

THE
TROUBLE
WITH
WOMEN



JACKY FLEMING

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Can women be geniuses? Or are their arms too short? Did we only learn about three women at school? What were all the others doing?

The Trouble With Women does for girls what *1066 and All That* did for boys: it reminds us of what we were taught about women in history lessons at school, which is to say, not a lot. A brilliantly witty book of cartoons, it reveals some of our greatest thinkers' baffling theories about women. We learn that even Charles Darwin, long celebrated for his open, objective scientific mind, believed that women would never achieve anything important, because of their smaller brains.

Get ready to laugh, wince and rescue forgotten women from the 'dustbin of history', whilst keeping a close eye out for tell-tale "genius hair." You will never look at history in the same way again.

The Trouble With Women Details

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Author : Jacky Fleming

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Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Feminism, Nonfiction, History, Humor, Comics

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From Reader Review The Trouble With Women for online ebook

Kaitlin says

This graphic novel was on my most-anticipated list and although it's very small format and has only 128pgs I am so happy I bought and read this. This is a humorous and eye-opening take on the history of women, or rather the way history has blocked out women. Every page has a small story, quote or point its making, and each one is satirical, funny or engaging in some way. One of the first we hear about, for example, is that Darwin thought women to be feeble and have smaller heads so they couldn't have brains big enough to be as good as men. From this point onwards all the females within the book who actually act like the 'male-perceived-version-of-women' have tiny heads.

My favourite page within this is probably where Jacky mentions the Dustbin of History and how women are constantly having to 'rescue' other women from within it. This is a concept I hadn't really thought about before, but with more consideration and with reading this I think it's almost certainly a very true statement and it's something which I'm glad I'm now aware of.

I will admit that a lot of the 'great' women that Fleming references within this I have never heard of. I think that this is exactly the point that Fleming is trying to make because she mentions how it's an ongoing problem on an interview here (about 32mins in). I am going to, however, look into the women that she mentioned and that I hadn't heard of because I would like to know just how unique and influential/interesting they were.

I really enjoyed not only reading the witty comments and twists that Fleming gave to history, but also looking at the imagery she designed to accompany it. Her style is not something I would consider beautiful or lovely to look at, but it's perfect for this book because it brings across exactly what she's trying to say.

Overall a really entertaining, yet thought-provoking book with some real funny gems. I would highly recommend this if you want an easy route into a feminist work, because it reads more as humour than 'angry-feminists' (which isn't the general opinion but is how some perceive the idea of feminism) and it gets the points across in a blunt but clever way. 4*s

Anusha Narasimhan says

A unique tongue-in-cheek take on the history of women. I loved the sarcasm. Here are some of my favourite lines:

In the Older Days there were no women which is why you don't come across them in history lessons at school.

In the 700 years between Hildegard of Bingen and Jane Austen women writing was frowned upon, because it required thought, which interfered with childbirth.

Women found lifting a pen very tiring as it caused chlorosis which disrupted blood flow and in some cases led to uterine prolapse. Or was that the corset?

Some art by women has accidentally been considered great, a mistake easily rectified by placing it in the dustbin of history.

Girls weren't allowed to study science because their reproductive organs made them irrational, and abstract thought doesn't get the curtains hung.

Would highly recommend it. Thanks to the publisher for providing me with a free copy of the book. This review is my personal opinion and has not been influenced anyway by anyone.

Kirsty says

I don't think I've ever spluttered so much at a graphic novel. This was tongue-in-cheek hilarious.

A few personal favourites of mine:

- 'Women weren't allowed out at night because of their poor night vision. They were also too emotional to take anywhere so mostly they stayed in and wept, sometimes hysterically.'
- 'Women were more concerned about their skirts getting caught up in the wheels [of bicycles], and sat astride wearing Bloomers which turned them into lesbians.'
- 'One girls had learned sixty different embroidery stitches there was no room to learn anything else.'
- 'In the 700 years between Hildegard of Bingen and Jane Austen, women writing was frowned upon because it required Thought which interfered with childbirth.'
- 'There were other obstacles to women studying science such as the diameter of their big frocks.'
- 'A few hysterical women even wanted to become doctors, when what they clearly needed was treatment for penis envy, but Freud, genius, hadn't invented it yet.'

Mitticus says

+Digital copy gently provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review+

My feeble tiny spongy brain feel like fainting and a bit hysterical after reading this enlightening book about the historical vision of women from many ejem 'well knowing' men.

The sad issue here, people, is that women keep getting the worst deal: minor wages, pricey medical insurances, and others. And face it, women are STILL seen as odd because we are single.

And yes, many awesome women do amazing things everyday. But we almost don't know about them.

(si para todo hay solucion, digo yo:

For me, the book was not laughing out loud, but rather snorts, many snorts.

Very interesting.

Megalion says

Fabulous mockery (and educational) of history's intense misogyny.

A best of 2016 for me. Much more than a mere comic strip. In fact, it's a rather cohesive theme all the way through. Jumps around in timeline but easily read as a continuous strip from start to finish.

Jacky Fleming is a genius! I'd recommend for junior high or high school history classes. A fun changeup from dull textbook reading.

Thank you to the publisher for the free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Melina Souza says

Uma leitura rápida e cheia de sarcasmo sobre o motivo de não encontrarmos muitos nomes de mulheres quando estudamos a história da humanidade.

Tatiana says

Kate Beaton read-alike.

David Schaafsma says

Yes, we have the depressingly realistic Handmaid's Tale to satisfy our need for dystopian feminist horror, but once in a while we need to laugh at these related issues, even in these #metoo times (I say, speaking for myself, now, in the third person, and FOR you, in the male way). This is a very funny illustrated book documenting how stupid the male establishment has been throughout history in disrespecting the potentialities and achievements of women.

[Inspirational story at the end of this review!]

Now, we all know this, but sometimes it is shudderingly shocking to realize that millions of people still think this way about women.

"Inside the (Domestic) Sphere women did things which weren't too demanding like childcare, scrubbing the floor, washing the sheets and curtains, sewing on buttons, and coalmining."

And Fleming makes a point that these opinions about the inferiority of women have been asserted by Men whom (Men) have decided were Geniuses (which a woman could plainly not be):

"Schopenhauer said only men had the total objectivity necessary for genius, and that you only had to look at a woman's shape to see that she wasn't intended for much mental or physical work."

"As Darwin said, by keeping women at home their achievements were paltry compared to men's, which proved women were biologically inferior. And he should know because he was a Genius. You probably learned about him at school."

"Dr. Edward Clarke, a Harvard professor, said it was possible for a girl to study hard and do well in everything, but it would damage her health for the rest of her life, and her children would be shriveled."

Oh, Fleming has dozens of such statements to enrage and delight you. I highly recommend this great book!

I have a story, if you have read this far, but this book reminded me of this experience. In the late eighties I helped develop a community-based, oral history writing project in northern Michigan, specifically Rogers City, Michigan, a town of then fewer than 2,000 people. In preparation for the summer, we went, in February 1986, to the Presque Isle County Historical Museum with prospective students, to explore possible summer research projects.

After one hour of looking through the Presque Isle County Advance, focusing on the earliest issue in the late nineteenth century when the town was being settled, two girls, juniors, came to me and asked me the million dollar question. Now let me inform you that northern Michigan is not your bastion of feminism. Strong farming and lake (connected to shipping and fishing) women for sure, but by and large traditional German Lutheran stock. None of the students we worked with that weekend had ever been as far as Detroit (maybe five hours away) from their home in Rogers City.

"Why in all these papers do they never mention what women did?" one girl asked.

"Yeah, it's almost like they didn't have any women at all!"

I said, "Well, if you wanted to know what the experience of women was 100 years ago, what would you do?"

"Well, we'd have to talk to really old women, I guess, and ask them."

Here was a moment in the shaping of the lives of these two girls, and indeed, the whole project. They contacted 100-year old Alma Grambau, who had never lived outside of the area, and--this was key--was lucid, with a memory of her growing up in the--get this--late nineteenth century!! These girls possibly didn't even know what the word feminism meant, but they had mothers and grandmothers, and they knew that women did important work in their little town, and to this day oral history projects involve interviewing women in this region, to preserve their experiences.

Scarlet Cameo says

This one is so...sad...and accurate..and **sad**...ugly sad. If you're a person who think the most probable is that you know that, in the human kind history, women were relegate to minor roles because they believe that they were incapable of think or doing things. Even the greatest minds of every generation (or something like that) believed that women don't have the brain to do something more than clean and **mostly** educate children.

But...why this book like me so much? I mean, there's a lot of book that tell all the misconceptions about females, but this one have a great detail: **sarcasm!** Everything is better why sacarms, even present this awful, horrible things is better when the sacarms show you how ridiculous they are. Don't get me wrong, I hate the facts presented, but love how Fleming did it, is one of those "jokes" that actually let you thinking so...great, i don't mind take things in a relaxed side, especially when the point is create concience.

Here some pictures:

A digital copy of this book was provided by NetGalley

Evelina | AvalinahsBooks says

Update: several photos added to review

This is a really fun illustrated book (or should I say book of illustrations?). For anyone who likes sarcasm - you should love this book. A really fast read with way over the top sarcastic humour about how women were treated and thought of before the 20th century. Fun quick read!

I got this book free on Netgalley in an exchange for an honest review. This was definitely worth my time!

P.S. Some time after reviewing I received a lovely gift from the publishers, I'll post the pictures on the review. Thank you, Andrews McMeel Publishing!

Ylenia says

★ 2016 AtY Reading Challenge ★: A book with a great opening line .

"In the Older Days there were no women which is why you don't come across them in history lessons at school. There were men and quite a few of them were Geniuses. Then there were a few women but their heads were very small so they were rubbish at everything apart from needlework and croquet."

"In the 700 years between Hildegard of Bingen and Jane Austen women writing was frowned upon, because it required thought, which interfered with childbirth. Women found lifting a pen very tiring as it caused chlorosis which disrupted blood flow and in some cases led to uterine prolapse. Or was that the corset?"

This little graphic novel was genius.

Pretty much everyone should read this, it only takes 15/20 minutes but it has such a powerful message and it's so important that I don't understand why only 40+ people reviewed this. [GO READ THIS PLS.](#)

Ivonne Rovira says

I love my history with a snide of snark. And does author Jacky Fleming ever deliver in *The Trouble With Women*. In this season of unbridled misogyny on display on the campaign trail, Fleming's book provides the perfect antidote.

This book, illustrated with winsome cartoons, recounts how "genius" after "genius" — Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher Immanuel Kant, critic John Ruskin; Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, and so many more — employed pretty much the same circular logic to defend keeping women down:

Fleming turns this all on its head with her cartoons and her insightful, satiric prose: "Schopenhauer said only men had the total objectivity necessary for genius, and that you only had to look at a woman's shape to see that she wasn't intended for much mental or physical work" (illustrated with a cartoon of the great genius philosopher pontificating while a woman carries an overflowing, capacious coal bucket by him.) Or "When African slave Phillis Wheatley wrote poetry, 18 men came to assess whether that was possible."

But with *The Trouble With Women*, seeing Fleming's work is believing:

A hilarious, if bittersweet, look at hundreds of years of rationalizing the subjugation of women. Highly, highly, *highly* recommended. And a special shout-out to Alienor, who introduced me to this fantastic book!

Susanne Strong says

Thank you to NetGalley and Andrew McMeel Publishing for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

The Trouble with Women by Jacky Fleming is supposed to be a funny, sarcastic, take on the reasons why women don't appear in history books. Unfortunately, while the author might have written the truth about why women were not written about in history, the book wasn't funny, sarcastic, or tongue-in-cheek and I have a hard time believing that anyone else could possibly think so. I found the writing to be boring and stupid and the drawings to be plain silly.

Thankfully the book was extremely short and the pictures took up most of the page so there wasn't much to actually read. The book was provided as a protected PDF and was viewable in Adobe Digital Editions only, therefore the pages also took a very long time to load, which made reading it a hassle.

Published on NetGalley and Goodreads on 8/25/16.

**Will be published on Amazon on 9/20/16.

Kirsty says

Love this! Funny and scathing. Buying this for all my female friends immediately.

One of my favourites of 2016, in the category 'Best Funny Feminism':
<http://www.kirstylogan.com/best-books...>

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

Now available EN FRANÇAIS here :)

I don't know what's the most horrifying really : the narrow-minded and downright stupid misconceptions all these so-called geniuses spread about women through History, or the fact that many people *cough* politicians! *cough* still perpetuate parts of these offensive stereotypes.

Jacky Fleming both quotes some *delightful* opinions from our much-beloved geniuses, like **Charles Darwin...**

or **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (because I'm not chauvinistic) ... I mean, have you read *Emile ou de l'éducation*? I did, and really, with all due respect to my teaching professors who urged me to read it at the time, not only this is painfully boring, but his "views" on women's education are plain sexist.

... and she introduces several **women whose apparitions in History books stay awfully rare** (trust me, I'm a teacher - women are definitely NOT present in History textbooks, if you except Marie Curie). They're trying, though, and the textbooks - thankfully - evolved during the last 20 years. Yet they only offer "generic chapters" for now (more like 2 pages really), as "women during WW2" or "women during French Revolution" - better than nothing, but definitely not enough. *Or*, their love affairs are the only aspects that are mentioned, like Aliénor d'Aquitaine's (which is a shame really, given how interesting she was).

Needless to say, every idiotic remark is confronted to the reality in order to show - if needed - how ridiculous it is. **Romanes** thought that women's minds tended to wander and waver all the time?

Although it was a little too short for my liking, the sarcastic voice still makes for **an interesting and thought-provoking read**.

For more of my reviews, please visit:
