



The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution in the Home

By Arlie Russell Hochschild

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In this landmark study, sociologist Arlie Hochschild takes us into the homes of two-career parents to observe what really goes on at the end of the "work day." Overwhelmingly, she discovers, it's the working mother who takes on the second shift.

Hochschild finds that men share housework equally with their wives in only twenty percent of dual-career families. While many women accept this inequity in order to keep peace, they tend to suffer from chronic exhaustion, low sex drive, and more frequent illness as a result. The ultimate cost is the forfeited health and happiness of *both* partners, and often the survival of the marriage itself.

With a new afterword by the author, this groundbreaking study is as relevant today as when it was first published.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As more women work outside the home (54% in 1986) more tensions arise within their families. In this study of two-career parents, Hochschild, professor of sociology at UC Berkeley and herself a dual-career parent, identifies as "second shift" the domestic activity that occupies parents before they go to and after they return from office or shop. Conducted from 1981-1988, her interviews with working parents with children under age six reveal the inner lives of these families. We hear from women who are lawyers, executives, word processors, garment pattern cutters--and from their husbands, baby-sitters, friends and neighbors. There is agreement as to the difficulty of both parents working full time and raising children well; however, the perceptions of which partner shoulders prime responsibility vary. Even in self-perceived egalitarian couples, inequity appears, with women generally spending much more time than men on housework and childcare. This well-researched popular sociology book is presented with style and sympathy.

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From Library Journal

A sociological study of the two-career family. Hochschild conducted detailed interviews and home observations of 50 working couples raising children under six years of age to see how they balanced careers, household, and child-rearing tasks. The results yield no surprises. As we already know, women do the bulk of the housework and child care in addition to their outside jobs. Men contribute in varying degrees, but, in general help out less in the home. Couples are either traditional, transitional, or egalitarian, based on the way they divide these responsibilities and balance the power in their relationships. Phillip Blumstein and Pepper Schwartz's *American Couples: Money, Work, Sex* (LJ 10/15/83), as well as numerous articles, have told us these things already, but social science, women's studies, and public library collections may want to add this book. The extensive bibliography is quite useful.

- *Barbara M. Bibel, Oakland P.L., Cal.*

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Review

"A brilliant, urgently needed analysis of the new problems...of the working woman who 'has it all.'" -- *Betty Friedman*

"A fascinating read that makes us think twice about how much the Women's Movement still has to accomplish." -- *Parenting*

"Brings the dilemma of the working mother to life as never before. -- *Newsweek*

"No book analyzes the human impact of the work-family track for both sexes more perceptively or thoroughly than this...study..." -- *Newsday*

"The Second Shift is like a scream in the dark. It aches with truths. It cries out for change." -- *Seattle Post Intelligencer*

"The best discussion I have read on what must be the quintessential domestic bind of our time." -- *The New York Times Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henrietta Jimerson:

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