



Inessential Woman

By Elizabeth V. Spelman

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Throughout history, Western philosophers have buried women's characters under the category of "men's nature." Feminist theorists, responding to this exclusion, have often been guilty of this exclusion as well – focusing only on white, middle-class women and treating others as inessential. *Inessential Woman* is an eloquent argument against white, middle-class bias in feminist theory. It warns against trying to separate feminist thinking and politics from issues of race and class, and challenges the assumption of homogeneity that underlies much of feminist thought.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Much of mainstream feminism focuses on white, middle-class women. Spelman, in what PW termed "a brilliant, scholarly rethinking of feminist thought," traces the roots of this tendency to ignore the interplay of racial, class, cultural and ethnic differences among oppressed women.

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From Library Journal

Spelman (philosophy, Smith) has developed a closely written, detailed, and (regrettably) repetitive treatise criticizing many feminist writers for their failure to transcend what she calls "the legacy of western philosophy": Whereas Aristotle and Plato denied the essential sameness among all humans, she says, these writers insist on an essential sameness among women, which results in denial of important differences, generalizes from the white, middle-class-American experience, and neglects to adequately acknowledge that of minority and Third World women. Taking examples from writers as diverse as Mary Daly, Shulamith Firestone, and Simone de Beauvoir, Spelman accuses feminists of insisting that sexism affects all women alike--a statement sure to elicit controversy. For academic collections.

- *Beverly Miller, Boise State Univ. Lib., Id.*

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Review

Spelman uses her considerable erudition and analytical abilities to bring white, middle-class feminist theorists and their profoundest critics closer together. —*The Women's Review of Books*

"An energetically thought-provoking contribution to current developments in feminist theory." —*The New York Times Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melissa Chandler:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they're still students or the item for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that question above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby per other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book Inessential Woman. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

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