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the twenty one million copy bestselling novel and provocative feminist classic that changed the world when it was first published in 1977 with the women's room marilyn french joined simone de beauvoir ralph ellison and that very small group of writers whose words spark a movement gloria steinem in the 1950s many american women left education and professional advancement behind in order to marry only to find themselves adrift and unable to support themselves after divorcing their husbands twenty years later some became destitute a few went insane but many went back to school in the heyday of the women's liberation movement and were swept up in the promise of equality for both sexes the women's room tells the story of one such woman a suburban 1950s housewife named mira who divorces her loathsome husband and returns to graduate school at harvard loosely based on marilyn french's own life the story of mira and her friends offers wry piercing insight into the inner lives of a generation of american women a powerful indictment of the patriarchal social norms of the time it caused an uproar when it was first published in 1977 changing the course of the feminist movement forever today it remains timely and eerily relevant a courageous novel infused with revolutionary fervor that examines the world of hopeful believers looking for new truths

this book focuses on the ways in which second wave feminism has been represented in

american popular culture and on the effects that these representations have had on feminism as a political movement kim loudermilk provides close readings of four best selling novels and their film adaptations according to loudermilk each of these novels contains explicitly feminist characters and themes yet each presents a curiously ambivalent picture of feminism these texts at once take feminism seriously and subtly undercut its most central tenets this book argues that these texts create a kind of fictional feminism that recuperates feminism s radical potential thereby lessening the threat it presents to the status quo

terrifying impressive a challenging essay that justifies the feminist revival the new york times bestselling author and feminist scholar marilyn french has written a shocking and fascinating analysis of the history of women s political cultural physical and economic repression that is as controversial as it is utterly convincing in this stunning work of research ms french creates a devastating portrait of today s male dominated global society with its underlying aim of destroying subjugating or mutilating women here is a devastating indictment of our values and an important step toward an urgent public discussion of human morality

new york times bestselling author of the women s room while a man lies in the hospital his four daughters struggle to make peace with him and one another in a massachusetts hospital as distinguished presidential adviser stephen upton lies mortally ill four women gather at his lavish mansion half sisters elizabeth mary alex and ronnie have painful and poignant memories of their childhoods and of their father born to different mothers the sisters haven t seen one another in years as upton hovers between life and death his daughters begin to open up about the man they love and hate they share their stories and discover the terrible secret that binds them all together the secret they kept even as they fought for upton s approval and affection as they struggle to make peace with their father and with one another the women finally begin to heal and forgive the sins of the past moving and eloquent our father is a testament to the power of female bonding

marilyn french s seven million copy bestseller the women s room crystallized the issues that ignited the women s movement now the acclaimed author updates that classic with a new exploration of the truths and realities behind women s lives in the name of friendship dares to investigate how the women s movement changed the lives of those it touched and what hurdles it left to cross set in the berkshire mountains of western massachusetts this wise novel is a group portrait of four disparate women who forge life altering friendships despite personalities that vary as greatly as their vocations and ages the novel weaves together a series of family crises with the friendships that help the four women refashion their lives maddy the seventy six year old real estate agent and matriarch of the group struggles with the gradual death of her angry and rebellious vietnam marked son fifty year old alicia fights to reconnect her gay son with her newly retired husband seventy year old musician emily strives to bridge the gap with her estranged niece right at the moment her composition career starts to finally bloom and jenny the thirty year old painter and baby of the group questions the life she has created with her successful painter husband and tries to decide if she wants more from life with this unusual group of multi generational ladies french tells a truly rare tale about four women who accidentally come into each other s lives and in the process form an enduring friendship it is a story of supporting one another of looking at the grim conflicts created by cultural expectations of women and realizing you are not alone truly a tale of continuing hope

the novel was once upon a time the genre women felt at home in this wide ranging and detailed study of contemporary novelists explores the forms of nostalgia shared by many feminist critics for a woman s novel and the subtle or savage strategies which have turned the house of fiction upside down the result is a critique of the nature of narrative now and a celebration of the energies that are undoing our definitions of women s work

this collection explores how women writers in the english speaking world transform personal intimacy into political engagement challenging cultural oppression across genres life writing novels poetry and theatre from the 19th century to today guided by the feminist slogan the personal is political it bridges feminist decolonial ethnic and queer studies revealing how gender based domination intersects with other forms of oppression the authors highlight how these writers across various forms of expression imagine new modes of resistance and carve out space for social change

a girl comes of age in the radical 1960s in this beautifully written novel by the groundbreaking author of the women s room kate mosse it s 1968 in cambridge massachusetts jess leighton the daughter of a temperamental painter and a proto feminist harvard professor is struggling to make sense of her world amid racial tensions vietnam war protests anti government rage her own burgeoning sexuality and bad relationships with more options than her mother s generation but no role model for creating the life she desires jess experiments with sex and psychedelic drugs as she searches for happiness on her own terms in the midst of joining and fleeing a commune growing organic vegetables and operating a sustainable restaurant jess grapples with the legacy of her mother s generation while building a future for herself and for the postmodern woman french s meticulous and affecting tale of the forging of one woman s conscience encompasses thoughtful portraits of love children from peace activists to members of unconventional families and a forthright critique of the counterculture that puts today s wars struggles for equality and environmental troubles into sharp perspective booklist

famed feminist marilyn french s life affirming saga celebrates the love and sacrifices of four generations of polish american mothers and daughters with bella dabrowski close to death her daughter anastasia who has reinvented herself as stacey stevens is trying to penetrate the longstanding barriers between them to understand the woman who gave her life through the eyes of stacey a divorced feminist new york photographer we get to know bella a remarkable woman wife and mother the daughter of polish immigrants bella who renamed herself belle clawed her way out of poverty and settled into a middle class existence shifting perspectives between the two women the reader is drawn into belle s life through the lean years of the depression as well as stacey s recollections of her youthful marriage a lesbian affair and her tempestuous relationship with her own daughter arden from the groundbreaking author of the women s room her mother s daughter explores past and present to reveal the complex indestructible bonds between daughters and mothers

the critically acclaimed author marilyn french of the seven million copy bestseller the women s room returns to that exploration of the truths and realities of women s lives this time 35 years after the women s movement began set in the mountains of the berkshires this novel revolves around four disparate women whose personalities vary as greatly as their ages but who manage to develop a profound life altering friendship called terrifying and impressive by the new york

times and courageous honest powerful by the chicago tribune french s work celebrates the relationships among women and questions what more is needed on the journey to equality

writing the survivor the rape novel in late twentieth century american fiction identifies a new genre of american fiction the rape novel that recenters narratives of sexual violence on the survivors of violence and abuse rather than the perpetrators the rape novel arose during the women s liberation movement as women writers collectively challenged the traditional erasure of female subjectivity and agency found in earlier representations of sexual violence in american fiction the rape novel not only foregrounds survivors and their stories in a textual centering that affirms their dignity and self worth but also develops new narratological strategies for portraying violent disturbing subject matter in bringing together many key women s texts of the last decades of the 20th century the rape novel demonstrates the centrality of sexual assault to women s fiction of this era the rape novels of the 21st century continue the political activism inherent in the genre educating readers offering community to survivors and encouraging social activism as the stories of male survivors are increasingly told a radical reconsideration of late twentieth century american novels writing the survivor underscores the importance of women s activism upon the novel s form and content and reveals the portrayal of rape as rape to be an interethnic imperative

william shakespeare regarded men and women quite differently in his early plays the so called masculine qualities of prowess bravery and individualism were accorded more respect than feminine attributes of mercy compassion and intuitiveness yet in his later plays there is evidence of a reversal in shakespeare s attitudes a new fear of the power of the masculine principle and new admiration for the feminine marilyn french author of the acclaimed novels the women s room and the bleeding heart offers a feminist perspective on each of shakespeare s plays more than a brilliantly original literary interpretation this fascinating volume provides penetrating insight into attitudes toward men women love and power in western culture a feminist s view of william shakespeare quite dazzling the new york times an ambitious work conveys the fresh excitement of interpretative discovery insightful seductive and nutritive the washington post book world

three powerful novels about family and the female experience from the multimillion selling author of the women s room a collection of three works of fiction by a new york times bestselling author who writes about the inner lives of women with insight and intimacy the new york times book review her mother s daughter in this life affirming saga that celebrates the love and sacrifices of four generations of polish american mothers and daughters stacey a divorced feminist new york photographer struggles to understand the experience of her mother a child of polish immigrants who clawed her way out of poverty and settled into a middle class existence while at the same time managing her tempestuous relationship with her own daughter arden our father as distinguished presidential adviser stephen upton lies mortally ill in a massachusetts hospital four women gather at his lavish mansion half sisters elizabeth mary alex and ronnie have painful and poignant memories of their childhoods and their dying father they haven t seen each other in years but as they open up to each other about the man they both love and hate they will discover the terrible secret that binds them all together the bleeding heart dolores durer a divorced professor and mother of two adult children has sworn off love after a series of disastrous affairs meanwhile electronics executive victor morrissey is in england to

open a branch office he has four children and is unhappily married when victor and dolores meet on a train their connection is instant and passionate in this new york times bestselling novel about love and marriage two americans abroad embark on an affair that will have consequences in both their lives

the masculine mystique the second volume of marilyn french s monumental readable and unprecedeted history of women analyzes and evaluates the lives of women in societies around the world between feudal times and the french revolution

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