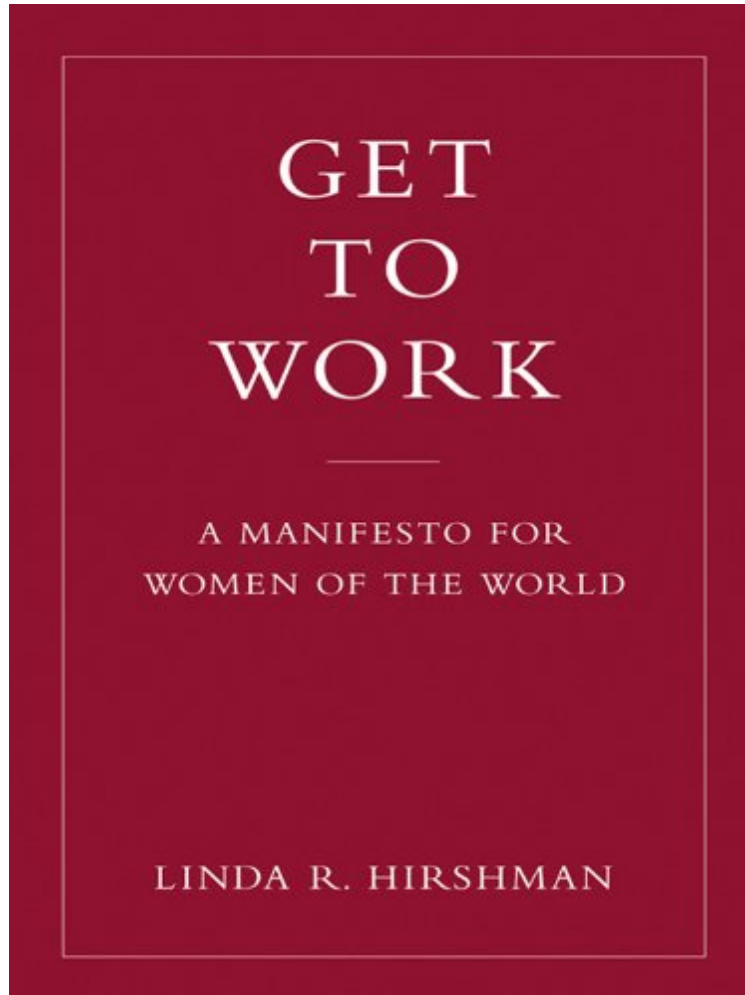


(Free download) Get to Work: . . . And Get a Life, Before It's Too Late

Get to Work: . . . And Get a Life, Before It's Too Late

Linda R. Hirshman

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Linda R. Hirshman : Get to Work: . . . And Get a Life, Before It's Too Late before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Get to Work: . . . And Get a Life, Before It's Too Late:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Get to Work (And Don't Forget to Save)By A readerHaving been on both sides of the fence, I feel I have to write a review in support of this book. I think it is of tremendous value for children to see how moms juggle between work and family responsibilities. We don't always balance between the two gracefully, but as long as the kids see that we manage to find joy in both facets of our lives they will learn to set a realistic expectation of their own. Boys need to know that it is normal for them to help out at home. Girls need to see that they are strong enough to take what their jobs throw at them. I am grateful that I had a chance to stay at home with my kids when they were very young. Now that they are of school ages I have gone back to work. It is stressful, I admit. But being a stay-at-home mom had its stressful moments too. Plus, I did not like the vulnerability of not being employed or not being employable. (It is important to mention that my husband has been a totally supportive and

reliable partner to me all this time, so my working or not working is not an issue for us.) I think it is also important to show the kids what you are working for. Talk to them about savings, planning for their college expenses and your own retirement. It is of no use to go to work outside of home only to spend it all on extravagant purchases.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved this book!!!

By Chris
This book is great for all women to read. It shows that true equality among men and women requires men you pull their share of the housework. Society expects women to tend to the children, keep the house clean, take care of their husband on top of a full time job which is why many throw in the towel and become stay at home Moms. I am a Professional Engineer and at 30 years old, I am the oldest female engineer on my floor. For so many years, women fought their way into the work place and now women view staying home with their kids as a privilege. On top of that mentality, there are numerous companies who encourage stay at home Moms to sell over priced crap to their girlfriends to feel like they're contributing to the family income. I hope that books like this show women that having a successful career contributes to their long term happiness and health. I am fortunate to have a husband who truly sees me as an equal and together, we provide a loving environment for our son.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. yes, but how?

By Christine Burmeister
As a stay-at-home mom with three young children, I enjoyed this book almost at a fantasy level. Going to work seems so much easier some days. My criticism is that most all of this has been said, and more completely, in a book like *Perfect Madness*, by Judith Warner. Hirshman's book would be good for a young woman who would like to stick to her career, before she chooses a major or falls in love with her would-be husband. Her strategy at keeping women working requires almost that the working woman's husband is not career oriented. And too much is made of housework without the obvious solution being mentioned even once: full-time household help. I understand the latter is tentatively politically incorrect, as well as prohibitively expensive, but if one is going to go so far as to mention marriages potentially breaking up over the issue, the obvious solution should at least be mentioned. A fine book, but doesn't really offer anything groundbreaking. Yes, being home with toddlers is mind numbing at times and can contribute to feelings of despair, but it is a brief phase and these are our children. They will grow and as was once said, there is world enough, and time.

Read Linda Hirshman's posts on the Penguin Blog. Does changing a toddler's diapers count as a fulfilling job? Is the glass ceiling that keeps women from advancing in their careers actually located in the home? In *Get to Work*, a book that instantly ignited a firestorm of debate, Hirshman cogently argues that "opting out" of the workplace is a form of self-betrayal. Combining a hard-hitting critique of traditional feminism with practical advice to help stay-at-home moms find satisfying, well-paying work, this book will be as era-defining as *The Feminine Mystique*.

From Publishers Weekly
A former attorney and professor of philosophy, Hirshman labeled child care as a low-status job and urged all women to rejoin the work force in her now infamous *American Prospect* article "Homeward Bound." Now she's back, using statistical research and convincing anecdotal evidence to challenge the politically correct assertion—as well as the moral, value and economic judgements inherent therein—that children, and ultimately society, benefit when mom stays at home. In her attempts to "restart the revolution," Hirshman spotlights the emptiness of "choice feminism," the shadowy remnant of the original women's movement, "that puts the freedom to choose before progress or equality. "Stay-at-home moms do not like to hear that the sacrifice of their education, talents and prospects to their spouses' aspirations and their children's needs was a mistake," writes Hirshman, "so they contend the stay-at-home decision cannot be judged." But by making that "stay-at-home decision," Hirshman contends, women are creating, collectively, their own glass ceiling, in the end harming society as a whole by keeping educated, affluent women hidden at home. In this slim treatise, Hirshman adds intelligent and much-needed dialogue to an important and emotional debate.

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From Booklist
Hirshman, retired philosophy professor, expands on an article she wrote that ignited a firestorm of criticism from the Right and the Left. She criticized the decision of many well-educated women to return to hearth and home, maintaining that the decisions these women think are entirely personal are influenced by social—and even governmental—pressures to stay home. Hirshman responds to blunt criticism that what women decide is "their own business" by suggesting they test their decisions against canons of Western philosophical ideas of the good and worthy life: Are they using their human capacities to the fullest, maximizing their independence, and doing no social harm? By leaving the workplace, these women are setting back achievements for gender equality and demonstrating indifference toward the larger society. Hirshman is critical in general of women who have settled for a "useless choice feminism," one that fails to address the issues of work and family life. This slim book is likely to continue to fan the fires of an argument that hasn't lost its incendiary potential since *The Feminine Mystique*.

Vanessa Bush
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will provoke invigorating discussion for sure.

(The Seattle Times)
One of the most outspoken voices in the . . . women's movement . . . sifts through the confusing spectrum of arguments over women's roles with a clarity and conviction harking back to Betty Friedan. (Los Angeles Times Book) This is a women's book-club offering if there ever was one. (The Seattle

Times)