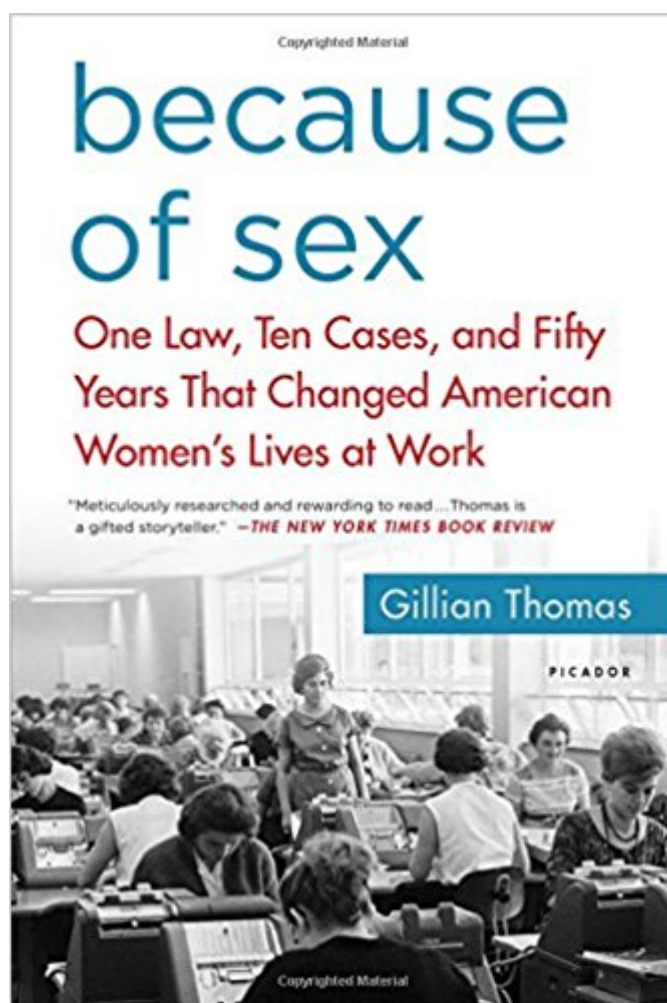


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Because Of Sex: One Law, Ten Cases, And Fifty Years That Changed American Women's Lives At Work



Synopsis

One of The New York Times's 10 Books to Read for Women's History Month Gillian Thomas's *Because of Sex* tells the story of how one law, our highest court, and a few tenacious women changed the American workplace forever. Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act revolutionized the lives of America's working women, making it illegal to discriminate "because of sex." But that simple phrase didn't mean much until ordinary women began using the law to get justice on the job—and some took their fights all the way to the Supreme Court. These unsung heroines' victories, and those of the other women profiled in *Because of Sex*, dismantled a Mad Men world where women could only hope to play supporting roles, where sexual harassment was "just the way things are," and where pregnancy meant getting a pink slip.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Thomas grips her reader from the start.. [she] writes with a narrative style that makes reading legal cases accessible and enjoyable." *Girl with Pen*, thesocietypages.org"Gives well-earned attention to women who remained unknown even as the causes they fought for gained support and the legal actions they brought entered the casebooks under their names." Linda Greenhouse, "The New York Review of Books""One of the brilliant aspects of this book is how it intertwines political history with developments in the law. In the end, this book is about the sacrifices women have made for women. It is about all of us and the commitment we will make to ensure dignity, respect, and equal rights for the average women who make this country great." Laurie Levenson, *LA Review of Books*"Thomas chronicles court cases crucial to Title VII, and in doing so, illustrates the decision's enduring

achievement." "Broadly"[Thomas's] book overflows with I can't believe he really said that stories and head-shaking moments stories that would be unbelievable if they weren't true... But the book is also full of strong women and their attorneys who fought back and won." Ms. Blog, "Telling Her Story," March 2016" Giving faces to the names of women who brought these cases, ' says one reader, 'makes this book remarkable beyond the important historical perspective it offers."

"Elle""Thomas writes with precision and grace (and a lovely lack of jargon) about 10 cases that established the full reach and scope of Title VII. The plaintiffs and attorneys she profiles here some of whose courage and determination render them truly heroic helped build the precedents that enable women to seek formerly male-only jobs, to work through marriage and parenthood, to be free from sexual harassment." "The Boston Globe" Meticulously researched and rewarding to read. Thomas is a gifted storyteller. "The New York Times Book Review" Compulsively readable a moving and informative account of a struggle for equality that remains incomplete." "Publisher's Weekly""A riveting read, particularly for fans of Gail Collins's "When Everything Changed."" Starred, "Library Journal""Eye-opening ...Although the author's well-delineated examples will ring outrageous to modern-day ears, she reminds us how much there is still to be achieved. " "Kirkus Reviews""It is because of sex that women are discriminated against in the workplace, and it is also because of sex that men are favoured in language. Maybe it's time to follow Thomas lead...and make that clear." A Little Feminist Blog on Language"Elegantly written and vividly described, Gillian Thomas's "Because of Sex" tells the fascinating story of the transformation of the American workforce. . It is a must read for anyone man or woman who puts on a uniform, or a suit, and goes to work every day." Clara Bingham co-author, "Class Action: The Landmark Case that Changed Sexual Harassment Law""In these gripping stories of the unsung women who helped lead the legal fight for gender equality, Gillian Thomas elegantly proves Justice Holmes's maxim, 'The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience, ' and she shows in vivid, painful detail how the brave battles of these plaintiffs made real life better for millions of their fellow Americans, women and men alike if, sadly, not always for themselves." Todd S. Purdum, author of "An Idea Whose Time Has Come: Two Presidents, Two Parties and the Battle for the Civil Rights Act of 1964""""Because of Sex" is the definitive and up to the minute account of one of if not the most important achievements of the feminist revolution: legal equality in the workplace. Not only does Thomas tell this invaluable story, she brings the wronged women, their lawyers, and even the bad actors on the other side to life in the most engaging way. The reader comes to care for these largely unsung heroines deeply and to learn a lot of law along the way. Brava!" Linda Hirshman, author of "Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor" and "Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World" A

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GILLIAN THOMAS is a senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Women's Rights Project. She previously litigated sex discrimination cases at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Atlantic, and Slate, and she has been interviewed by NPR and The Wall Street Journal, among others. She lives in Brooklyn.

This is an easy and interesting read that brings you into the lives of these courageous and the lawyers who defended them. I sent a copy to each of my daughters. I had hoped a woman president (HILLARY) would have been the topping to this great book. A must read for women AND men. When women are denied jobs and paid less, it hurts the entire family- generation after generation.

An incredible read. If you like the law, women, and biographies, this is one of the best books you'll ever read. Not only will you get a firm handle on the ten most important cases respecting women and employment just by reading this, but it's written so well, the pages turn themselves. Fascinating

and just a great read.

Very helpful reminder of how hard this fight always is!

This overview of the cases related to gender based discrimination was entertaining and informative. With each chapter focusing on one case - the flow is easy to stick with - and avoiding the repetition common in other books of this type.

My daughter is in law school and loved this book. She did say it was written rather simply. But if your not a law student that's probably a good thing.

An honest look at the issues women in the workforce have faced and continue to face. Inspiring tales of women who were brave enough to defend their rights in the face of so much resistance.

Great book and interesting storyline.

Interesting and well-researched. This is an important book that shows the unintended effects of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

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