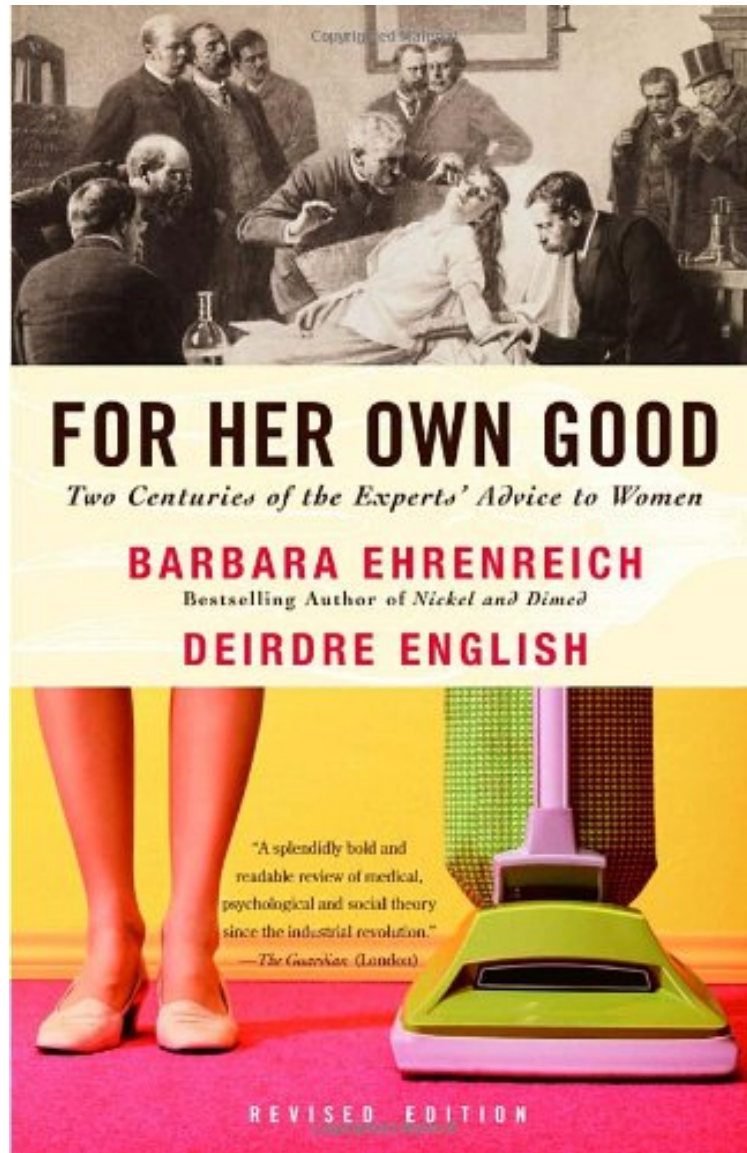


For Her Own Good: Two Centuries of the Experts Advice to Women

Barbara Ehrenreich, Deirdre English
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#571838 in Books Deirdre English 2005-01-04 2005-01-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .90 x 5.201, .71 #File Name: 1400078008432 pages For Her Own Good Two Centuries of the Experts Advice to Women | File size: 27.Mb

Barbara Ehrenreich, Deirdre English : For Her Own Good: Two Centuries of the Experts Advice to Women before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised For Her Own Good: Two Centuries of the Experts Advice to Women:

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Ehrenreich's a winner, despite her race problem
By Kay McKelly
As usual, Ehrenreich delivers! This is a great, readable book about more of the horrors that patriarchy has dealt to women. I knew a lot of it beforehand, but didn't know the particulars. This book goes into astonishing depth and explains a lot of things we take for granted (e.g. the origins of home economics class) and really keeps the narrative going. I adore Ehrenreich, but she does have a race problem; she writes as though all women were equal, without ever mentioning the very real impacts of racial inequalities. She occasionally has a problem with class too, ignoring it entirely, though she's generally better about remembering that not everyone was a stay-at-home mother. Still, these qualities for me don't dim the fascinating qualities of the book (or her writing in general). If you're looking for thoughtful discussion of race and class politics, look elsewhere. But if you're most interested in gender, this is a great pick.
More review at: <https://www.goodreads.com/parfois2> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic must read
By Pop-up aficionado
This book has been updated from the original (150 years of advice...) and still contains extraordinary information about the evolution of medicine. Necessary reading for anyone going into medicine; probably not as interesting for men, but it would be nice if they read it also.
8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Important historical info
By Mary Twain
The book had tons of interesting historical info on the roles of women and medical practitioners. It was a little too scholarly for beach reading, yet contained fascinating windows into our past. Some sections were repetitive after making a point. I would hope that young women would read it for perspective on the women's movement and health issues. Those of us in the baby boomer generation experienced discrimination that our daughters don't relate to. We may have "come a long way, baby," yet women still do not have the equality that we should in government, the board room or compensation.

From the bestselling author of *Nickel and Dimed* and a former editor in chief *Mother Jones*, this women's history classic brilliantly uncovers the constraints imposed on women in the name of science. Since the nineteenth century, professionals have been invoking scientific expertise to prescribe what women should do for their own good. Among the experts diagnoses and remedies: menstruation was an illness requiring seclusion; pregnancy, a disabling condition; and higher education, a threat to long-term health of the uterus. From clitoridectomies to tame women's behavior in the nineteenth century to the censure of a generation of mothers as castrators in the 1950s, doctors have not hesitated to intervene in women's sexual, emotional, and maternal lives. Even domesticity, the most popular prescription for a safe environment for women, spawned legions of scientific experts. Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English has never lost faith in science itself, but insist that we hold those who interpret it to higher standards. Women are entering the medical and scientific professions in greater numbers but as recent research shows, experts continue to use pseudoscience to tell women how to live. *For Her Own Good* provides today's readers with an indispensable dose of informed skepticism.

A splendidly bold and readable review of medical, psychological and social theory since the industrial revolution. *The Guardian* (London) "A landmark work: It changes everything one believed before about doctors, scientists, and all other kinds of patriarchal experts. The most important work on women since *The Feminine Mystique*."--Claudia Dreifus, author of *Seizing Our Bodies, The Politics of Women's Health Care* "For Her Own Good gives us a perspective on female history, the history of American medicine and psychology, and the history of childhood, unlike any we have had. I have read it with mounting intellectual excitement, underlining, marking pages, arguing from start to finish with its authors in my head. It is humanly and theoretically fascinating, written with clarity, wit, and verve and with a deep concern for the future."--Adrienne Rich "For Her Own Good . . . uses rationality informed by moral insight to meet the 'experts' head-on." *The Boston Globe*
From the Inside Flap
A provocative new perspective on female history, the history of American medicine and psychology, and the history of child-rearing unlike any other.
About the Author
Barbara Ehrenreich has written and lectured widely on subjects related to health care and women's issues. She has contributed articles to *Time*, *Harper's*, and *The New York Times Book*, among others. She is the bestselling author of nearly 20 books including *Nickel and Dimed* and *Bait and Switch*. Deirdre English has written, taught, and edited work on a wide array of subjects related to investigative reporting, cultural politics, and public policy. She has contributed to *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Times Book*, among other publications, and to public radio and television.