister : All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation:

105 of 107 people found the following review helpful. Honest Look at a Growing DemographicBy Allison

Smith There is so much to love in this book. In many ways it serves as a validation of single life. There are stories of women with careers, friendships, hobbies, and children that fulfill them, all without a spouse. Unmarried women have helped to usher in major social change, including abolition and the labor movement. Traister illustrates that single women are multi-faceted and have full lives beyond trying to find a man. All women who spent some portion of their adult life single will see themselves in this book. Just to be clear, Traister doesn't disparage marriage. In fact, she is married with two children herself, although she was in her mid-30s before that happened. This book is about women who spend at least some portion of their adult lives unmarried. Most of the time that's due to marrying later, but there are divorced women and women who live with serious partners as well. The point is that this demographic has been growing steadily larger, and is becoming a political, social, and economic force. The best part of this book is the history, which focuses on the late 1800s to the present. It's always refreshing when someone acknowledges that the "traditional" 1950s model of a house in the suburbs with the husband working and the wife keeping the house was a historical anomaly and only applied to a relatively small section of society. Traister recognizes that poor, minority women usually had to have jobs outside the home. Feminism has frequently celebrated white, middle-class women for doing much the same thing that these women have always had to do. Traister not only acknowledges they exist, but fits them into the broader framework of society and how demographics and history have affected them. There is a practicality running through the book that I really appreciated. It's easy to condemn women for having children while single/poor/young, but Traister looks at the economic and social choices that lead women to it. She also looks at some of the more pragmatic downsides of being single. Who will take care of us when we're old? Who will help us haul furniture home from Ikea? What if we just get tired of both earning our own wages and keeping our own homes? The only quibbles I have are that Traister didn't acknowledge the dark side of female friendship. The chapter about the bonds of friendship between women was positively glowing, and there are many wonderful things to be said. However, mean girls and frenemies are a widely acknowledged phenomenon among young women, and it seemed odd to only cover the positive sides of female friendships. I would also have liked a little more depth on child-free women. It's mentioned briefly, but the emphasis is certainly on single mothers, women who have children later in life, and fertility treatments. The number of women who choose to forgo having children entirely is also growing, and should have gotten a little more coverage.

74 of 77 people found the following review helpful. A Good Starting Point
By Josie Bailey
I picked up this book based on the recommendations of a friend as well as the positive reviews below. After reading the introduction, I expected the book to be an intertwining of interviews with single women from various backgrounds along with a somewhat linear history of the author's own life. This wasn't quite accurate. The first fifth of the book is a whirlwind tour of the history of single women in America. While it is brisk and doesn't go into as much detail as I might have liked, this portion of the book was really interesting. The author makes the case that the groundwork for the phenomenon of a large demographic of single women in our society today (and their acceptance into the mainstream) was laid as early as the late 19th century, and gives examples of the contributions of various women. However, the book seemed to lose its focus after this point. Each chapter is based on a different aspect of the life of a single woman, but there isn't much structure beyond this. It is typical for the author to spend a paragraph or two discussing the experience of some particular woman she interviewed, then use a quote from a historian or historical figure (completely without context) in the next paragraph to imply that this situation is an old one, and then describe a somewhat relevant experience in her own life, before making some broad generalization about how this is a common phenomenon. Much of the content is interesting, but I can't help but wish she would have fleshed more of the material out instead of skimming the surface, generalizing, and moving on. It is dizzying. Overall, I think the book is worth a read, especially for young women, on the merits of its subject matter and the breadth of the topics and events it touches upon. All the single ladies is a good launching place for learning more about feminism and the evolving roll of women in our society.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Amazing
Amazing Book
By K. D. Winchester
"In the most intelligent races . . . there are a large number of women whose brains are closer in size to the of gorillas than to the most developed male brain. This inferiority is so obvious that no one can protest it for a moment; only its degree is worth discussion." - Gustave Le Bon, 1879
This is NOT an anti-marriage book; it's a discussion of the stigmas (see quote above) and history surrounding single women in the U.S. Few of us realize the to actually have a job, a woman couldn't be married. A married woman legally did not exist, so few laws existed to protect women as individuals. So before feminism gave women basic rights, single women struggled to exist and support themselves without marrying. The need to marry often drove women to marry unsuitable men, resulting in miserable marriages of necessity. While this was not every case, we have seen examples in literature (i.e. Charlotte Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice*) that illustrate this point. Traister argues that women's independence allows them to wait and marry the right man, if they desire to marry at all, rather than jumping into a marriage and settling for a less suitable man to gain economic stability. For women, adulthood no longer begins at marriage. The altar no longer represent the plunge into independence. Women can live on their own and support themselves. This shift in our culture has had some fascinating implications, which I will let you read for yourself. ;) Traister also points out that more and more marriages consist of partners who both have jobs and share childcare and household responsibilities. The change from women as subservient, legally non-existent servants to full-fledged partners has changed the way marriage works

in modern society. I have read several books on a similar topic, but this book by far is the best--the research, style, and execution is so well done. For everyone, not just women, this book reminds us how hard women have had to work for every inch of liberty we have. Hurrah for egalitarianism.

* NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOKS OF 2016 SELECTION * BEST BOOKS OF 2016 SELECTION BY THE BOSTON GLOBE * ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY * NPR * CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY * The New York Times bestselling investigation into the sexual, economic, and emotional lives of women is an informative and thought-provoking book for anyone not just the single ladies who want to gain a greater understanding of this pivotal moment in the history of the United States (The New York Times Book Review). In 2009, award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister started *All the Single Ladies* about the twenty-first century phenomenon of the American single woman. It was the year the proportion of American women who were married dropped below fifty percent; and the median age of first marriages, which had remained between twenty and twenty-two years old for nearly a century (1890-1980), had risen dramatically to twenty-seven. But over the course of her vast research and more than a hundred interviews with academics and social scientists and prominent single women, Traister discovered a startling truth: the phenomenon of the single woman in America is not a new one. And historically, when women were given options beyond early heterosexual marriage, the results were massive social change: temperance, abolition, secondary education, and more. Today, only twenty percent of Americans are married by age twenty-nine, compared to nearly sixty percent in 1960. An informative and thought-provoking book for anyone not just single ladies (The New York Times Book Review), *All the Single Ladies* is a remarkable portrait of contemporary American life and how we got here, through the lens of the unmarried American woman. Covering class, race, sexual orientation, and filled with vivid anecdotes from fascinating contemporary and historical figures, were better off reading Rebecca Traister on women, politics, and America than pretty much anyone else (The Boston Globe).

From School Library Journal In 1960, more than half of Americans were married to heterosexual partners before reaching the age of 30. That statistic has dramatically reversed in the years that followed, with only 20 percent reaching that same milestone in the present decade. Traister traces the roots of this phenomenon much further back, from 1960, and demonstrates how single women have typically made the decision to marry later or not marry at all when given advantages such as education and career options. The understanding of how single women affect politics and social change is startling to say the least, and young women will find clarification and confirmation in this read. Being single is not a failure, nor is it a death sentence. Media outlets and politicians are often the source of urging women toward heterosexual marriage. Even though this push is typically intended to subjugate women, the book does not condemn the institution of marriage; in fact, the author makes the opposite case. Marriage should be an informed choice, Traister argues, and it should not mean giving up on dreams or aspirations. By weaving anecdotes with detailed research (source information as well as updates on the profiled women are provided), this volume will draw in young adults and help them comprehend the quiet and steady evolution that women have been spearheading for quite some time. VERDICT A stand-out, empowering selection providing substantive research; for general readers as well as those with an interest in feminism and social justice issues. April Sanders, Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL PRAISE FOR ALL THE SINGLE LADIES *NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOKS OF 2016 SELECTION *BEST BOOKS OF 2016 SELECTION BY BOSTON GLOBE* ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY * NPR * CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY * Fascinating, entertaining, surprising and heartening. A brilliant book that is also warm, funny, and a pleasure to read. Katha Pollitt "Traister is a triple threat--essayist, journalist, and polemicist--bringing a seismic shift to light, hunting down its implications, and showing how it changes politics, and how policy needs to change to reflect it. Her book demands not just reading but discussion and debate. Boris Kachka, Vulture A singularly triumphant work of women presented in beautiful formation... Keenly mindful of race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status [Traister] is both deliberate and conversant in her language of inclusion As impressively well researched as *All the Single Ladies*...it's the personal narratives drawn from more than 100 interviews she conducted with all manner of women that make the book not just an informative read but also an entirely engaging one. Los Angeles Times A well-researched, deeply informative examination of women's bids for independence, spanning centuries Traister provides a thoughtful culling of history to help bridge the gap between, on the one hand, glib depictions of single womanhood largely focused on sexual escapades and, on the other, grave warnings that female independence will unravel the very fabric of the country [she] brings a welcome balance of critique and personal reflection to a conversation that is often characterized more by advocacy and moral policing than honest discovery *All The Single Ladies* is arriving just in time. This is an informative and thought-provoking book for anyone not just the single ladies who want to gain a great understanding of this pivotal moment in the history of the United States. New York Times Book (Editors Choice) Powerful and convincing were better off reading Rebecca Traister on women, politics, and America than pretty much anyone else. [Traister is] one of the nation's smartest and most provocative feminist voices. The Boston Globe The enormous accomplishment of Traister's book is to show that the ranks of women electing for nontraditional lives have also improved the lots of women who make traditional choices, blowing open the institutions

of marriage and parenthood This rich portrait of our most quietly explosive social force makes it clear that the ladies still have plenty of work to do. Slate A monumental study of the political, economic, social, and sexual consequences of the rise of unmarried women. New Republic Lucid and well-researched [Traister] vividly illustrates the collective power of single women in guiding legal, economic, and social progress and in asserting themselves as citizens full citizens in ways that American men have for generations. A chapter on female friendships satisfyingly conveys the complexity of a significant, and often dismissed, relationship. The New Yorker Personal and relatable [Traisters] assessment of single women's sex lives is so balanced and ordinary-sounding that it becomes extraordinary in a world where Tinder is supposedly bringing a dating apocalypse. Ill swipe right on that message any day. Washington Post Though Traister is no longer one of us, she retains her memories and her empathy, as well as her feminist commitments. Drawing on, historical and contemporary sources, as well as her own reporting, she has produced a wide-ranging, insistently optimistic analysis of the role of single women in American society. Chicago Tribune I can't begin to count the number of conversations I've had in my adult life about my lack of enthusiasm to marry. Thankfully, with the publication of Rebecca Traister's *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*, I can stop explaining and buy her book for all the busybodies in my happily unmarried life. Traister blends history, reportage and personal memoir to propose that the notion of marriage in American life has been and will be written by unmarried women. The Guardian (US) Traister's illuminating history of women who haven't put a ring on it, whether by choice or by chance, is smartly placed in a larger historical context and enriched by compelling personal narratives. Entertainment Weekly, Best Books of 2016 So far select Traister is one of the sharpest journalists writing about feminism today, and her look into the link between eras with large numbers of unmarried women and periods of drastic social change is absolutely riveting. It turns out the history of unmarried women in this country is a fascinating one, which Traister recounts in compulsively readable detail, combining facts with personal stories from single ladies across racial and financial spectrums. What's left after she joyfully dismantles conservative arguments about the death of wifely servitude is hope: Ring on it or not, the paths open to women today are varied and bright. Entertainment Weekly "It takes a gifted writer to conjure an addictive, fascinating read out of centuries of dense facts and census data, but that's exactly what journalist Traister does in this illuminating history of unmarried women. Using wide-ranging research as well as interviews, she delves into the different ways singlehood affects women of varying races, socioeconomic brackets, and sexual orientations--and explains how surges in the numbers of single women throughout history have coincided with social change. Isabella Biedenharn, Entertainment Weekly "In this intelligent book, Traister looks at the many reasons for choosing a patch that would have been cultural and economic suicide 50 years ago. She wants single women to recognize themselves as a political force and to celebrate unmarried life for what it can be: an excellent option. People Magazine Wonderfully inclusive, examining single women from all walks of life working-, middle-, and upper-class women; women of color and white women; queer and straight ones. With *All the Single Ladies*, [Traister] brings her trademark intelligence and wit to bear, interspersing her own experiences and observations with dozens of interviews with women all over the country, plus historical context, from so-called Boston marriages (the nineteenth-century name for women who lived together) and the Brontë sisters to Murphy Brown and *Sex and the City*. Elle Magazine No husband, NP In *All The Single Ladies*, an exhaustive examination of independent women and how they shaped the world we live (and date) in today, Rebecca Traister explodes the centuries-old notion that mirage is compulsory to living a happy, fulfilled life and reveals the inestimable power of being blissfully unattached. Cosmopolitan *All The Single Ladies* is essential, careful, bold, and rigorous; it's a warning and a celebration, and I loved it. Jezebel [*All The Single Ladies*] has the potential to become a seminal text on female identity in the West. Traister expertly paints a modern portrait of American life and how we got here, with an intersectional approach that accounts for class, race, and sexual orientation. Even more impressive is how Traister pushes a feminist agenda without the book ever feeling like it has an agenda, or that it's pointing the finger at the reader to make him or her feel guilty. VICE A well-written and unabashedly feminist analysis of the history and current situation of single women in America. Newsday Exploring all aspects of single life social, economic, racial, and sexual Traister's comprehensive volume, sure to be vigorously discussed, is truly impressive in scope and depth while always managing to be eminently readable and thoughtful. Booklist (starred review) [Traister is] a thoughtful journalist. This fast-paced, fascinating book will draw in fans of feminism, social sciences, and U.S. history, similar to Gail Collins's *When Everything Changed*. Library Journal Incorporating a lively slew of perspectives of single ladies past and present, Traister conducts a nuanced investigation into the sexual, economic, and emotional lives of women in America and the opportunities available when marriage is no longer the measure of female existence. Traister is funny and fair in how she deals with the prevalent stereotypes and remaining stigmas attached to being an unmarried woman in society. an invigorating study of single women in America with refreshing insight into the real life of the so-called spinster. Publishers Weekly Cogent and provocative a persuasive case for why unmarried women have grown into a potent political and social force. Readers will also appreciate Traister's willingness to recount, with candor and humor, experiences in her own life that fit into the larger national story. This is a fascinating book and an important one. Bookmark/Politics Prose Blog Part social and cultural history, part anthropological and journalistic investigation, part memoir, and total investigation into the phenomenon and political power of single womanhood. Flavorwire Timely

and important a significant addition to the literature of sociology and women's studies. Clearly this book belongs right up there with those by Gloria Steinem, Gail Collins, and other feminist writers who shine a light on contemporary life as few others can. *New York Journal of Books* PRAISE FOR REBECCA TRAISTER "Visionary." --The New York Times Book "One of the most powerful voices in a new generation of American feminist writers." --Walter Russell Mead, *Foreign Affairs* "The most brilliant voice on feminism in this country." --Anne Lamott, author of *Bird by Bird* "A clear-eyed, whip-smart observer of the political scene." --Daphne Merkin, author of *The Fame Lunches* "Brilliant." --Maureen Corrigan, NPR's *Fresh Air* "Clever, caustic, [and] wickedly funny." --Slate.com "The heir to the tradition of Mary McCarthy and Joan Didion." --Eric Alterman, author of *The Cause* "Provocative and insightful." --Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *American Wife* About the Author Rebecca Traister is writer at large for *New York* magazine and a contributing editor at *Elle*. A National Magazine Award finalist, she has written about women in politics, media, and entertainment from a feminist perspective for *The New Republic* and *Salon* and has also contributed to *The Nation*, *The New York Observer*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *Marie Claire*. Traister's first book, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, about women and the 2008 election, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2010 and the winner of the Ernesta Drinker Ballard Book Prize. She lives in New York with her family.