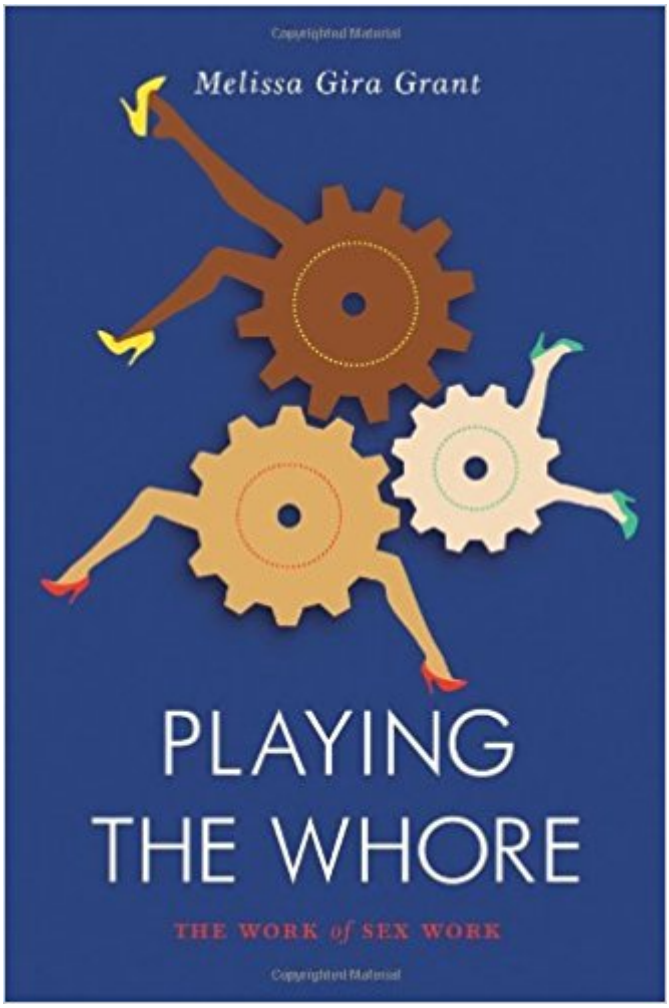
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Playing The Whore: The Work Of Sex Work



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Synopsis

Recent years have seen a panic over Ã¢â ¬Å“online red-lightÃ Â districts,Ã¢â ¬Â• which supposedly seduce vulnerable youngÃ Â women into a life of degradation, and New YorkÃ Â Times columnist Nicholas KristofÃ¢â ¬â„¢s live tweeting of aÃ Â Cambodian brothel raid. But rarely do these fearful,Ã Â salacious dispatches come from sex workers themselves,Ã Â and rarely do they deviate from the positionÃ Â that sex workers must be rescued from their condition,Ã Â and the industry simply abolished Ã¢â ¬â • a positionÃ Â common among feminists and conservatives alike. In Playing the Whore, journalist Melissa Gira GrantÃ Â turns these pieties on their head, arguing for anÃ Â overhaul in the way we think about sex work. BasedÃ Â on ten years of writing and reporting on the sexÃ Â trade, and grounded in her experience as an organizer,Ã Â advocate, and former sex worker, Playing theÃ Â Whore dismantles pervasive myths about sex work,Ã Â criticizes both conditions within the sex industryÃ Â and its criminalization, and argues that separatingÃ Â sex work from the Ã¢â ¬Å“legitimateÃ¢â ¬Â• economy only harmsÃ Â those who perform sexual labor.Ã Â In Playing the Whore, sex workersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ demands, too longÃ Â relegated to the margins, take center stage: sex work iswork, and sex workersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ rights are human rights.

Book Information

Series: Jacobin

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Verso (March 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1781683239

ISBN-13: 978-1781683231

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #67,717 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Economics > Labor & Industrial Relations #47 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Labor & Industrial Relations #60 inÃ Â Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Human Rights

Customer Reviews

"Collectively as a society we've got a whole bunch of tangled, warped intuitions and policies towards

the exchange of money for sex. Melissa Gira Grant does a remarkable job of rigorously teasing these apart and righteously scrapping those she finds wanting. Her work has been hugely influential in how I think about sex work and outright changed my mind on a number of points. She's a must read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œChris Hayes, All In With Chris HayesÃ¢â ¬Å“An important contribution to debates around sexÃ Â and work, and deserves to be read by anyoneÃ Â who wants to get beyond tired and damagingÃ Â understandings of both.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œNina Power, author of One Dimensional WomanÃ¢â ¬Å“Thoroughly researched, eminently readable...Keeping the focus on ideas instead of autobiography has an impressively unsettling effect, as we're forced to acknowledge the writer's boundaries, and our own voyeurism.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œÃ Â Village Voice"GiraÃ Â Grant is one of the most interesting policy thinkers in the country when it comes to sex work, and this short book introduces and outlines her thinking on the matter." Ã¢â ¬â œMike Konczal, Washington Post Ã¢â ¬Å“An informative and extremely worthwhile additionÃ Â to the existing body of literature on sex work.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œStoya, adult performer and Vice columnistÃ¢â ¬Å“Learn, listen, take heartÃ¢â ¬â •this is the real deal.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œSusie Bright, sex and culture critic, and founder ofÃ Â On Our Backs Ã¢â ¬Å“Well-researched and provocative Ã¢â ¬Â¦ A vital text onÃ Â an incendiary topic.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œLily Burana, author of I Love a Man in Uniform andÃ Â Strip City Ã¢â ¬Å“Gira Grant weaves her way through sanctimonyÃ Â and hypocrisy with wit, eloquence, insight, and aÃ Â dose of necessary outrage.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œLaura Kipnis, author of How to Become a Scandal Ã¢â ¬Å“Makes precisely clear that a culture that polices,Ã Â silences and marginalizes women who sell sex is a culture that cares nothing about women. Period.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œJanet Mock, author of Redefining RealnessÃ¢â ¬Å“As self-appointed saviors like Nicolas Kristof command mainstream media attention for their crusade on behalf of trafficked women, Melissa Gira Grant provides a sharp and powerful counternarrative, a layered, justice-minded critique of such interventions as well as a much needed skewering of Ã¢â ¬Ëœcarceral feminism.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ An important, illuminating and engaging read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œ Liliana Segura, Senior Editor,Ã Â The InterceptÃ Â (First Look Media)

Melissa Gira Grant is a writer and freelance journalistÃ Â whose work has appeared in Glamour, the Guardian,Ã Â the Nation, Wired, and the Atlantic. She is also aÃ Â Contributing Editor to Jacobin. Her website is melissagiragrant.com.

"Playing the Whore" offers readers a unique examination of the space which various forms of sex

work occupy in the socio-political cultural realm of North America, specifically the USA (but also on a global scale). This book helps us to understand sex workers as human beings like everyone else, rather than objects of disinterested scrutiny, abstract worship, or scornful pity. Anyone who wants to analyse the divisive debates around the various options for addressing the wider social issues raised by sex work should have this book. Listening to sex workers themselves is the critical starting point for gaining a true appreciation for their concerns, their perspectives, and their lives.

I don’t remember reading a more consciousness-raising book before this one. Grant potently lays out the hypocrisy of anti-sex work folks and just how terrible the "Rescue Industry" is. It’s appalling, as are the hypocrisies of the anti-sex work reformers when it comes to their complicity in the police brutality and sexual assault sex workers face as a result of criminalization and stigmatization.Be prepared to have any previous assumptions, perceptions, or prejudices you may have about sex work and sex workers powerfully challenged. It takes a lot of courage to advocate for the rights of sex workers, particularly in a country like America, where our handling of human sexuality is ridiculous and slut-shaming can be a powerful deterrent,Much thanks to Guardian columnist Margaret Corvid for referring me to this book.

Strong and passionate, and in my opinion, accurate argument on how women working as sex workers are mistreated by societal institutions that are made to protect them and everybody else. After the third or fourth chapter, the arguments get repetitive causing it to become a boring read. This is unfortunate because I think the arguments and topics are vital, but the delivery takes away from that.

This book was concise and well-done, and provides an important perspective that is all too often ignored in mainstream media.One of my favorite quotes from the book:"Sex workers should not be expected to defend the existence of sex work in order to have the right to do it free from harm."

Before recording opinions or worse, making laws, about something you’ve never done, it’s worth reading and listening to what actual sex workers have to say.This book is a great discussion of the pornographuc nature of the "rescue" industry and how it causes actual harm to those it purports to help.

One of the best books on sex work, views, lobbies, history and movements and politics of it. I am

usually hesitant to read books on this subject since usually the books on area of sex work are fantasy tale of good and evil with erotic dressing. After reading the review of the book on Boston Review, I started reading the book. It is a very good read and educates the reader very well.

This book is a phenomenal overview of the current state of sex workers' rights and the conundrum they're faced with when trying to tell their own stories while still trying to accrue basic rights. It's an engaging, informative read for anyone interested in the politics of sex work, police brutality, and civil rights.

An interesting book that I highlighted a lot in. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s about how police and many feminists, especially anti-prostitution activists, have no clue about sex work and cause more harm than good. What made it more than just a text book is its clear insider knowledge by the author. Grade: B+

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