



## A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War

By Susan Griffin

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Written by one of America's most innovative and articulate feminists, this book illustrates how childhood experience, gender and sexuality, private aspirations, and public personae all assume undeniable roles in the causes and effects of war.

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## A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War By Susan Griffin Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Griffin combines history, myth and memoir to discuss the interplay of public warfare and private conflicts. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

In *A Chorus of Stones*, Griffin departs from her usual radical feminist analysis of issues as presented in *Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her* (LJ 2/1/79) and *Pornography and Silence* (LJ 5/15/81) as well as numerous works of fiction. Here, Griffin provides a psychology of war and violence, examining in particular how the denial and secrecy surrounding these events affects personal lives. As examples, she explores the lives of the families of workers on the Los Alamos project and at Oak Ridge, the background and psyche of Heinrich Himmler, the life of a British soldier in the Boer War and World War I, and Gandhi's resistance to violence and oppression. These are interwoven with autobiographical narrative that illustrate the effects of family denial and secrecy. Griffin's deep stream-of-consciousness style will not appeal to a wide variety of readers, but this is an important book for academic and large public libraries.

- Kathryn Moore Crowe, Univ. of North Carolina-Greensboro Lib.

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### Review

"Perhaps every moment of time lived in human consciousness remains in the air around us." With these words Susan Griffin begins to draw the connections between personal histories and the violent and often unspoken events of this century. Believing that "each solitary story belongs to a larger story," she tells us the sad and violent tale of her childhood. Her calm and mesmerizing style builds to a crescendo as she ties her memories to the life stories of more powerful individuals - the architects of modern war who have shaped our history. Susan Griffin presents some disturbingly provocative accounts of war's atrocities, the stories of bomb makers and bomb victims and the contents of once-classified government documents. Not only does she bring us face-to-face with the horrific underbelly of war and fascism, she makes us look fresh at our journey from innocent child to ruthless warmonger or war enabler. Adamant that society's gender biases continue to coerce men into the shadow of war, she challenges us to understand that not a shred of our violent past is ever forgotten, that in our conscious lives we have entered into a collective silence which erodes our ability to see truth and act responsibly. **A Chorus of Stones** is a profound and accessible book which infuses insight into the overwhelming moral dilemmas of our time. -- *For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14.* -- *From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Rebecca Sullivan*

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