

# READERS' ADVISORY FOR FEMINIST MEMOIRS

SPEED DATING THROUGH THE GENRES

Presented by Stephanie Hong October 20,  
2015

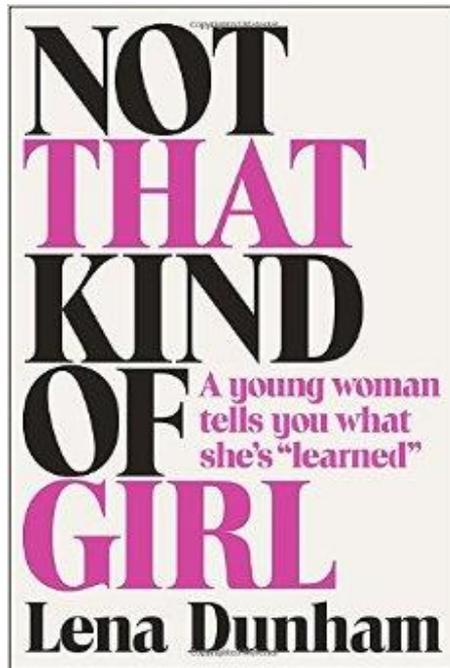
# So Why Feminist Memoirs?

- Because they're important and they're popular!
- Public figures are openly discussing and supporting women's issues
- So let's talk about them

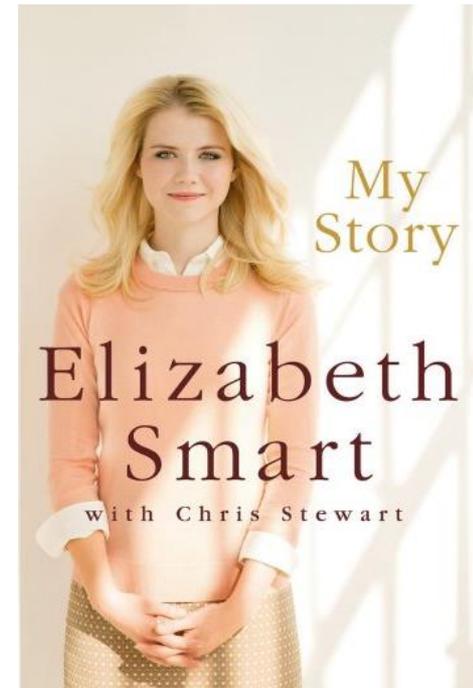


# What is a Feminist Memoir?

- How is it defined?
- What makes it different from an autobiography written by a woman?

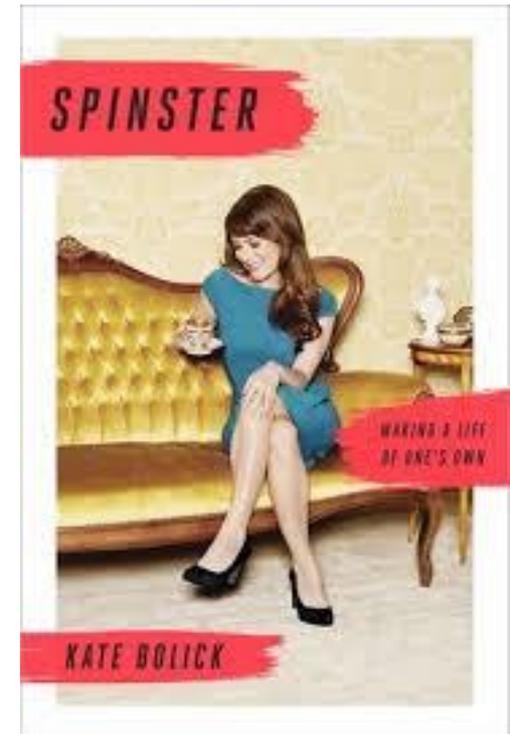


What sets these apart?



# Forms of Feminist Memoirs

- Collection of personal essays
- Traditional biography
- Graphic novels
- Different categories
- Humourous or serious

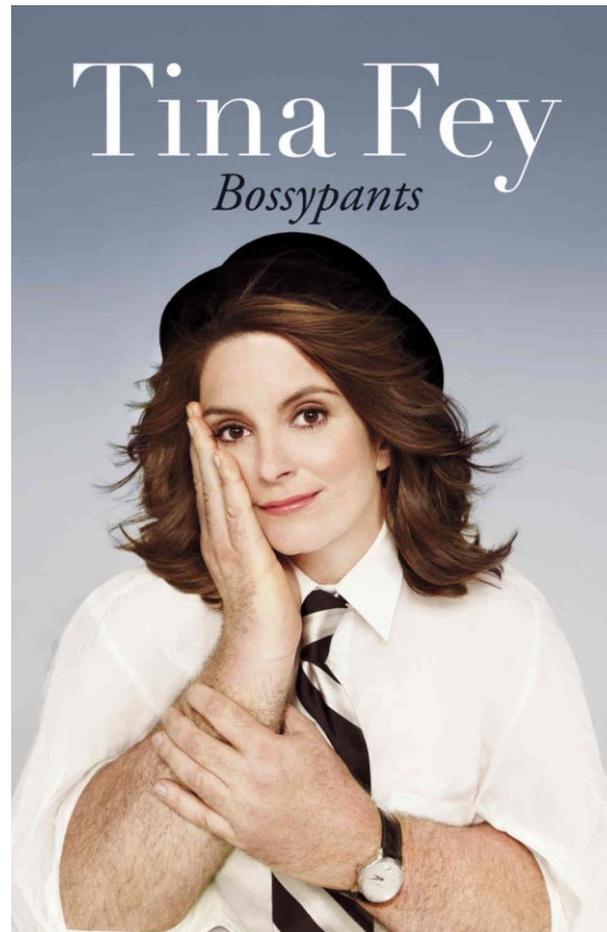


# The Intersection of Public and Private

From *The Challenge of Feminist Biography: Writing the Lives of Modern American Women* edited by Sara Alpern

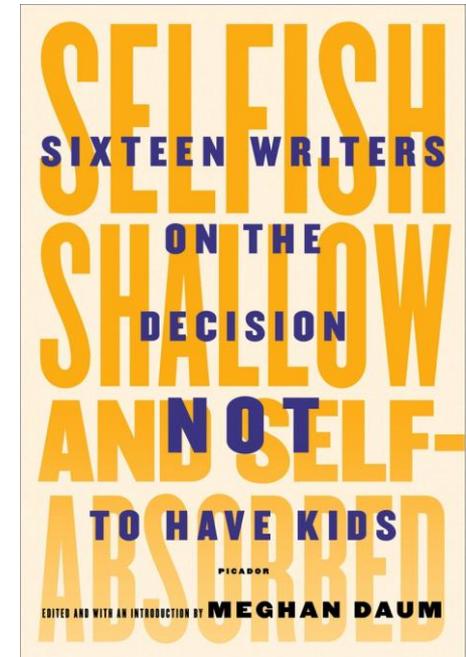
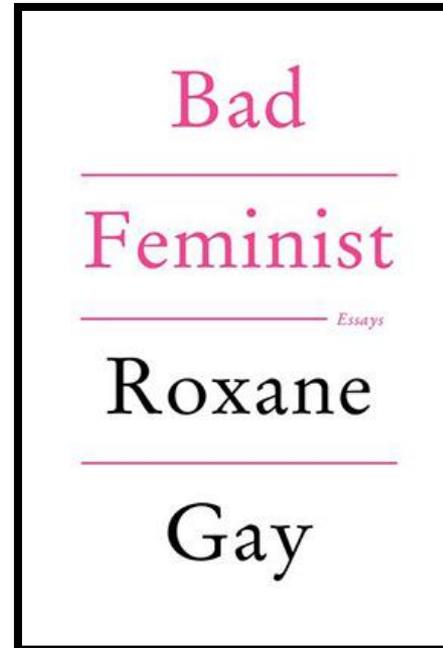
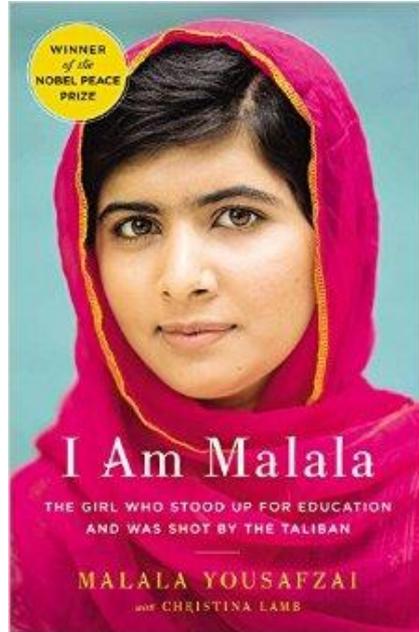
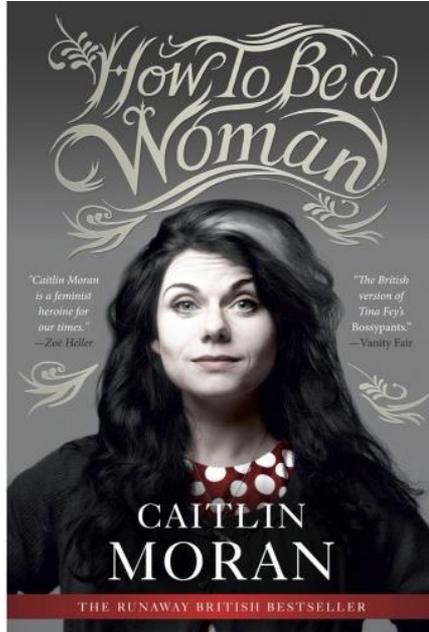
- “But what, if anything, do feminist biographers bring to their work that others do not? It seems to me there is a real difference, not wholly restricted to feminist biographers, of course, but dominant in their work. Feminist biographers, male or female, are much more likely, **to illuminate the intersection of public and private.** They write of the ordinary and rare moments in a subject’s external and internal life that do not concern the traditional version of history preoccupied with power and hierarchy.” (Garrison, 77)

# *Bossypants* by Tina Fey



# How to Spot a Feminist Memoir?

- Check the title
  - ▣ Is it expressing a sense of female agency?
- Cover trends



# What Are Feminist Memoirs About?

- Everything!
- Have a wide range of topics:
  - ▣ Sex and sexuality
  - ▣ Education rights
  - ▣ Dating, relationships, marriage
  - ▣ Motherhood or choosing not to have children
  - ▣ Reproductive rights
  - ▣ Gender violence and rape
  - ▣ Women in the workplace
  - ▣ Aging
  - ▣ Body image and beauty standards
  - ▣ Mental health issues
  - ▣ Gender roles
  - ▣ Female friendships

# Remember...

- It's okay to disagree with the author and her views
- It sparks conversations and perspectives



# Who Is Writing These Memoirs?

- Writers of different genres and disciplines
- Such as... bell hooks, Roxane Gay, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Eve Ensler



# Who is Writing These Memoirs?

- Comedians
- Such as... Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Lena Dunham, Mindy Kaling



# Who is Writing These Memoirs?

- Social activists
- Such as... Malala and Janet Mock



# Who is Writing These Memoirs?

- Journalists and Columnists
- Such as... Caitlin Moran, Mona Eltahawy, Katie Heaney

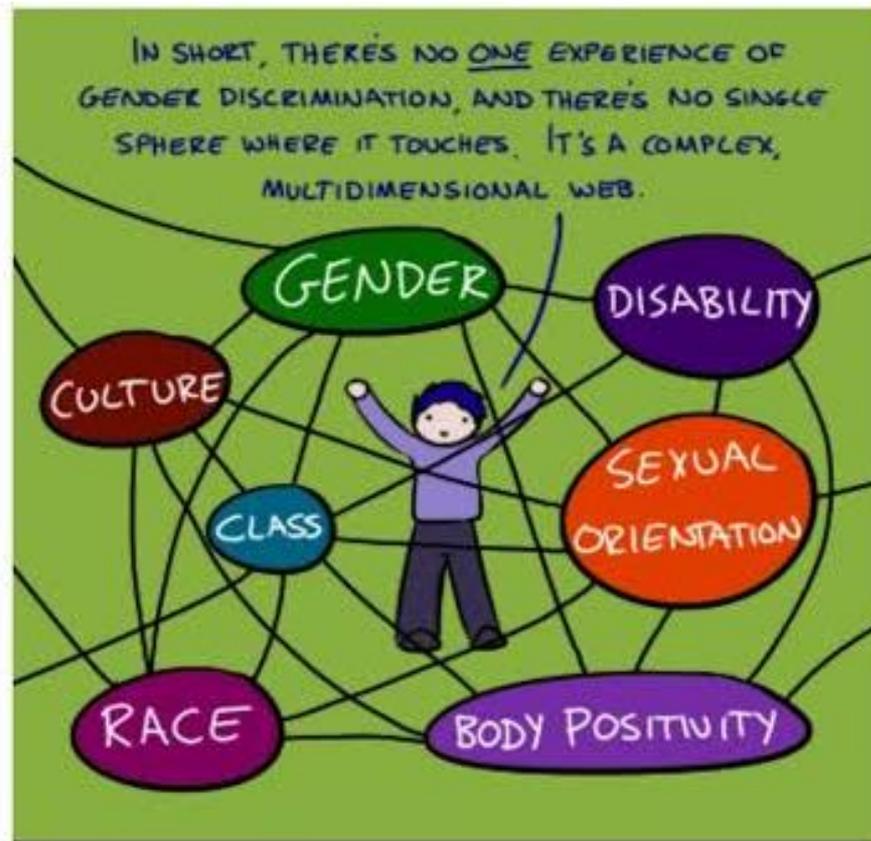


# Who is Writing These Memoirs?

- Businesswomen
- Such as... Sophia Amoruso, Sheryl Sandberg, Anne-Marie Slaughter

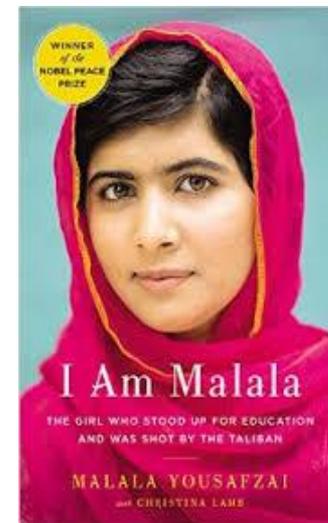
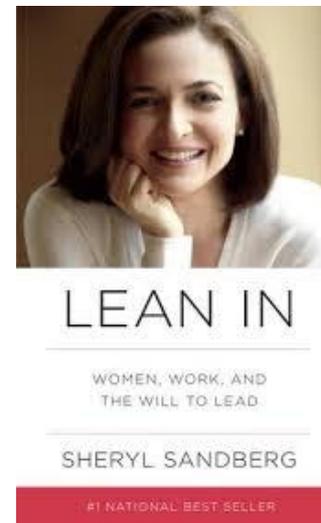
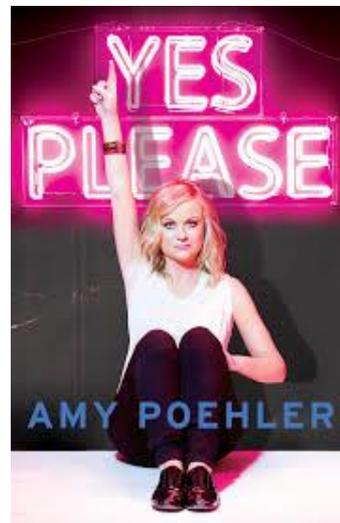
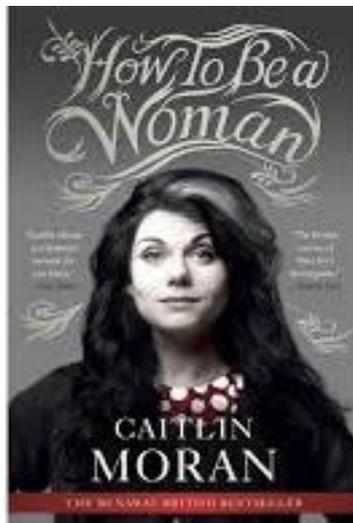
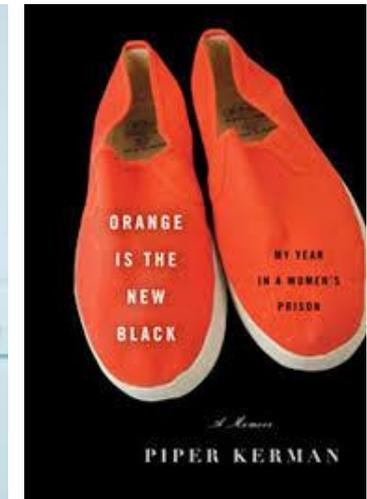
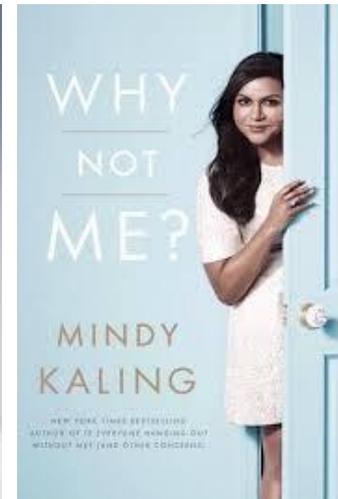
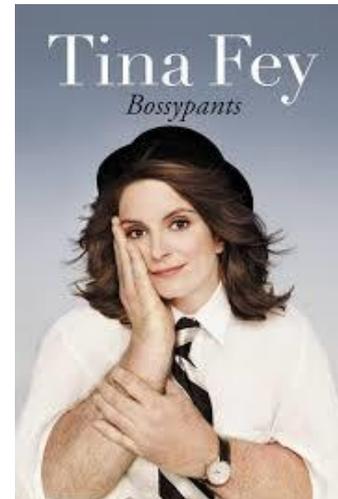
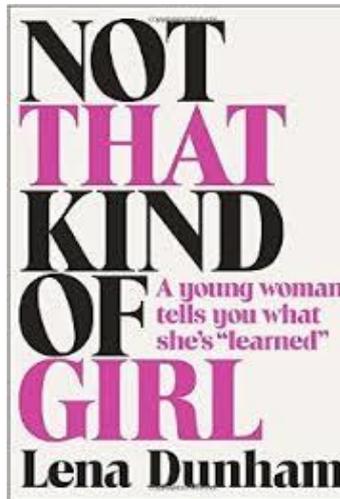
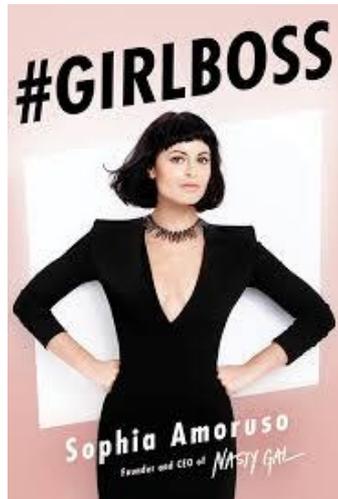


# Diversity and Feminist Memoirs

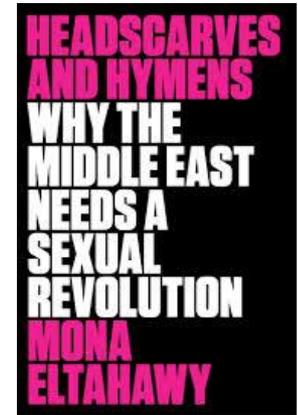
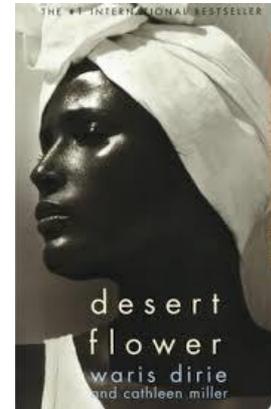
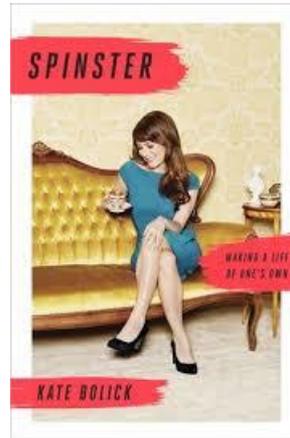
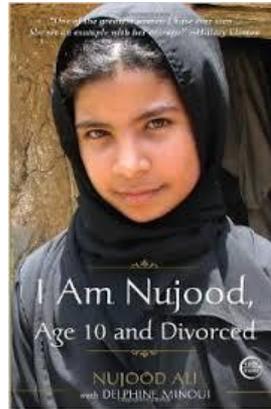
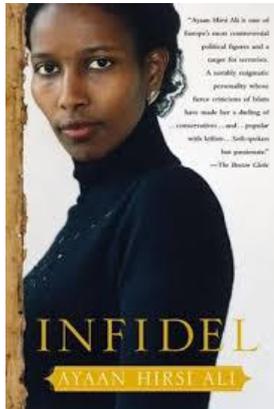


From everydayfeminists.com

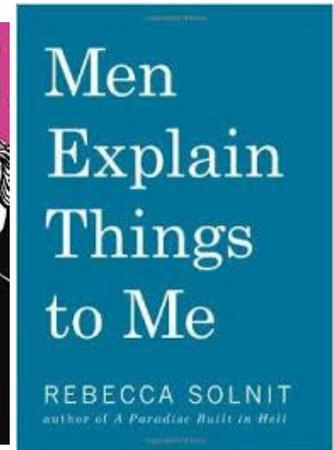
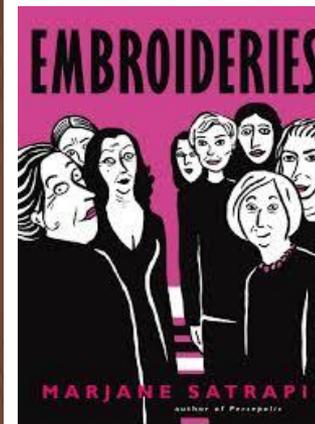
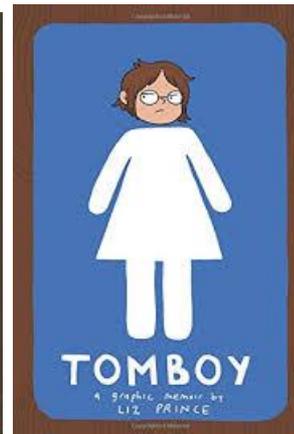
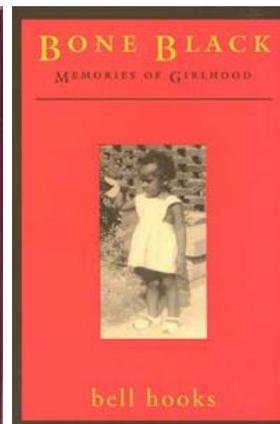
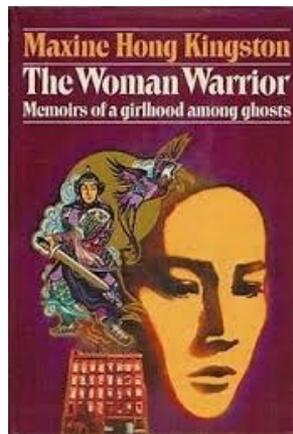
# Popular Works



# Other Notable Works



Bad  
Feminist  
Essays  
Roxane  
Gay



# Thank you!

Please refer to the handouts for a longer list of recommendations 😊