

Material Girls: Making Sense of Feminist Cultural Theory

By Suzanna Danuta Walters



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Madonna, Murphy Brown, Thelma and Louise: These much-discussed media icons are the starting points of Suzanna Walter's brilliant, much-needed introduction to feminist cultural theory. Accessible yet theoretically sophisticated, up-to-date and entertaining, *Material Girls* acquaints readers with the major theories, debates, and concepts in this new and exciting field.

With numerous case studies and illustrations, Walters situates feminist cultural theory against the background of the women's movement and media studies. Using examples from film, television, advertising, and popular discourse, she looks at topics such as the "male gaze," narrative theory, and new work on female "ways of seeing" and spectatorship. Throughout, Walters provides a historically grounded account of representations of women in popular culture while critiquing the dominance of psychoanalytic and postmodern analyses.

The first comprehensive guide to the approaches and debates that make up this growing field, *Material Girls* belongs on the shelf of every cultural critic and savvy student today.



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Sales Rank: #1807254 in BooksPublished on: 1995-06-01

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.00" h x .63" w x 6.00" l, .77 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 221 pages

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"*Material Girls* is both a very accessible and a theoretically sophisticated work. It is highly valuable for graduate and undergraduate courses in women's studies, cultural studies, and sociology of culture courses. And Walters presents her own perspective on feminist cultural studies, making this an important book."—Andrea Walsh, Women's Studies Program, Harvard University

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Suzanna Danuta Walters is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University, and author of *Lives Together/Worlds Apart: Mothers and Daughters in Popular Culture* (California, 1992).

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