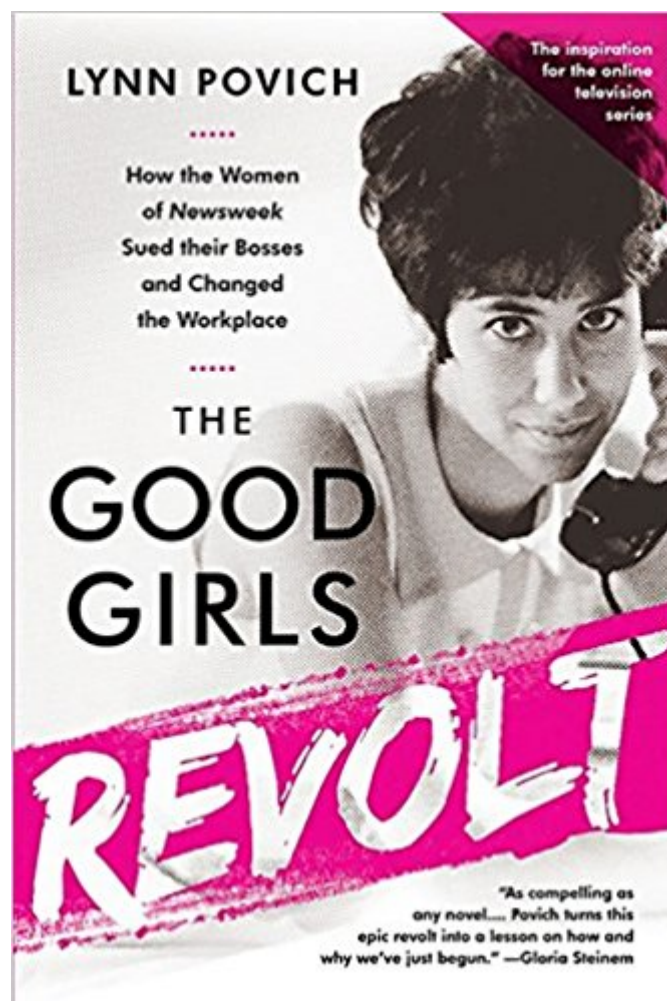




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# The Good Girls Revolt: How The Women Of Newsweek Sued Their Bosses And Changed The Workplace



## Synopsis

It was the 1960s--a time of economic boom and social strife. Young women poured into the workplace, but the "Help Wanted" ads were segregated by gender and the "Mad Men" office culture was rife with sexual stereotyping and discrimination. Lynn Povich was one of the lucky ones, landing a job at Newsweek, renowned for its cutting-edge coverage of civil rights and the "Swinging Sixties." Nora Ephron, Jane Bryant Quinn, Ellen Goodman, and Susan Brownmiller all started there as well. It was a top-notch job--for a girl--at an exciting place. But it was a dead end. Women researchers sometimes became reporters, rarely writers, and never editors. Any aspiring female journalist was told, "If you want to be a writer, go somewhere else." On March 16, 1970, the day Newsweek published a cover story on the fledgling feminist movement entitled "Women in Revolt," forty-six Newsweek women charged the magazine with discrimination in hiring and promotion. It was the first female class action lawsuit--the first by women journalists--and it inspired other women in the media to quickly follow suit. Lynn Povich was one of the ringleaders. In *The Good Girls Revolt*, she evocatively tells the story of this dramatic turning point through the lives of several participants. With warmth, humor, and perspective, she shows how personal experiences and cultural shifts led a group of well-mannered, largely apolitical women, raised in the 1940s and 1950s, to challenge their bosses--and what happened after they did. For many, filing the suit was a radicalizing act that empowered them to "find themselves" and fight back. Others lost their way amid opportunities, pressures, discouragements, and hostilities they weren't prepared to navigate. *The Good Girls Revolt* also explores why changes in the law didn't solve everything. Through the lives of young female journalists at Newsweek today, Lynn Povich shows what has--and hasn't--changed in the workplace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gloria Steinem "The Good Girls Revolt is as compelling as any novel, and also an accurate, intimate history of new women journalists invading the male journalistic world of the 1970s. Lynn Povich turns this epic revolt into a lesson on why and how we've just begun." Jeannette Walls "A meticulously reported and highly readable account of a pivotal time in the women's movement." Kirkus "Povich's in-depth research, narrative skills and eyewitness observations provide an entertaining and edifying look at a pivotal event in women's history." New York Times "The personal and the political are deftly interwoven in the fast-moving narrative. The Good Girls Revolt has many timely lessons for working women who are concerned about discrimination today. But this sparkling, informative book may help move these goals a tiny bit closer." Boston Globe "Solidly researched and should interest readers who care about feminist history and how gender issues play out in the culture." Macleans "Povich's memoir of the tortuous, landmark battle that paved the way for a generation of female writers and editors is illuminating in its details [and] casts valuable perspective on a trail-blazing case that shouldn't be forgotten." American Journalism Review "[Povich] strikes a fair tone, neither naïf nor sanctimonious.... Among her achievements is a complex portrait of Newsweek Editor Osborn Elliott and his path from defensive adversary to understanding ally." Liesl Schillinger, New York Times "Women still have a long way to go, the journalist Lynn Povich rousing reminds readers in The Good Girls Revolt, her fascinating (and long overdue) history of the class-action lawsuit undertaken by four dozen female researchers and underlings at Newsweek magazine four decades ago. If ever a book could remind women to keep their white gloves off and to keep fighting the good fight, this is the one." Washingtonian "Crisp, revealing. [A] taut, firsthand account of how a group of razor-sharp, courageous women successfully fought back against institutional sexism at one of the country's most esteemed publications." Philadelphia Inquirer "With vivid recollections of the author and major and minor participants, Povich, a party to the suit, succeeds in making recent history enraging, poignant, and even sexy." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

> began her career at > as a secretary. In 1975 she became the first woman senior editor in the magazine's history. Since leaving > in 1991, Povich has been editor-in-chief of > magazine and managing editor/senior executive producer for MSNBC.Com. Winner of the prestigious Matrix Award, Povich edited a book of columns by her father, famed > sports journalist Shirley Povich. She is married to Stephen Shepard, former editor-in-chief of > and founding dean of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. They have two children.

Great read could not put it down. Very well written. Brings back not so fond memories. As a 3rd generation newspaper person I can relate . I worked in advertising. Finally as a sales rep, my pay was based on salary plus commission I made pretty good money almost 8 x as much after getting out of the hourly ad paste up composing room female ghetto. My women friends who were reporters in the 1980's were shocked at how much more money I made than them. One thing about sales how much you sell is how much you make. At that time salaries were so hush hush management didn't want anyone to know how much people were paid. If I were you starting out I would ask for 1.5 Times more than offered because then you'll get paid the same as a man. The phrase that stuck in my head even after the women were promoted that they were offered so much less than a man in the same position.

Quick read, great tie in with history of Newsweek and the current (or at least 2009) climate. Sad that sexism is still with us but also validating that it isn't all in my head. I appreciated the reference to Susan Brownmiller's *In Our Time*, which I'm reading now. Much better and more real than the TV miniseries, which I greatly enjoyed. Shows how long, slogging, and painfully slow the march to make life better actually is. The women who filed the complaint nearly all didn't benefit from it or didn't benefit much. But they changed the hearts and minds of a nation and shook up boardrooms across the world. My life is better because of what they did. I still feel the sting of sexism every day. But not nearly as badly thanks to the brave women of Newsweek and countless others. Thank you Lynn Povich!

I expected to love it, but I admit I gave up in the middle. I was bored. I'm old enough to remember how it was back in the day and my own fight for recognition as a writer and editor ... but it seemed like the material was pretty thin. It felt like the book should have been about half the length. In fact, it felt padded to make it long enough to publish as a full-fledged book. Full of chatty detail that (for me) adds nothing to the narrative. This is supposed to be non-fiction, but the author ran out of material

before she ran out of pages. I'm hoping it makes a better TV mini series because the book was very disappointing.

Former Newsweek staffer Lynn Povich tells the story of the 1970 lawsuit filed by 46 women who were denied the chance to write under their own bylines at the magazine as part of a company-wide policy. The suit was filed by Eleanor Holmes Norton, the former ACLU lawyer who currently serves as the Congressional representative from DC. Eleanor Clift, who rose from "Gal Friday" at the Atlanta bureau to Newsweek's White House correspondent, writes, "I owe my career to the women who put themselves on the line to right wrongs embedded in our collective psyches about the roles of women and men." Two months after the Newsweek complaint was filed, 96 women from Time Inc. filed a similar suit, and in the next few years, women at Reader's Digest, Newsday, the Washington Post, the Detroit News, the Baltimore Sun and the Associated Press did the same, Povich reports. In 1974 six women at the New York Times filed sexual discrimination charges on behalf of 550 women there, and in 1975, sixteen women at NBC initiated a class action lawsuit covering 2600 past and present employees. I'd been completely unaware of this important chapter in women's history until I looked up this book after seeing the series Good Girls Revolt on Netflix.

The changes for women happened so quickly in the United States that it's easy to forget the tremendous sacrifices made by those who risked their jobs, reputations and often their marriages to insist on equal treatment at work. The title of this book, "The Good Girls Revolt," refers not only to the revolt but the risks these women took as "good girls" to take on very powerful people. It's hard to remember the days when men told women "not to lecture them" as though it were reasonable, when what the women were demanding was no more than obedience to the law. I liked this book a lot. We may have a long way to go, but as a woman who lived through the 70's I have to say that most people have forgotten how bad it was, and what it took to change it. This book does a lot to remind us of that and to remind us of the sexism that was so common in the media, that Gloria Steinem was described as a liberated woman in spite of being chic, smart and attractive. The book also talks about some of the problems of today's young women who sometimes face problems in the workplace without the women's movement. Time to retire the phrase "I'm not a feminist but..."

I read this because I was watching the excellent TV series based upon this lawsuit. Book is good but since I lived through this era (in the workplace) it was all old news. The series "Good Girls Revolt" is excellently produced with good acting and accurately describes the confusions young

"working women" were experiencing in 1969-70.

I really liked this story although it did remind me of years ago when I worked and how I felt often, ignored, invisible, no matter what I accomplished it was not going to get me a promotion or raise, so that part was not so much fun to remember, but in this case they were able to take action and begin the process of making it better for the women that followed them and they should be very proud!

Bought this book because I loved the tv show. I broke the oldest rule out there: if you love the book don't watch the movie, if you love the tv show/movie don't read the book. I have zero clue how they got the show from this insanely boring book, it reads like someone reading the minutes back from a previous meeting which no one attended and the cookies were stale. Which is insane because the subject matter is extremely interesting. I would have given it one star, but to be honest I still haven't finished it. And I'm hopeful that it will get better and earn that second star. I will update as needed,

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