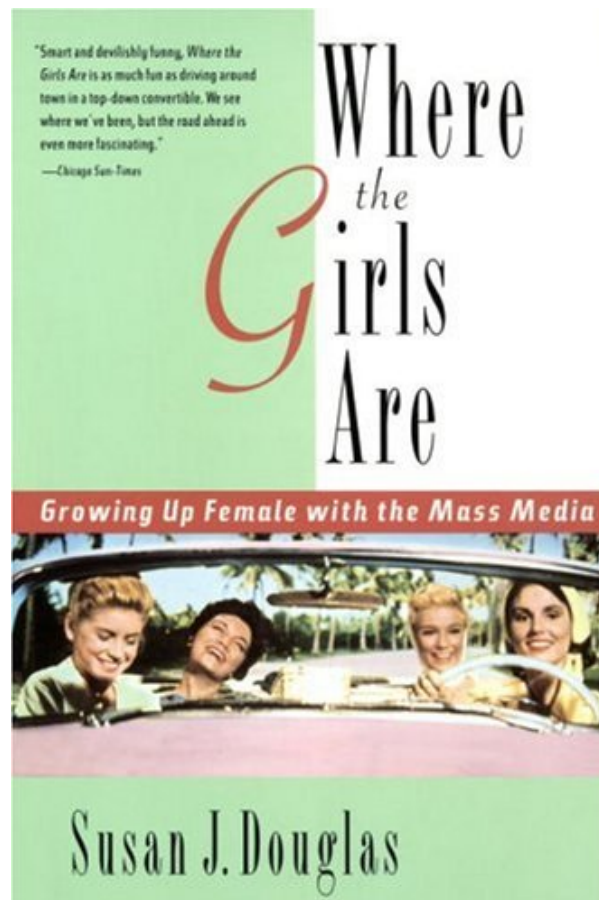


# WHERE THE GIRLS ARE: GROWING UP FEMALE WITH THE MASS MEDIA BY SUSAN J. DOUGLAS



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"Smart and devilishly funny, *Where the Girls Are* is as much fun as driving around town in a top-down convertible. We see where we've been, but the road ahead is even more fascinating."

—Chicago Sun-Times

# Where *the* Girls Are

*Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*



Susan J. Douglas

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**Where The Girls Are: Growing Up Female With The Mass Media By Susan J. Douglas.** It is the moment to improve and revitalize your skill, expertise and also encounter included some amusement for you after long time with monotone points. Operating in the office, going to examine, picking up from test and also even more tasks could be completed as well as you should start new things. If you really feel so exhausted, why don't you attempt brand-new point? A very easy thing? Reading Where The Girls Are: Growing Up Female With The Mass Media By Susan J. Douglas is just what we offer to you will certainly recognize. As well as guide with the title Where The Girls Are: Growing Up Female With The Mass Media By Susan J. Douglas is the reference currently.

## Amazon.com Review

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Judy Solberg, Univ. of Maryland Libs., College Park

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Media critic Douglas deconstructs the ambiguous messages sent to American women via TV programs, popular music, advertising, and nightly news reporting over the last 40 years, and fathoms their influence on her own life and the lives of her contemporaries. Photos.

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Judy Solberg, Univ. of Maryland Libs., College Park  
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Who says scholarly writing can't be fun?

By A. Bowdoin Van Riper

Reading this book is like spending a long weekend with a new friend about your own age, wallowing in music and decades-old sitcom reruns while you trade memories that begin "Did you ever see . . . ?" and "Remember the one about. . . ?" You laugh yourselves silly, but also come away with a new appreciation for how TV, movies, and music helped you define who you were and how you saw the world.

OK, I'll be honest. *Where The Girls Are* is also a first-rate introduction by example to the field of media studies, a brilliant defense of feminism, a scathingly funny critique of American broadcast journalism and an insightful exploration of the complex ways that girls and women relate to the steady stream of female images they're fed by the mass media. But if I led with that paragraph, the book wouldn't sound like it was any fun at all. And it *is* fun. Oh, my, is it fun.

Susan Douglas starts from the idea that, although her experiences and those of her friends (white, middle-class, suburban, straight, Baby-Boom-era women) aren't universal, they *can* be used to illustrate larger truths about how people relate to the mass media. She proceeds, for 300 pages, to do just that. Her analyses are always sharp (you will *never* look at "Charlie's Angels" the same way again), and her prose is as far from academic-ese as you can get: funny, pointed, and (when the subject warrants it) wrath-of-God angry at some of the manifest injustices she describes.

Read this book. Even if you're not part of the Baby Boom generation. Even if you're not a woman. Trust me.

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Like eating ice cream from the container...

By Robin Orłowski

This book chronicles the images of females in baby-boom popculture and how they reflected and shaped politics.

Because women have been historically consigned to the private sphere of home and hearth, the idea that our tv and mass media images can alter society is a riveting idea. Douglas then backs up this thesis with an admirable amount of intensive research and personal recollection that travels from Gracie Allen to Northern Exposure.

Although the book was primarily intended for babyboom women's culture, I am old enough to remember the rise of the superwoman as personified in Wonder Woman and Charlie's Angels and how this new genre was designed for both male titillation and female admiration. Meanwhile, myself and other first graders loved the show because people who looked like us (hopefully when we were older) were the center stars of the show.

While I am now eagerly awaiting a revised and expanded edition with chapters on Buffy, Xena and Charmed, the book still provides an excellent example of the un-ending struggle between feminist and anti-feminist influences in the American mass media. No self-respecting feminist of any age ought to be without this awesome and well-researched tome.

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

witty pop culture tour

By E.M. Bristol

"Where the Girls Are" is a tour through and a look at how pop culture affected girls and women. It is a thought provoking, sarcastic, and very witty portrayal from a woman who admits to having an "attitude problem." The targets are taken from literature, movies, TV and music, and include everything and everyone from "Bewitched," The Shirelles, "Sex and the Single Girl," Charlie's Angels, Murphy Brown and Madonna. She also examines famous feminists' impact including Kate Millett, Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug. The book contains plenty of quotes from anti-feminists, as well, to show (at least in this reviewer's eyes) just how ridiculous if often effective the opposition to the Women's Movement was.

One thing. The author laments that role models in children's literature are "few and far between." Either she is making a blanket statement, or she has no experience. Young adult and children's lit, even back in 1994 when the book was published, are a treasure trove of strong, positive female heroines.

See all 54 customer reviews...



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