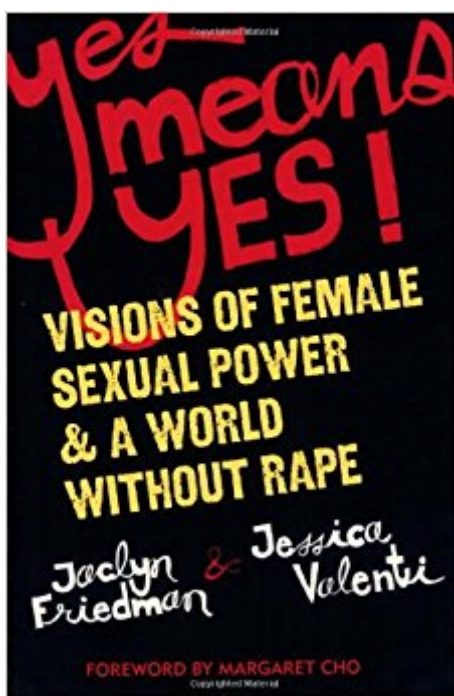


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# Yes Means Yes!: Visions Of Female Sexual Power And A World Without Rape



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking new look at rape edited by writer and activist Jaclyn Freidman and Full Frontal Feminism and He's A Stud, She's A Slut author Jessica Valenti, the way we view rape in our culture is finally dismantled and replaced with a genuine understanding and respect for female sexual pleasure. Feminist, political, and activist writers alike will present their ideas for a paradigm shift from the "No Means No" model; an approach that while necessary for where we were in 1974, needs an overhaul today. Yes Means Yes will bring to the table a dazzling variety of perspectives and experiences focused on the theory that educating all people to value female sexuality and pleasure leads to viewing women differently, and ending rape. Yes Means Yes aims to have radical and far-reaching effects: from teaching men to treat women as collaborators and not conquests, encouraging men and women that women can enjoy sex instead of being shamed for it, and ultimately, that our children can inherit a world where rape is rare and swiftly punished. With commentary on public sex education, pornography, mass media, Yes Means Yes is a powerful and revolutionary anthology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Activists and writers Friedman and Valenti (He's a Stud, She's a Slut) deliver an extraordinary essay compilation focusing on the struggle to stop rape in the U.S. and the importance of sexual identity and ownership. Early on, Thomas MacAulay Millar and Rachel Kramer Bussel explain how the "no means no" concept (sexual consent equals the absence of no) must be rejected in favor of a "yes means yes" mentality: the idea that consent means affirmative participation in the

act itself, a broader definition that better protects women while encouraging power over-not fear of-personal sexual identity. Other topics include body image and self-esteem issues as well as incest, the dangers faced by female immigrants and the public perception of rape; in "Trial by Media," Samhita Mukhopadhyay looks at the Duke Lacrosse rape case and finds the media acting in the tradition of slavery by commodifying the young, female African-American body. Though surprisingly entertaining throughout, with no shortage of wit or humor, unexpected topics (Friedman on enjoying sex, transsexual writer Julia Serano on the mixed cultural messages that lead "nice guys" to sexual aggression) keep the book dynamic. Sure to empower and inform, this is an important and inspiring read for assault survivors, educators, activists, experts and those on a path to self discovery. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Of all the arguments out there that propose how to end rape, embracing women's sexual pleasure may not sound like a likely solution. But *Yes Means Yes* argues otherwise. By investigating the myriad ways the sexual choices of women can take shape, this anthology argues, not only should women know what they don't want, but they also should seize their freedom to explore what they do want. By challenging blanket claims, like that all males are sexual aggressors, and taking the shame away from females who are bona fide sexual submissives, *Yes Means Yes* says the conscious decisions we make about sex in its many forms are the best medicine for the illness that is rape culture." —*Bust Magazine* "Utopian novels have grappled with the idea of a world without rape, but what would the path to that world look like? The controversial essays that make up *Yes Means Yes!* light the way along this very rough road and, not surprisingly, offer no easy solutions — The authors in this collection speak with authority and, unfortunately for some, from personal experience." —*Ms. Magazine*

A great educational and interesting read from many great authors. A must read for college students and anyone with an interest in feminism from many different perspectives. Very entertaining life stories as well. Highly recommended.

Repeats a lot of the same themes. But the format is interesting and the resources are valuable. If you've been reading feminist blogs lately, you've already read this book in quote form.

This book is such a must have for any feminist. It is always my go-to source for information about

sexual assault prevention, and I appreciated the fact that it discusses other topics like domestic violence, emotional abuse, and even STIs resulting from assault. A modern feminist classic. I'm just mad at myself I didn't order it and read it sooner.

I am white, 240lb Neanderthal looking 23 yr veteran of military Special Operations, a former Pro cage fighter and exist to say the least in a testosterone laden male work environment rampant with the negative views and stereotypes on womens' sexuality one might expect. I am not sure if I am alone in my views or others just play along out of fear of being ostracized for expressing their support of womens' empowerment. This book hits the nail right on the head and articulates the societal double standards and male fear of powerful women and their comfort and equal participation in sex and their sexual choices. I have two daughters and a son and I want them all to grow up to understand that women are equal in every way and deserve to be proud, in control and free of judgement for having an opinion and say in the collaboration of sexual relations (amongst other things) with their partners. this books expresses and explains clearly the process towards this in our society. I recommend this highly.

The essays I found most engaging were those that examined how rape culture was derived using historical examples, that examined how it persists using present examples, and that pointed to intersections I hadn't thought of (or heard of) before, such as "When Pregnancy Is Outlawed, Only Outlaws Will Be Pregnant" by Tiloma Jayasinghe in which Jayasinghe drills down into a specific issue to demonstrate just one of the many ways in which our culture tries to control women's bodies. Another essay examined BDSM, female sexual submissives and how the elements of BDSM are misappropriated by mainstream pornography: "The Fantasy of Acceptable 'Non-Consent': Why the Female Sexual Submissive Scars Us (and Why She Shouldn't)" by Stacey May Fowles. Some reviewers found other essays more engaging than I did, which I believe is the strength of this book: that it has something to say to everyone who reads it, even if that "something" is different for every reader.

This book has lead to my own feminist awakening. It was like a slap in the face of my soul. I see sexism everywhere now, its crazy how accepting I was of it beforereading this book and a few other such as Caitlin Moran's How to be a Woman and Jessica Valenti's The Purity Myth. EVERY WOMAN NEEDS TO READ THIS.

Every person should read this. Great and varied ideas are expressed and conveyed by several influential feminists.

great book, makes you look at things we normally avoid talking about, from a new perspective and i love that! needed this for a class text book and enjoyed reading it!

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