



UNAPOLOGETIC WRITINGS  
ON THE CONTINUING  
WAR AGAINST WOMEN

**Andrea Dworkin**

AUTHOR OF *INTERCOURSE*

## **Life and Death**

*Andrea Dworkin*

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# Life and Death

*Andrea Dworkin*

## **Life and Death** Andrea Dworkin

A collection of her most incisive essays and unpublished speeches, *Life and Death* makes it clear why Dworkin has found her place in the canon of modern political thought. She begins here with a poignant autobiographical piece, in which she recounts with rare tenderness her childhood in Camden, New Jersey, her political odyssey, and the crushing pain of her brother's death. Lending her hand to tragic current events, or what she calls "emergencies," like the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson, the Hedda Nussbaum child abuse case, and the mass murder of female students at a college in Montreal, Dworkin makes clear in her inimitable way the obvious things we stubbornly fail to notice. Finally, she guides us back to the core issues at stake in women's lives - pornography, domestic violence, rape, and prostitution - and reminds us that even after decades of feminist so-called progress, gender is an ongoing war.

## **Life and Death Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2002 by Free Press (first published March 10th 1997)

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Author : Andrea Dworkin

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# From Reader Review Life and Death for online ebook

## Michele bookloverforever says

essays, newspaper articles, speeches about a variety of topics concerning misogyny and various forms of violence against women. Points out how pornography supports misogynistic violence against women. Points out how woman hating turns young women into prostitutes and is another form of violence against us. victims for sale so to speak. also deals with incest. strong opinions by strong woman. thank goodness for Ms.Dworkin. Never knew she also was survivor of battering and sexual assault. I speak out as well, just not to so many people.

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## Iman says

This book is very repetitive owing to the fact that it is a selection of lectures. I read the first couple of chapters and skimmed the rest. I gave it four stars as I feel it is an important book for everyone to read. It increased my awareness how our society views women and how this has serious consequence for women. I found her comments on pornography particularly valuable for me as I have never thought much about pornography other than child pornography.

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## Owen says

Unique and incisive essays, speeches, and reflections on the horrible incidents of the times. As always she is illuminating the shadows of our souls in a patriarchal and unjust world, and opening the eyes of many of her listeners and readers.

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## Lindsay says

This book is more a collection of short essays and speeches than a cohesive whole. Each piece still has the intensity and moral clarity I've come to expect from Dworkin, but they feel transient and off-the-cuff; topical rather than profound.

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## Desiree says

I don't know how I tolerated reading this. It was explicitly graphic.

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## Lost\_Clown says

powerfully moving stories.

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### **Rididill says**

A collection of essays. This is the first Dworkin book I have read and I was kind of surprised how absolutely un-true so many of the stereotypes about her are. I have seen much more radical stuff on the internet. What surprised me was her level of compassion, astounding to me that she could maintain such openness and caring after suffering so much abuse. I particularly like the essay on the history of the founding fathers and the stuff on Israel and the holocaust, which were quite new territory for me.

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### **Cherie says**

C- I think it's up to every feminist to read Dworkin to see what she's about. I don't agree with her but some stuff she says is powerful.

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### **Sarah says**

This book had an excellent and nuanced look at the treatment of women on all socioeconomic and racial levels in Western society. For the longest time, I didn't read Dworkin because of what I thought she'd said. I was wrong.

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### **Irene says**

Not the best of her books, this collection of essays and speeches is vehement and impassioned, though extremely repetitive. I would recommend viewing this book as a supplement to her other work if one is a fan of her style; 'Mercy' or 'Intercourse' or 'Pornography' or 'Heartbreak' are all better and more deeply provoking.

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### **Kathleen O'Neal says**

I read this book in either a little over or a little less than twenty-four hours and I have to say that Andrea Dworkin really is one of the greatest feminist writers in American history. This is an incredibly moving and powerful collection and it makes me want to read everything else she has ever written.

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### **seroquelle says**

i advise even die-hard dworkin readers such as myself to pass this one over. this edition of speeches/essays is immediately striking as more paranoiac, disorganized and incoherent than her earlier writings. it is really

evidence of her decaying mental state. i mean that in the most sympathetic way possible. don't even bother with the essay 'free expression in serbian rape/death camps'. it is based on a supposition of the existence of filmed rapes taken by the serbian army, this idea was put forth by fellow anti-pornography activist catherine mackinnon around the same time. mackinnon herself admitted in a footnote to a text on the subject that there was no evidence of either the existence or circulation of the filmed rapes. dworkin uses this fabrication to support her anti-pornography stance, at the expense of women who suffered systematic rape during the war. dworkin descends into what resembles paranoiac rambling about how the circulation of these tapes in america will be supported and encouraged by the state. so in the end it is a poorly researched waste of time that manages to victimize the already neglected women a third time.

i recommend the essay 'my life as a writer'; here dworkin talks about her middle-class secular jewish upbringing and the traumatic events of her early career as an activist which can be seen as some form of explanation as to why her writing is as angry, passionate, urgent, and violent as it often is. also read 'israel: whose state is it anyway?'

but overall, most of the content is just upsetting. not informative, not reasoned, not illuminating, just upsetting. in this way it was everything i couldn't stand about 'right-wing women'.

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## **Ryan Mishap says**

Deadly, blunt, furious and a good introduction for anyone who hasn't heard of Dworkin or only know her name as a bad word. Indeed, I don't think there is a writer or feminist as maligned and misread as Dworkin. No wonder: she doesn't make nice or mince words in the face of overwhelming male violence against women.

One of the most important concepts she relates has to do with pornography--that women and their bodies are not someone else's speech. Pornography happens to real women and has real effects on women and cannot be considered mere speech or ideas or art in the same way a story or fictional film can.

Recommended.

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