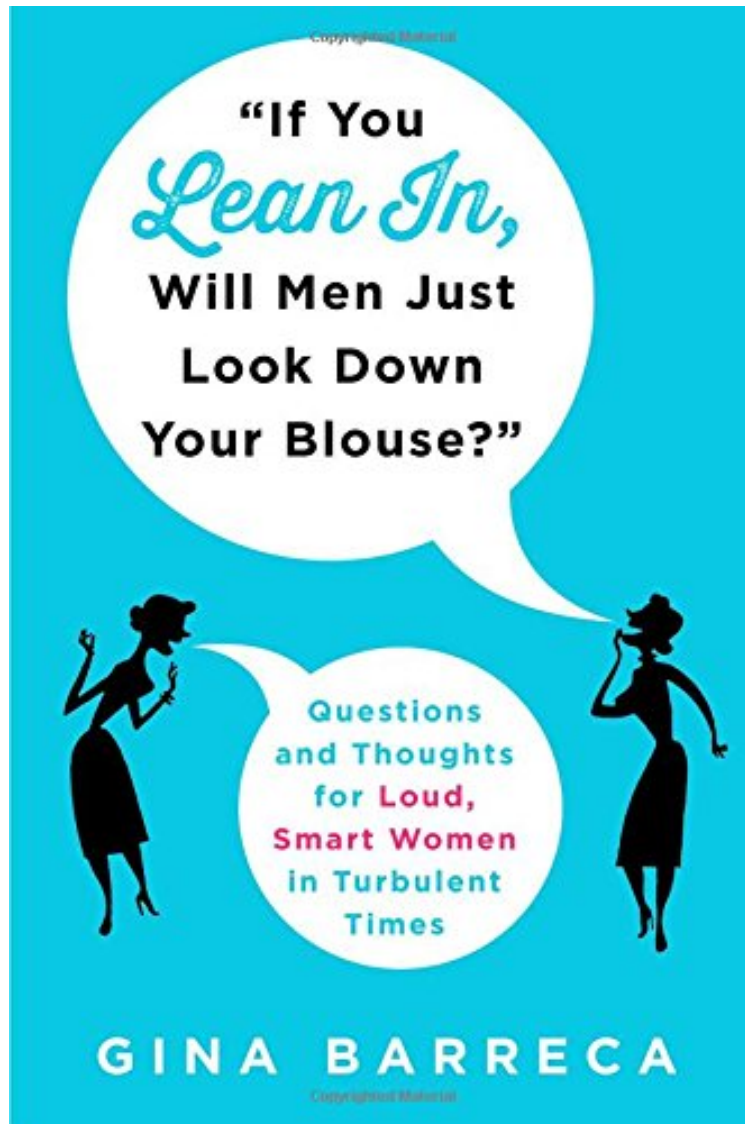


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"If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?": Questions and Thoughts for Loud, Smart Women in Turbulent Times

Gina Barreca

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Gina Barreca : "If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?": Questions and Thoughts for Loud, Smart Women in Turbulent Times before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time,

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82 of 83 people found the following review helpful. One of the smartest, wisest and funniest writers today. By Eugenia
This book is so great I do not even know where to begin. I have never read any of Ms. Barreca's books before and I will be the first one to admit that I picked this one out because of the book cover (shame on me!). I mean who in their right mind would not pick up a book that is called: "If you Lean In, will men just look down your blouse?". There are so many successful women in the corporate world that say and write silly things about women in the workforce; reference to Sandberg's best selling book "Lean In" is no exception. There are so many others that fall into same category (Marissa Meyer is the next one that comes to mind). I am so glad to see that there is a writer like Gina Barreca -- smart and gutsy, so unafraid to take them on and attack them for all the nonsense they are trying to push to the everyday working woman. But this book is so much more than just that. I started reading the book during my regular daily train commute to work. As I was reading hilariously funny story "The Cheap Motel Backside of Facebook", I was giggling so much that passengers sitting next to me became concerned and quietly moved to other free seats on the train as soon as they became available. I was so inappropriately happy while reading the story, that I did not even realize that one of the passengers on the train in front of us was ill and we were on standby waiting for ambulance to pick up the poor soul and take him/her to the nearest hospital, while I was having a ball reading the funniest short stories I happen to come across in years. That is the power of Ms. Barreca's storytelling - it will completely transform you to HER world of reality and you will be completely oblivious of your own. For that reason for anyone who is sad, unhappy or just feels a little blue, this is a book to read that will immediately lift anyone's spirits to the point of bliss that can be as close to enlightenment as possible. Mothers should have their daughters pick up this book and have them read the chapter on relationships. No one describes bad boyfriends better than this author. And she does in a simple way that is funny and yet so very wise. If there is a man who ever wanted to understand a woman, forget about the book "Men are from Mars, women are from Venus" you need to read THIS book and it will all fall to its right place. It will all finally start to make sense. I liked the parts of the book where Ms. Barreca writes about intimate friendships, mother/daughter relationships, challenges of dealing with aging, ailing parent. Her deeply honest and personal writing of how it is to lose a mother, to be careful not to get pregnant as a young woman only to discover in her later years that she is not able to produce any. I loved every page of this 250 page book and it made me laugh, it made me think, it made me admire the courage of a talented writer who is able to put such deep wisdom in amazingly powerful short stories. And in the end it does not matter how personal those stories are to her, the power of them is that any living human being can relate to the power of each and every one of them, because they have universal truth. Perhaps some people can find this book to be a perfect book for female audiences, but I think that men will enjoy it just as much. On the back of the book jacket there is a quote from Dave Barry that says: "Gina Barreca is very, very funny. For a woman." One could not ask for a better compliment from a fellow writer that knows what good humor is. You will read this book in a couple of readings because once you pick it up, you will not want to drop it off. I have highlighted portions of it that are close to my heart, such as - "hatred, disguised as lust, haunts, corrodes and seeps from one generation to the next" or "when a woman looks to a man to change her life, she looks in a wrong direction" or "friends are life's reward for getting it right" or "without independence, what's the fun of intimacy, after all?" or "remember that anybody can be in a relationship if she's willing to be on somebody else's schedule, abide by somebody else's rules, and put up with somebody else's mess. Is that what you want?" . By now you should get an idea on why this book is so good. Just read it - it is not a recommendation - it is an order. For your own good. 56 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Delightful, breezy, funny and astute
By Jessica Weissman
Gina Barreca is funny and thoughtful. She's been writing funny and astute stuff about women's lives for years now, and recently has had a personal column. This book collects a large pile of those short columns. Some are funny, some are pointed, a few are poignant/personal, and nearly all are insightful. The writing is breezy, and there are a few real gems among the merely very good essays. Her Sheryl Sandberg response stands out, for one. The only problem is that she has a few too many articles that are lists of numbered items, which in the Internet era of listicles doesn't look as good as it once did. The only problem is the same one that plagues most collections of columns: they share an approach and point-of-view and so can blur together. Don't read too many at one sitting. Still, they give a good deal of pleasure and will definitely brighten your days if you spread them out. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. And although it certainly has a great deal to say about the female experience
By Pamela Katz
Gina Barreca's book is the real deal -- the book by, for and about women for which we've all been waiting! Perhaps because it offers, through the author's distinctive voice, the way in which women, that is, many different women, see the WORLD. This shouldn't be so rare, but it is, and Barreca has finally burst through the glass ceiling that has for too long forced women to believe they can only see (and write about) themselves. And although it certainly has a great deal to say about the female experience, and specifically about Barreca's fascinating journey: from an Italian girl in Brooklyn, to attending a male dominated Ivy League College, to becoming a literature professor, author and international speaker, it is not only about the experience of one phenomenal woman. Specifically, it is not yet another irritating book that tells you, "be

like me" and all will be well -- instead, Barreca's story offers a window on all the REAL challenges we face in getting ahead and being happy about how far we get. Whether it's family, or work, or love, or children, she shines a sharply focused light on what's really going on and what we can do about it. Also what we cannot do about it, and how to deal with that, which is refreshing. Notice she says "questions and thoughts" in the sub-title -- not "answers." This book doesn't offer advice, it illuminates. Her language is sharp, perceptive and funny as hell. I laughed out loud so many times and yet -- full disclosure: I'm one of the loud women this book is for -- reading it certainly made me FEEL smart, or smarter by the time I was done. I learned a great deal about life, literature and popular culture and, dare I say it, myself! That's the truly remarkable achievement of this book: it entertains as it educates, and it educates in a dazzling number of ways. This global yet personal education happens so rarely in books these days, and almost never when it comes to Books About Women. If you lean in, a lot of guys WILL look down your blouse, and Barreca gives you the strength and the wit to deal with it.

Gina Barreca is fed up with women who lean in, but don't open their mouths. In her latest collection of essays, she turns her attention to subjects like bondage which she notes now seems to come in fifty shades of grey and has been renamed Spanx. She muses on those lessons learned in Kindergarten that every woman must unlearn like not having to hold the hand of the person you're waking next to (especially if he's a bad boyfriend) or needing to have milk, cookies and a nap every day at 3:00 PM (which tends to sap one's energy not to mention what it does to one's waistline). She sounds off about all those things a woman hates to hear from a man like "Calm down" or "Next time, try buying shoes that fit". "If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?" is about getting loud, getting love, getting ahead and getting the first draw (or the last shot). Here are tips, lessons and bold confessions about bad boyfriends at any age, about friends we love and ones we can't stand anymore, about waist size and wasted time, about panic, placebos, placentas and certain kinds of not-so adorable paternalism attached to certain kinds of politicians. The world is kept lively by loud women talking and "If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?" cheers and challenges those voices to come together and speak up. You think she's kidding? Oh, boy, do you have another thing coming.

Praise for "If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?": "Gina Barreca's essays are like dispatches from a dear friend: Wonderful, witty, heartfelt and wise - with many memorable zingers and tear inducing stingers. Her gift is one of connection and her work is relatable and true. Share this book with your sisters and your BFF (Brainy Friends and Feminists) book group." - Amy Dickinson, author of the nationally syndicated column "Ask Amy" "If you ever find that your best gal pal isn't available, you need look no further than Barreca's book. It contains everything a good friend would provide: honesty, insight, female camaraderie, and a lot of laughs." - Rachel Dratch "Barrecaville turns out to be a very funny place. In it, bad boyfriends are good: They remind us that, just as there are significant others, so, too, are there insignificant others. With that tiny twist of language, she seizes something that was right in front of us the whole time but we couldn't grasp...Despite all the rowdiness, Barreca's erudition pokes through every page. She romps across the literary landscape..." - Psychology Today "Barreca's mix of personal essays, lists, and advice column-style interludes is laugh-out-loud funny (literally...)" - Elle's Lettres Readers' Prize, June 2016 "[Barreca] created a beautiful, entertaining and touching essay that opens up women's leadership issues and workforce equities and inequities in a way Sandberg's book cannot, because the billionaire CEO writes from a different place of greater privilege and power. We hardworking women should all have this book (and Barreca's others as well!) on our shelf, as a drop-in, cheer up, think a bit, and get back to work..." - Leadership Spirit, Carol Burbank, Ph.D. Praise for *It's Not That I'm Bitter...*: "Gina Barreca is very, very funny. For a woman." ?Dave Barry on *It's Not That I'm Bitter* "From spotting chin hairs in a rear-view mirror to finding a bra that never fits, the book is 120-mph humor!" ?Cindy Adams, *The New York Post* on *It's Not That I'm Bitter* "Many readers, especially women, will enjoy, discuss, and reread this quick, breezy work of commentary, a book that stirs up dust long after its covers are closed." ?Booklist on *It's Not That I'm Bitter* About the Author GINA BARRECA is nationally syndicated columnist with Tribune News Service. She's the author of *It's Not That I'm Bitter*, *Babes in Boyland*, *They Used to Call Me Snow White but I Drifted* and co-author of *I'm With Stupid: One Man, One Woman, and 10,000 Years of Misunderstandings Between The Sexes Cleared Right Up* with Pulitzer Prize winner Gene Weingarten. She's a professor of English at UConn, and a member of the Friars' Club. She grew up in Brooklyn, NY but now lives in Storrs, CT. Go figure.