



## **Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism**

*Laura Bates*

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## **Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism** Laura Bates

Laura Bates, pioneering feminist, activist and bestselling author, has given voice to hundreds of thousands of women through her international Everyday Sexism Project. Drawing attention to both hidden and blatant sexist acts and attitudes, Laura has exposed the startling truth behind misogyny in our society: systemic, ingrained and ignored. From Weinstein to Westminster, a torrent of allegations of sexual harassment and assault have left us reeling. One hundred years since some women were first given the right to vote, we are still struggling to get to grips with the true extent of gender inequality that continues to flourish in our society. In this collection of essays, originally published in the Guardian, Laura Bates uncovers the sexism that exists in our relationships, our workplaces, our media, in our homes and on our streets, but which is also firmly rooted in our lifelong assumptions and in the actions and attitudes we explain away, defend and accept. Often dismissed as one-offs, veiled as 'banter' or described as 'isolated incidents', MISOGYNATION joins the dots to reveal the true scale of discrimination and prejudice women face. A bold, witty and incisive analysis of current events, MISOGYNATION makes a passionate argument for stepping back, opening our eyes and allowing ourselves to see the bigger picture.

## **Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism Details**

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Author : Laura Bates

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## From Reader Review Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism for online ebook

### Karina Read says

This is the first book by Laura Bates that I've read and I found it very interesting. I consider myself a feminist and thought i had a good grasp on a lot of the issues women face but this book has proved me wrong. I am glad i have read this and will happily recommend it to others who wish to know more about the state of inequality and sexism at the moment. It's disgusting that people (men & women) face such abuse for pointing out that everyone should be treated equally. I'm glad there are people out there fighting for this, and I definitely need reevaluate, educate myself more and try to help.

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### Emma says

This collection of essays by Laura Bates, creator of #Everydaysexism, is a timely offering, discussing issues in the news due to the #MeToo campaigns and other assorted, ongoing, and ever more pervasive accusations of and investigations into sexism and sexual assault.

However, its very nature makes it somewhat repetitive and the short essays don't allow for the necessary depth and critical evaluation the subject requires. Despite being published in 2014, her book Everyday Sexism is still the one to go to- brutally honest and well researched, it's the kind of read that opens your eyes and makes you take a long hard look at yourself. This is ok, but that is essential reading.

ARC via Netgalley

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### Cátia Vieira says

Why should you read this book?

I monthly host a read-along and Misogynation by Laura Bates was our September pick. I loved Everyday Sexism and Girl Up (you can check my review of the latter here). I still recommend Everyday Sexism to everyone who's trying to understand the true scale of gender inequality, misogyny and sexism. Girl Up is still that perfect book to offer young women. And, now we have Misogynation.

Misogynation is an extremely important read. This book is a collection of essays that explore themes like body image, rape, sexism in school, family environment and workplace. Bate's latest book proves how ingrained and systemic sexism is in our society. If you want to know more about misogyny and how to act against it, this book will help you. Most important of all, this is the feminism I believe in. A movement that stands for equality, a movement that is inclusive.

As I said, Misogynation was our September read-along pick. I can't tell you how meaningful it was to read and comment on this book with other women. We shared our own experiences, we revealed in which ways we were and are victims of a sexist society. And, that's why reading Laura Bates is so important. It reminds you that you don't suffer alone, it reminds you that you're not alone in this fight.

I'd like to thank Simon & Schuster for the free copy.  
For more reviews, follow me on Instagram: @booksturnyouon

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### **Paula Dennan says**

Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism is the latest essay collection from Laura Bates, the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project. These essays first appeared as columns in The Guardian, so like many collections compiled this way there is a lot of repetition; but repetition is kind of the point here. Women, trans and non-binary people deal with this stuff day in and day out; when we're catcalled while walking to work, when we're afraid of how men will react if we 'don't play nice' to their unwanted advances, when we're described as 'snowflakes' for daring to not laugh off sexist jokes as 'banter', when we're constantly made to feel like we're asking for too much, when we're simply asking to be treated equally.

Who is this collection for? Short answer; everyone. Longer answer; there is something for everyone, whether you're new to feminism or a seasoned activist, with a particular focus on men and their understanding of and unlearning of the sexism they perpetuate, oftentimes without even realising it. I want to buy a copy for every man I know and watch the conversations that unfold between them as they read it.

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### **Artemis says**

When compared to Laura Bates' other published work, the utter perfection that is 'Everyday Sexism', based on the truth-revealing web phenomenon connecting women and girls and their experiences from all over the world, 'Misogynation' can seem like 'Everyday Sexism 2.0'. There isn't anything as terribly new here as I had hoped, or even brave, for a vital feminist publication in 2018.

However, Laura Bates always does what she does best: state the facts. 'Misogynation' is a fast, easily digestible read listing no-nonsense essays from the past five years or so; all written to expand on many women's experiences in the UK and beyond - highlighting how practically every woman ever has at least feared rape, and sexual and/or murderous predators, at some point in their lives, if not all the time, with reasonable evidence to back up these fears. All incidents of clear misogyny, such as street harassment, which are too often seen as "a bit of fun" and a "compliment" to women, are linked to how dismally, how depressingly, our society and culture treats women: As second-class citizens; disposable, passive, sexual objects with no agency of their own as preferred. Only their relationships to men make them matter. 'Misogynation' contains a dash of cathartic humour in its answers to our prayers - in its solutions to our sufferings - for good measure.

It also nicely shows great examples of why the UK's Daily Mail should be called the Daily Cesspool, or more accurately, the Daily Slowest-Newsday-Ever. Why is Page 3 still a thing? Why are there women in the 21st century who get fired from their jobs for being pregnant? Why is retro-sexism suddenly considered "cool"? Why stubbornly cater to trolls? And to dangerous stalkers and street harassers? This is monstrous. It is evil that isn't blindfolded. Women are dying because of such blatant misogyny. They are not stupid, they are not invisible - they are human beings.

Wow, what a radical notion I just declared.

We have a long way to go.

'Misogynation: The True Scale of Sexism' keeps the conversation going. That it is a successor of sorts to 'Everyday Sexism' proves that everybody needs feminism still; that it is absolutely relevant to human progress, for female safety and survival, now more than ever. Intersectional feminism is definitely included. There is not a lot new or groundbreaking in the book, but if women in our misogynists' society have to repeat things again and again and again for something to finally change, told in similar circumstances and contexts surprising to everybody except for women themselves, then let's keep these feminist non-fiction books coming. I'm happy that, even if I can't read all of them, there are so many that exist, that are allowed to exist. People are bound to read at least one of the modern feminist texts.

Someone is bound to listen to women sooner or later, and help them to make real, honest to goodness changes. Women won't take misogynistic bullshit anymore. They can't afford to, as 'Misogynation' reveals.

Final Score: 3.5/5

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### **Gabriela Pop says**

4.5/5

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### **Nicole Scavino says**

I think misogynation is kind of "cancer social" which is destroying society and specially indefense people. The book is so true in every point. Also, these studies tell us something as why we are so bad/down in every statistics. I chose the feminism side always, the side of the liberty and equality. Hope everyone of these men could understand, and women too.

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### **Fabulous Book Fiend says**

Another amazing read from Laura Bates. If you know me, I will have tried to push a Laura Bates book on you at some point and so you won't be surprised to hear that I loved this one just as much as the others. I read this on ebook and then re-read it on audiobook because this audiobook is read by the author and so was even more wonderful than reading it on my Kindle.

This is a collection of columns written by the author including some discussion pieces, some advice pieces and some top ten lists. the top ten lists were humours even given the subject that they were concerning. Laura Bates knows how to write about what should be fundamental human rights and them not being granted to specific groups of women or all women and make it engaging and entertaining. I don't know how she does it but I am in awe of her and will read everything that she writes.

In this book, Laura Bates highlights some groups of women that are sometimes passed over in other collections of feminist essays or notes on misogyny and she also highlights programmes that are out there to help women and support the fight against Everyday Sexism that I didn't know about. I love the fact that these are highlighted for me. This collection gets a little more political than her previous books and i applaud her

fro including this in her writing, it is a brave thing in our current climate!

Because this is a collection of essays, this is something I will be coming back to and re-reading section of that I find relevant as things come up in my life. I have done this with both of her previous novels and so I will be adding a physical copy to my Kindle copy and my audiobook of this one. If you are interested in reading about gender equality and the fact that everyday sexism still exists...everyday then you need to add this book to your collection and I suggest that you do that now.

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## Ashley says

Best for: Those looking for some (usually UK-based) facts and figures about sexism women face, in short essay form.

In a nutshell: Creator of Everyday Sexism Project Bates shares her thoughts on a few different ways women deal with misogyny in their daily lives.

Worth quoting:

“The repeated use of the word ‘distracting’ centres the needs of men and boys above those of the girls, and suggests that girls’ bodies are powerful and dangerous, impacting on boys and teachers, whose behaviour is implicitly excused as inevitable.”

“If you suggest that someone who is experiencing it shuts down their social media accounts or stops speaking out, you’re suggesting their freedom should be curtailed because of someone else’s abusive behavior. In fact, you are unintentionally helping the abuser.”

“You can’t judge a woman on her weight AND get angry if she orders a salad — that’s just counter-intuitive. Try to work out in advance which sexist stereotype is most important to you, and stick with it.”

Why I chose it: I read her previous book (<https://cannonballread.com/2016/07/ye...>) and enjoyed it.

Review: This book is pretty good. I didn’t find it to be as well done as her previous book, but still worth a read. It is a collection of previously-published material, and while it was all new to me (I’m not sure where they appeared — perhaps on her website? As guest editorials? Or maybe she has her own column in a paper here?), it does seem to be a bit of cheat to fill an entire book with previous content, add in maybe ten very short introductory chapters before each grouping, and then still charge full price. Perhaps that’s a standard publishing idea, and I’m certainly not mad at her for getting paid, I just was looking for something a bit deeper with this.

That said, many of the sections are strong reads. Much of what she writes about won’t be news to women, or to men who are paying attention, but I do think it still rises beyond 101-level feminism. And, as I’ve said before, 101-level isn’t bad, it’s just not usually what I’m looking for in a book. I appreciate the effort put into grouping the essays into related content, and I also appreciate the humour Ms. Bates brings to what can be an overwhelming and depressing topic. It wasn’t a slog to read through this book, which itself is a bit of a feat considering the subject.

One side note - I really wish authors would stop having Caitlin Moran blurb their books. She’s said so many problematic things about race, and about trans people (and without any sort of remorse or apology that I’ve ever found - but as always, I’d be happy to be shown otherwise). She’s like the Lena Dunham of authors. And there are just so many more interesting feminists I’d like to hear from, even on book covers.

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### **Molly says**

<https://mollsportfolio.blog/2018/06/2...>

After reading Everyday Sexism by Laura Bates I was super interested in reading more about what Laura Bates had to say, and when I saw that she had recently come out with a new book, Misogynation, I had to pick it up.

This was not an easy read for a number of reasons. Partly because so many of the excerpts made me so angry, partly because it's so statistic-heavy and also because some of her ideas come across as covertly man-hating.

I am 99% sure Laura Bates isn't stupid enough to hate the opposite sex since she is a feminist, however, one can surely read between the lines to see how many bad experiences she has had with the opposite sex. Feminism is equalism, and sometimes undertones of her personal experiences...

<https://mollsportfolio.blog/2018/06/2...>

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### **Aseel says**

This book is my inner intersectional, socialist feminist bible. This deserves a billion stars. If you aren't a feminist, read this, if you are a feminist read this.

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### **Zoe (readabilitea) says**

Usually I absolutely love anything by Laura Bates, but this book fell flat for me because it's so obviously a 'we haven't had a book from you in a couple of years' idea from the publisher. I enjoy Bates' journalism, and I did learn a lot e.g. about funding cuts to rape crisis centres and the problems women face in prison, but I found the book to be so repetitive. Taken individually, each article is great, but put together in an anthology like this, the message is the same and often Bates uses exactly the same phrasing to put her ideas across. I'm also not the kind of person that needs to read this - I don't need to be convinced by feminism, I don't need to have the facts about sexual violence repeated to me, and I know that catcalling is vile. My question is, how do you get the catcallers to read this? If this book really wants to make a change, it needs to get into the hands of those who don't already agree with its premise.

For more thoughts, you can read my review of Misogynation on my blog

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### **Martha says**

It is vital to resist those who mock and criticize us for tackling 'minor' manifestations of

prejudice because these are the things that normalize and ingrain the treatment of women as second-class citizens, opening the door for everything else, from workplace discrimination to sexual violence.

Brought to you by Laura Bates, the founder of The Everyday Sexism Project, Misogynation is a collection of various articles Bates has written over the years since the ESP began. Covering topics such as catcalling, pay inequality, media sexism and sexual violence, the fundamental purpose seems to be to join the dots and demonstrate a pattern of entrenched, structural inequality.

A 15-year-old girl wrote to us to say that 'I always feel like if I don't look a certain way, if boys don't think I'm "sexy" or "hot", then I've failed and it doesn't even matter if I am a doctor or a writer, I'll still feel like nothing...'

For me, the existence of the Everyday Sexism Project will always give Bates an edge in popular feminist writing: she has the backing of tens of thousands of people who have contributed their own personal experiences of sexism, so her work is always going to be strongly rooted in lived experiences. The quotes she weaves in, especially those from young girls who are just waking up to a world that is treating them like second-class citizens always bring the reality home. That said, I would have liked to see a bibliography at the end of the book, as she references a number of different sources - but that could just be the preview copy I was reading. Each article is short, which makes it easily digestible, though in places I was left wishing for a bit more detail.

There are a few things that prevented me from giving it a higher rating. Firstly, because it is a collection of already-published essays, it doesn't add a lot of new things. There are mentions of more 'current' events such as #MeToo and Donald Trump, and the afterword looking at the ESP five years on is interesting, but otherwise it covers a lot of the same ground as her original book, Everyday Sexism. It also makes it quite repetitive in places and I wasn't always clear if she was following a particular order.

Occasionally I'm put off by her tone - where I admire her being bold and telling it like it is, she often slips into heavy sarcasm. I love me some sarcasm, but sometimes it got a bit wearing, and I know some who would be put off by that style.

Finally, while there were references to women of colour, LGBTQ+ women and disabled women in places, I would have liked to see it a lot more. In places it felt like an afterthought - i.e. 'this is a massive problem, and it affects trans women even more, end'. I would have liked to see more intentional sections around the issues that these women face that maybe aren't such an issue for others.

As you can imagine, this book should come with a trigger warning for multiple descriptions of physical and sexual violence. Some descriptions are quite graphic in the level of detail, but it depends what you're affected by. I personally didn't find them triggering because they are presented as fact in the context of a book that is very clearly saying they are unacceptable; as opposed to a more gratuitous scene of graphic violence in a work of fiction. However, if you are unable to read these kinds of references, there are a lot of them, so this is a book you might want to steer clear of.

If you assess this book for what it is, a collection of existing essays offering a snapshot of a range of issue affecting women today, then I rate this book highly. It is easy to read and I felt validated by the points she made, which is always a good thing to have as a defence against a world that constantly seems to be wondering if 'feminism has gone too far'. However, if you try to take it as more than that, for example comparing it to Everyday Sexism (against which it will invariably fall short), or expecting it to delve into the complexities of every issue covered, you'll be left wanting. See it as a reminder that we still have so much more to do.

The feminist endgame is not to publicly punish everybody who makes a rape joke or ban every advert that uses rape as a titillating way to sell products. It is to create a society in which it would never occur to anybody to do either in the first place.

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*Thank you to Simon & Schuster UK and Netgalley UK for providing me with an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Nuno Rosa says**

I suspect of every book that lacks a bad review. Either it hasn't been read or it's not interesting. Misogynation is composed of everyday stories that affect women, Laura will pick on an incident and segway it into a claim. I found that hard to follow, not that sexism isn't real, but that you can stem gender gap, male white privilege and general male oppressiveness from it.

This book only adheres if you are into the jargon, without it it lacks substance.

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### **Victoria says**

Laura Bates is the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project that invites women to tweet/message the things that have happened to them in their daily lives that are misogynistic and this book is a revolting revelation of just how pervasive (that even I as someone who considers themselves to be a feminist who has some idea of how bad it can be), misogyny is.

A collection of essays that are brutally written and backed up in every way, this book certainly opens your eyes to the dimensions of the culture we live in that allows for behaviour like this to be okay. Bates skewers arguments and points out the layers of misogyny in this book with clarity that though sometimes hard to read, makes you keep reading anyway.

It takes so much courage in today's society to talk about Feminism as it's often used as an insult or a term to fear, and Laura Bates delivers in this book everything you need to know about women in today's society. I wish for men to read this book, I wish for my nan to read this book, I want anyone whose felt like they've gone through misogyny, to read this just to know they are not alone.

A fantastic collection of essays that are must reads for all women.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley for a honest review).

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