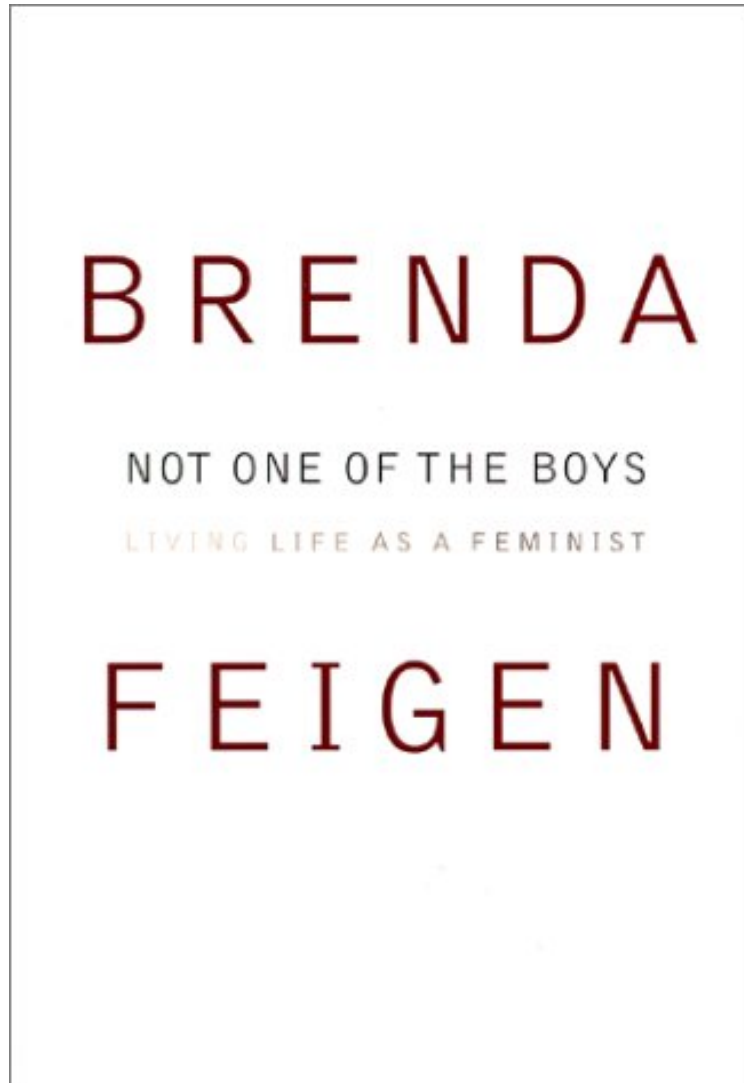


[Free and download] Not One of the Boys: Living Life as a Feminist

Not One of the Boys: Living Life as a Feminist

Brenda Feigen

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Brenda Feigen : Not One of the Boys: Living Life as a Feminist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not One of the Boys: Living Life as a Feminist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing read from a renowned feministBy MargoFeigen, an icon in the feminist movement, reads a little testy here, a little bitchy. I admire her greatly for what she did for the movement, but the book is a disappointment. Thumbs down.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Looking Back and Looking ForwardBy West Coast consumerIf you have been more or less aware of the evolution of the women's movement since the late 1960s, this book is an engrossing and powerful reminder of how much things have

changed and of how much courage it took for people like Brenda Feigen to step up, get to work, and move some mountains. If that evolution is not familiar to you, this book is a lively and inspiring history lesson. It also is simply a fascinating story of one person's remarkably multi-faceted personal path and career in the Midwest, East Coast, and West Coast. Feigen writes with clarity and passion, while offering consistently sensible insights about what needed to be done to advance gender equality in America over the past few decades, and about what still remains to be done.⁶ 6 people found the following review helpful. A brave, triumphant memoir...By E. M. Carey
Not One of the Boys is satisfying on so many levels, as a biography, as a snapshot of the Women's Movement from its inception through the 1990s and as a discussion of how laws affect women. Brenda Feigen writes honestly, clearly and beautifully about her own experiences, what she sees as the failures of current feminism, theoretical differences between feminists and much, much more. I was completely enthralled by this book. Ms. Feigen very clearly conveys the excitement of the 1970s, the legal victories, the setbacks and her own emotions when facing a level of sexism that seems almost unimaginable today, although it took place less than 40 years ago. But this book is very personal, too, as she speaks about her marriage and other experiences that have shaped her perceptions and illustrate quite clearly the old saying 'the personal is political.' I could go on and on about how terrific this book is, how smart, how inspiring and how touching. Yet the real point is that I think that there's something in it for everyone, and I very highly recommend it. There's a great deal to be learned from this book and I hope that many, many other women and men explore it.

From an outspoken feminist, a leader of the Women's Movement in the 1960s and '70s--a candid, wide-ranging and deeply personal memoir that is, as well, an illuminating historical document of a time and a fight for profound societal change. Brenda Feigen has lived many lifetimes within one--lawyer, wife and mother, civil rights activist, politician, Hollywood movie producer--and in each she has faced down the specter of discrimination against women. She describes how at Harvard Law School she fought to change blatantly sexist practices such as Ladies' Days and law-firm interviewing processes; how she waged battles for women as National Vice President of NOW; how, with Gloria Steinem, she founded Ms. and cofounded the National Women's Political Caucus in the early 1970s; how she became director with Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the ACLU's Women's Rights Project in 1972; and how, in Hollywood, she met obstacles at every turn while fighting for movies with strong, positive roles for women. She describes, as well, the struggles and triumphs of her private life: her marriage (she and her husband were once considered "the perfect feminist couple"); being a (feminist) mother; her relationships with women; her breast cancer. Finally, she chronicles recent advances and losses in the Women's Movement, making clear how far women have come, and how far they have yet to go.

.com Reading Not One of the Boys, you get the feeling that Brenda Feigen really has seen and done it all. Having made it through Harvard Law School at a time when some professors confined taking questions (and answers) from female students to a once-a-semester Ladies Day, she went on to be a cofounder, with Gloria Steinem, of the National Women's Political Caucus and Ms, to work with Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, to run for political office in New York, and to make movies in Hollywood. This is also a deeply personal memoir. Feigen's account of her relationship with Steinem brings out the complexity of a friendship between two women who have spent their lives fighting--for recognition, equality, and justice (indeed, one of the strengths of the book is the way in which Feigen brings out the differences--and strains--within "feminist" ranks). Her marriage to a marvelously enlightened man gave way to a loving partnership with another woman. She battled breast cancer. She got fired. Feigen's prose bristles with awareness of the sexist injuries perpetrated on a daily basis against women. Hers has been a life of not putting up with them. As a result, it sometimes seems as though she has sued her way through the last four decades. It is also clear that the fight for women's equality--fought tooth and nail by Feigen and her ilk--is far from over. Women are still routinely paid less than men, subject to assaults of all types, and denied equitable treatment. For the many young women who take the feminist gains of the last 35 years for granted, and do not identify themselves as feminists, Not One of the Boys should be compulsory reading. --J. Riches
From Publishers Weekly
Although she never achieved the media stardom of such pioneering feminists as Gloria Steinem or Susan Brownmiller, Feigen, in a more peripheral role, has been an effective activist for social change. In this behind-the-scenes view of the women's movement from the late '60s to the '90s, she is sharply critical of the discrimination she has found in every aspect of her personal and public life, as a lawyer, politician, Hollywood movie producer, wife and mother. When she entered Harvard Law School in 1966, women students were told by the dean that they were taking the place of men who needed to become family breadwinners; the school's only eating club was restricted to men; squash courts were closed to women; and firms that excluded women were permitted to interview on campus. Seething at the injustice, Feigen joined the National Organization for Women and was elected its national legislative vice-president. Working for passage of the equal rights amendment, she met Steinem, who became a good friend. She and Steinem conceived the grassroots Women's Action Alliance; the organization's "newsletter" later evolved into Ms. magazine. A highlight of her feminist career came in 1972, when she served as director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union with Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Alternating anecdotes about her personal life with movement history in a

somewhat confusing chronology, Feigen recounts the failure of her marriage and the happiness she later found with her companion, writer Joanne Parent. Feigen's feisty attitude and her very real achievements make this work an important document of social history as well as an entertaining read. Photos. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An attorney and literary agent, Feigen was an active participant in the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s. She helped break down sexist barriers while a student at Harvard Law School and went on to hold office in N.O.W. and to help found Ms. magazine with Gloria Steinem. She also worked with Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the A.C.L.U.'s Women's Rights Project. Later she produced a feature film, Navy Seals, and has worked on other film projects. In the latter part of the book she discusses legal aspects of sexual discrimination, her views on pornography, and her speculations on the future of feminism. Although she was an active participant in the dramatic days of the movement, Feigen's writing is not as stringent as one might expect. In fact, the tone is often chatty. This memoir of a lesser-known feminist activist is appropriate for comprehensive academic/women's studies collections but is an optional purchase for public libraries. DPatricia A. Beaver, Coll. of New Jersey Lib., Ewing Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.