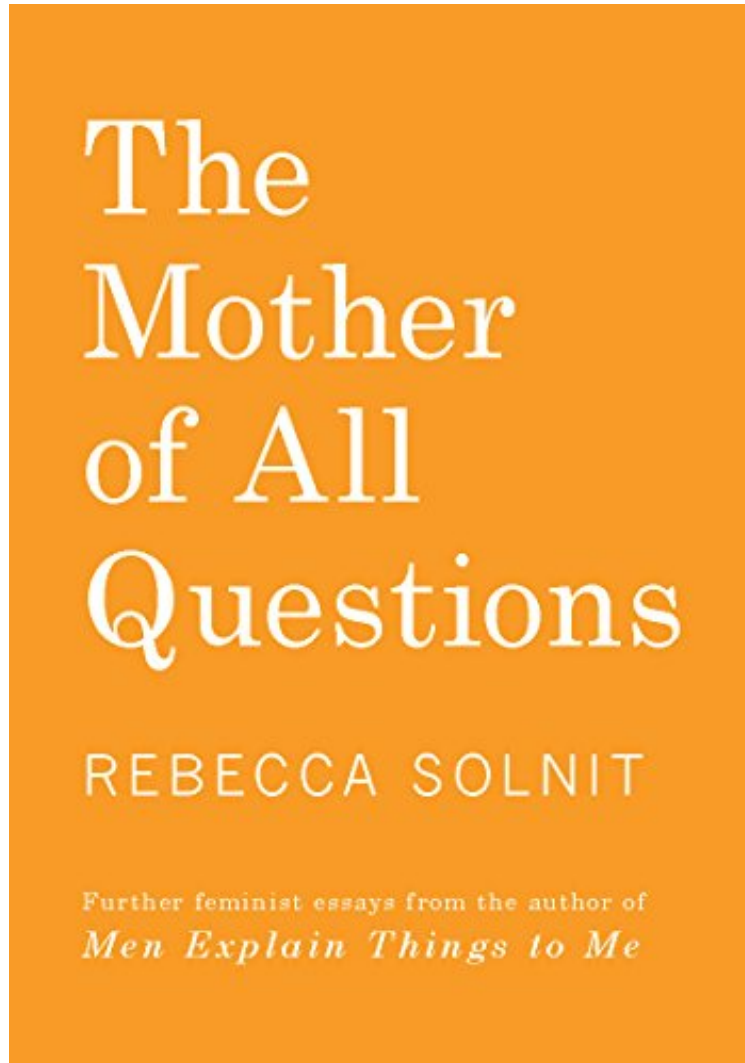


# The Mother of All Questions

Rebecca Solnit

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**Rebecca Solnit : The Mother of All Questions** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mother of All Questions:

61 of 65 people found the following review helpful. Mandatory reading: An explanation for why men need to join (but not replace) women in the feminist movement.By Donny RiceI preordered this book with high expectations, having recently finished Men Explain Things To Me. And let me say: It surpassed them! This book is a phenomenal look into how men need to (also) be feminists. What I especially appreciated about this book is that it was even more aware of intersectionality and privilege than Men Explain Things To Me. Solnit shows much more awareness and appreciation for not only race, sex, cisgender, sexual orientation, class, age, religion, etc. ... she also calls out how these combine

and interact. Another thing I like is how surprisingly relevant the book is, making references to occurrences as recent as Donald Trump's "Grab them by the pussy" comment. Now, I do not want to call this a flawless book. Remember, it is a collection of essays, and while they generally build upon each other, you might get to the end of the book and think, "What kind of ending was that?" I found the first half of the book especially exceptional, with the second half being still great, but not *as* great, especially with final chapter. But Solnit, as always, is a magician with her writing, and will take you on a meandering, but laser-focused, journey through modern-day feminism. 39 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Solnit explains things to men. By greg taylor The thinking behind this book is exactly the quality of thinking that has been missing in American civic life for this past election cycle. Solnit is incisive, challenging and more than a little disturbing. She is focused throughout this collection on the silence that patriarchy imposes on women (and, in a different way, on men) and the way that silence is extended to include people of color, lesbians, gay men, etc. In this review, I mostly want to talk to men who are challenged by and resistant to her arguments. One of Solnit's main themes is the role that violence or the threat of violence plays in maintaining patriarchy. I would like to recount for you two quick stories: Many years ago, I read a review of Susan Brownmiller's *Men Women and Rape* which stated that Brownmiller's thesis could be summarized as saying that all men want to rape all women. I found that summation absurd but it also made me wonder. So I performed a social experiment. For the next five years or so, I asked women (who I knew well enough) if they had ever been the victim of some sort of sexual assault. Out of the 20+ women who I had this conversation with, all of them said yes. The assaults ranged from men masturbating in front of them in some sort of public space to overly aggressive dates to actual rape one of which occurred at knife point. Some of these assaults were able to be laughed off and some changed the lives of the woman involved. All involved the possibility or actuality of violence. My second story comes from a recent bout of jury duty in Portland, OR. I was pooled along with 47 other people for a case involving resisting arrest. One of the questions that we all were asked was had we ever been the victim of a crime and, if so, what? Of the 24 or so women in our pool, 10 stated that they had been the victim of a sexual assault. None of the men had been the victim of a violent crime. My suggestion is to read Solnit as though you are thirsty and her book is a glass of water. Then go out and talk to some of the women you know about what you read and ask them what they think. And then listen to them. And then read Susan Brison's *Aftermath* and then listen some more. Maybe the best way for men and women to really have a real conversation about feminism, patriarchy and violence is for us men to be quiet for a while. Just saying. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoy her writing. By rolishopper Solnit is clear sighted and unafraid to speak the truth. I enjoy her writing.

In a timely follow-up to her national bestseller *Men Explain Things to Me*, Rebecca Solnit offers indispensable commentary on women who refuse to be silenced, misogynistic violence, the fragile masculinity of the literary canon, the gender binary, the recent history of rape jokes, and much more. In characteristic style, Solnit mixes humor, keen analysis, and powerful insight in these essays.

"There's a new feminist revolution – open to people of all genders – brewing right now and Rebecca Solnit is one of its most powerful, not to mention beguiling, voices." –Barbara Ehrenreich "These short, incisive essays that pack a powerful punch." –Publishers Weekly "A keen and timely commentary on gender and feminism. Solnit's voice is calm, clear, and unapologetic; each essay balances a warm wit with confident, thoughtful analysis, resulting in a collection that is as enjoyable and accessible as it is incisive." –Booklist "A thought-provoking and important anthology." –Library Journal "Trenchant and hopeful, the book reveals that the ongoing work of righting the wrongs of patriarchy is only part of a much larger project of social justice for all people. As always, Solnit is eloquent and sharply insightful." –Kirkus