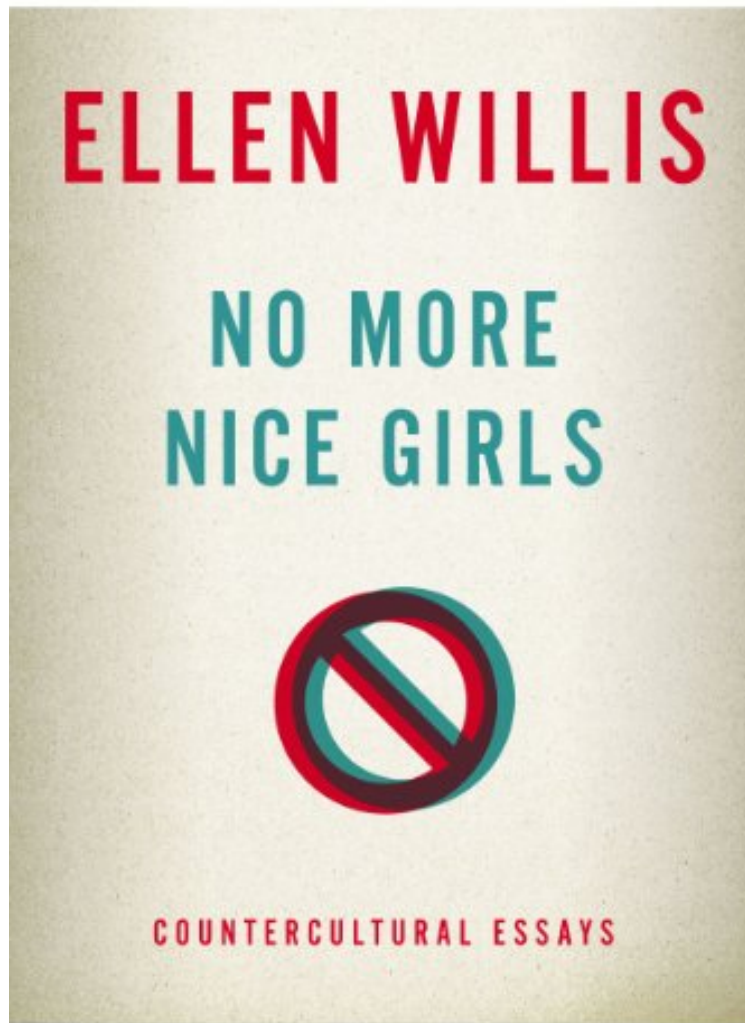


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No More Nice Girls: Countercultural Essays

Ellen Willis

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Ellen Willis : No More Nice Girls: Countercultural Essays before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No More Nice Girls: Countercultural Essays:

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everyone just read *No More Nice Girls* we could avoid a lot of misconceptions about the movement and, more importantly, how to move forward, women, men and everyone in between.

With characteristic intelligence, wit, and feminist insight, Ellen Willis addresses democracy as she sees it: "a commitment to individual freedom and egalitarian self-government in every area of social, economic, and cultural life." Moving between scholarly and down-to-earth activist writing styles, Willis confronts the conservative backlash that has slowly eroded democratic ideals and advances of the 1960s as well as the internal debates that have frequently splintered the left.

From *Publishers Weekly* This anthology collects the book reviews, feminist political essays and fiction that Willis, formerly a *Village Voice* columnist and now a New York University associate professor of journalism, published during the Reagan-Bush years. The book opens with several works from the early '80s that tediously address psychosexual issues within the feminist movement. Beyond these exercises in anti-misogynist rhetoric, however, lie many outstanding works. In "Radical Feminism and Feminist Radicalism," Willis chronicles the internal struggles, strategies and consequent splintering of the women's movement, while in "Escape From New York" she writes nostalgically of her fellow aging radicals and their compromises. In more recent pieces Willis eloquently argues her pro-choice position on abortion and offers a balanced perspective on the racial division within the women's movement. Essays on the issues of parental responsibility in an age of reproductive choice and on the war on drugs demonstrate her ability to communicate strong, rational arguments for emotionally charged liberal philosophies. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From *Library Journal* In this first collection of essays since her *Beginning To See the Light* (LJ 6/1/81), feminist / journalist Willis documents the struggle toward transforming society in the conservative 1980s. Moving between academic and earthy, activist writing styles, she explores changes in feminism, race relations, and cultural politics. Critiquing a culture that has backed away from the promises and idealism of the Sixties, Willis reimagines a world committed to a democracy that values individual happiness and self-development. She concentrates specifically on feminism, drawing on her earlier personal experiences with the radical feminist movement, to explore both the movement's internal failures and the well-orchestrated external attacks against it that have come from the right. Recommended for communications and women's studies collections. - Judy Solberg, Univ. of Maryland Libs., College Park Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Convincingly cast[s] the early 1990s as a crucial moment in the history of women's sexual freedom . . . begin[s] to articulate the vision of some who are theorizing and working politically to make feminist sexual revolutions possible." -- *The Nation*

"*No More Nice Girls* offers the closest thing to unalloyed feminist intellectual pleasure that anyone as inherently contentious as a feminist intellectual is likely to come across." -- *Voice Literary Supplement*

"With intellectual sophistication and a rich historical perspective, Ms. Willis deals with a host of topics (from sexual repression to fetal rights to the space race) to reiterate certain points." -- *New York Times Book*