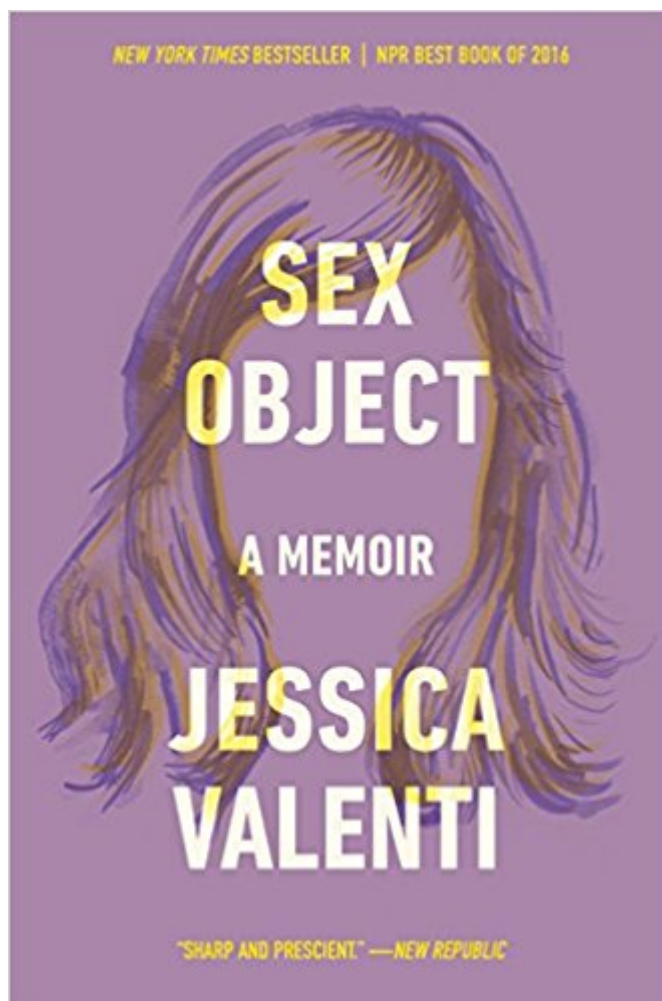


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Sex Object: A Memoir



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller | “Sharp and prescient” | The appeal of Valenti’s memoir lies in her ability to trace objectification through her own life, and to trace what was for a long time her own obliviousness to it | Sex Object is an antidote to the fun and flirty feminism of selfies and self-help. Hailed by the Washington Post as “one of the most visible and successful feminists of her generation,” Jessica Valenti has been leading the national conversation on gender and politics for over a decade. Now, in a memoir that Publishers Weekly calls “bold and unflinching,” Valenti explores the toll that sexism takes on women’s lives, from the everyday to the existential. From subway gropings and imposter syndrome to sexual awakenings and motherhood, Sex Object reveals the painful, embarrassing, and sometimes illegal moments that shaped Valenti’s adolescence and young adulthood in New York City. In the tradition of writers like Joan Didion and Mary Karr, Sex Object is a profoundly moving tour de force that is bound to shock those already familiar with Valenti’s work, and enthrall those who are just finding it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of June 2016: Speaking up for women’s issues with a bold and unflinching voice is nothing new for Jessica Valenti. Her new memoir, Sex Object, evokes this trademark approach, along with insights into her personal experience, in order to explain how sexism has shaped generations of women. Many times throughout this book I was wonderfully uncomfortable with the

ideas and points Valenti puts forth--and then other times I found myself angry (at myself) when I saw unexpected parallels in my own life experience. Readers who haven't experienced Valenti's writing before may be shocked by Sex Object--but not disappointed. --Penny Mann, The Book Review --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

"Yes, All Men (And Everyone Else) Need To Read Sex Object" (NPR)
"Powerful...incredibly readable... she wants to take us back to a place of telling stories." (The Nation)
"This aching account of attempting to live, date and work while female is a brave admission of vulnerability." (Washington Post)
"A bold undertaking | consciousness raising. Valenti is one of America's best-known and often divisive feminists." (The Guardian)
"Valenti writes in impressively honest detail." (Salon)
"Valenti uses the personal to shed light on a universally female political problem. There is an awakening that happens as a woman reading this book." (Bust Magazine)
"[Valenti's] memories are relatable and raise important questions about how society treats and views women." (Bustle)
"An entertaining and shocking memoir from a leading feminist writer." (Booklist)
"Amazing...a profoundly raw and honest book." (Ezra Klein, Vox)
"A powerful literary memoir that expertly makes the case for feminism today." (Harper's Bazaar)
"Powerful.. more than the sum of its parts | a bold and unflinching road map of Valenti's journey to become the woman she is." (Publishers Weekly)
"A zesty, zeitgeisty memoir." (O Magazine)
"Jessica Valenti is widely known as a feminist leader- with this stunningly brave and often funny memoir, we get a chance to know her as a human being. This is an incredibly powerful book. I can't recommend it loudly enough." (Jill Soloway, writer, producer, creator of the Emmy-winning show Transparent)
"Adrienne Rich wrote, 'When a woman tells the truth she is creating the possibility for more truth around her.' In Sex Object, Jessica Valenti tells her truth with stunning vulnerability and courage, defying easy answers and daring us to look away. You won't forget it." (Irin Carmon, New York Times bestselling author of Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg)
"Deeply moving, honest, and unflinching, Sex Object secures Jessica Valenti's place as one of the foremost writers and thinkers of her generation. Her personal story highlights universal truths about being a woman, and makes the case for why feminism today is an unstoppable force." (Cecile Richards, President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America)
"Jessica Valenti's powerful personal story offers unique perspective on how sexism and patriarchy

manifest themselves in the daily lives of American women. Sex Object is a necessary read for women and men alike. (Jamil Smith, Senior National Correspondent, MTV News) “I began reading Jessica Valenti’s Sex Object before the most recent tape (as of this writing) leaked of a presidential candidate bragging about sexually assaulting women for fun, but there could hardly be a better validation for the subject. (AV Club)

I really enjoyed this piece by Valenti. I think it speaks to quite a lot of universal experiences by American women, but also keeps it very contextualized, reminding the reader that no female experience is like the other, even if we can find patterns and similarities among them. It is, in essence, a book for her daughter. After identifying a pattern of violence in her family, Valenti wants to break it by shedding a glaring light on her own experiences of violence: big, small, unsettling, and horrifying. Once a woman who would laugh these things off for the acceptance of others, Valenti disowns the “cool girl” narrative she once thought was protecting her, warning her daughter not to do the same, hoping for a world in which the violation of our bodies isn’t something we simply grow up accepting will one day, inevitably, happen to us.

This is a remarkable memoir. She could have made herself sound a lot neater, a lot tidier, and made the whole thing more comfortable. This is a messy, raw, real, honest book. This is not a memoir composed of either self-mythologizing or pat storytelling. In fact, it is as little about the author herself as a memoir of its kind can be. Rather, it is a memoir about how the personal is political, one that is grounded in a sometimes startlingly unvarnished honesty about the personal. It’s about sex and sexuality, about women in the world and the things that go unsaid about that experience, and about a lot of other things, too. I’ve read her other books and her columns appear in my social media feeds and I’m a fan. But this is something else, something deeper, more unsettling and engaging than anything that has come before. This is an important book.

I absolutely loved this memoir by Jessica Valenti. She has been an essential voice in my journey into and through feminism, but this book was so much more important to me than any of her others. The themes surrounding collective trauma were very original to me.

This book does a fantastic job of highlighting the struggles women go through on a daily basis that isn’t made public. Things like daily sexual harassment and assault, the burden of marriage and parenthood (especially when dealing with mental health challenges), and professional roadblocks.

Jessica Valenti writes in an easily-approachable, almost conversational style, which gives an intimate glimpse into her life. Even if I were unfamiliar with Jessica's work, I would still find this book captivating.

Thoughtful, interesting. Truly frightening how out of control men are when they can get away with it.

A great honest read from one of my favorite feminists. Bawdy in some places, funny. No real narrative thread, more piecemeal. Loved it, wish it was longer.

It's as interesting read for a memoir. This author is not scared to lay it all out on the table. It takes courage to speak out the way she did about some of the things that women go through and don't talk about. People go through things and often suppress it but she didn't and I respect that. I know she had written other books and I will probably end up reading another.

I could relate a lot to her experiences, and enjoyed her honesty about her own foibles. But what I found most striking was her description of her mindset after delivering her daughter early and the trauma that followed that. I haven't seen that discussed much.

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