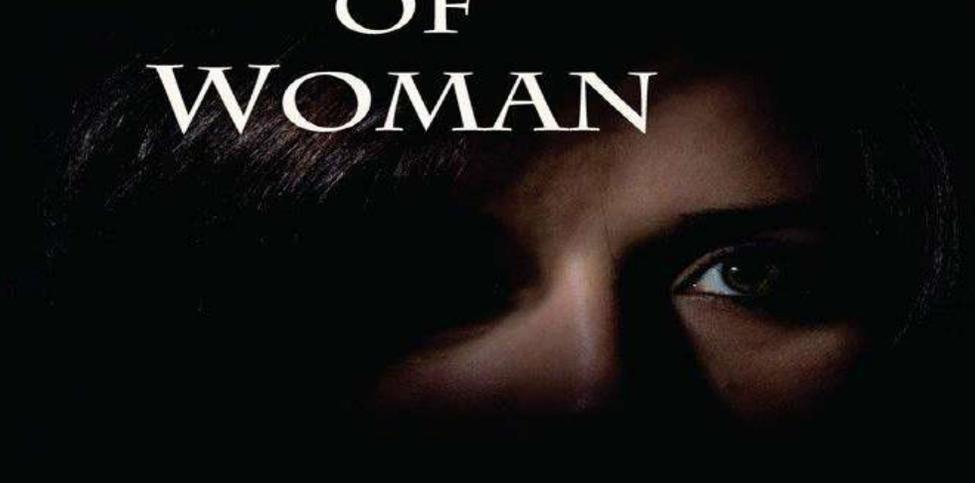


Fiorella Nash

# THE ABOLITION OF WOMAN



## HOW RADICAL FEMINISM IS BETRAYING WOMEN

If a dissident movement becomes part of a corrupt establishment, assuming the same tyrannical behaviour it was founded to fight, then other dissidents must inevitably rise to challenge the new orthodoxy.

— *From the Introduction*

IGNATIUS

Nash, Fiorella. *Abolition of Woman: How Radical Feminism is Betraying Women*. Ignatius Press. 2018.

## Overall Themes

- Pro-life feminism vs Pro-choice feminism

Understanding the modern day approaches to who the woman is and why she can be free to be a woman pursuing opportunities without changing her objective view on her womanhood. Understanding freedom and liberty from the perspective of being and doing.

- Abortion, Gendercide

A thorough discourse on the conversations around the beginning of life, the use of language today to change the definition of the beginning of life. The role of science especially 4D ultra sound in supporting the beginning of life at conception.

The arguments that take extremes and fail to balance the objective value of both mother and child, the strong push and support of a woman's body being an object of her personal choice and in so doing become subjective in the view of the child she carries.

The current realities on sex-selection and the high price the girl-child pays by never being allowed to see the light of day because of being the 'wrong sex', a strong question arises here on whether the pro-choice feminist perspective sees this.

- Surrogacy, Assisted Reproductive Technologies

A presentation of factual information on the advent of surrogacy today. The aspect of time and the woman being in charge of when she has children and how. There is the discourse on infertility and understanding the ownership of children, is a child a need or a want? Understanding the Bioethical issues that arise from the ART methods being used today and gaining better clarity on commercialisation and why this is big business today.

## Detailed Review

*Abolition of Woman* is a valid thesis that seeks to illuminate how a lost and disconcerted section of feminists 'kill' the same thing they fight for mainly by impartial information dispensation and a flawed understanding of the intent of the feminist cause. They are made out to be the new age patriarchs. This is illustrated on the interrogation of the abortion issue, an issue widely

synonymous with feminism. The stance on this subject has been wavering ever since *Roe v Wade*.<sup>1</sup> They are persons who ascribe to the pro-choice wing of the debate whilst others are pro-life.

Feminism as is today depicted is on the pro-choice side of the abortion debate. This widespread notion is disputed by the author of the book from a clearly factual basis on why feminism is the best source defense for life rather than a disenter against it, as she herself is a pro-life feminist, having come a long way on her journey to a factual understanding of why the feminist mindset was established. The author decries that their stance is widely frowned upon by fellow feminists. This she terms to be ironic that the same group of women who pride themselves in having a woman's voice heard, are the same who do the most to quiet any dissenting opinions from within their own ranks. This is where she draws the comment that radical feminism is betraying women. This intolerance then leads to people, and especially women turning a blind eye to the rather inhumane practices within the abortion practice.

China is put on the spot for their one-child policy and its effect on the society, especially women. This policy on population control is widely seen as the greatest bio-ethical atrocity.<sup>2</sup> It has seen the detaining, fining and sterilization of persons who go against it. This is done by state organs and little is said against it. The eventualities of having one child, put pressure on the child to succeed on behalf of the parents and this eventually put a value on the male child and as such a daughter is not worthy in that society. The female children are often killed or abandoned at a young age. This affects the mothers. China is one of the few places on earth where female suicide rate is higher than the male.<sup>3</sup>

The book raises the issues of surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology (ART). These two have led to a scenario where a woman's body is a commodity and babies are products that money can buy, opening issues on can a contract be made on human life and objective monetary value attached it it . Women carry the children for the full term and once they give birth they are taken

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<sup>2</sup>Ma Jian, "China's Barbaric One-Child Policy", *The Guardian*, 6 May 2013.

<sup>3</sup>Rebekah Nydam, "Women and Suicide in China", *HubPages*, accessed on 24 July 2019, <http://hubpages.com/education/The-Problem-of-Female-Suicide-in-China>.

away and this is seen as them fulfilling their contractual obligations. Procedures, unethical and dangerous, are done on the surrogate without her knowledge and consent, all because she signed the deal. The surrogates often suffer depression as a result of losing their children. The rights of the child are almost never considered.<sup>4</sup> Globally, very few countries have legislation that covers the nature around which a child is born through surrogacy, this could lead to a child even being stateless by the circumstances around their conception and birth which should actually already be naturally determined.

It is said that more women have been killed in the last fifty years than all the men who died in the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their deaths are attributed to the mere reason that they are females.<sup>5</sup> This gendercide goes as far as communities being against the birth of girl children and leads to sex-selective abortion<sup>6</sup>, they are even seen to be an expense.<sup>7</sup> All these lead to the vanishing of the lady.

It is widely accepted that maternal death still exists, though it's on the decline<sup>8</sup>, but little is being done around saving their lives. <sup>9</sup>This occurs due to clinical causes as well as lack of accessible health care, shortage of trained birth attendants, poor infrastructure<sup>10</sup> etc. The feminist movement and pro-abortion organization are using data around maternal death to promote their agenda at the expense of mothers. There continues to be factual confirmation that many of the figures presented are widely exaggerated and not well homogenised to provide objective statistics.

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<sup>4</sup> "Convention on the Rights of the Child", United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, 20 November 1989.

<sup>5</sup> Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, "Introduction", *Half the Sky*, London: Hachette UK, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Sarah Dittum, "Why Women Have a Right to Sex-Selective Abortion", *The Guardian*, 19 September 2013.

<sup>7</sup> Chayyanika Nigam, "21 Lives Lost to Dowry Every Day Across India; Conviction Rate Less Than 35 Per Cent", *India Today*, 22 April 2017.

<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory Data. "Maternal Mortality", accessed on 25 July 2019, [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/mortality/maternal\\_mortality\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/mortality/maternal_mortality_text/en/).

<sup>9</sup> Mahmoud Fathalla, *On Safe Motherhood at 25 Years: Looking Back, Moving Forwards*, p. 10.

<sup>10</sup> Michael Poku-Boansi, "Combating Maternal Mortality in Gushegu District of Ghana: The Role of Rural Transportation", *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* 12, no. 5 (2010): p. 274-275.

The book tackles difficult issues for the pro-life side and the need for a realistic and sensitive approach to problematic pregnancies, and its surrounding scenarios. It also illuminates the importance of confronting the continued exploitation and abuse of women in a sexualized society. Pro-life feminism is possible and vital in adequately meeting the complex struggles facing women. Nash, also touches the delicate yet often forgotten aspect of a woman as a human person with intrinsic dignity as we also ask why so many conversations on stopping women from having children or delaying child-bearing and family to their liking, when there are those living in a childless situation, yet desire the same sensitivity in their issues being addressed and their person-centred integration in society and proper support.

Nash will get you thinking both pro-life and pro-choice but overall she will get you to ask yourself where are we going wrong or right with the feminist movement and how can we stay the true course of what begun as the greatest movement for women liberation, not to be free to do whatever their want but to use their freedom for utmost and common good.