

My Sister's Keeper Book List

Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Half the Sky lays out an agenda for the world's women and three major abuses: sex trafficking and forced prostitution; gender-based violence including honor killings and mass rape; maternal mortality, which needlessly claims one woman a minute. We know there are many worthy causes competing for attention in the world. We focus on this one because this kind of oppression feels transcendent – and so does the opportunity. Outsiders can truly make a difference.

The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World by Michelle Goldberg

An exploration of how and why women's reproductive rights are at the cross-roads of economics, politics, human rights, and the environment. *The Means of Reproduction* crosses four continents and examines issues from abortion to female circumcision to female infanticide, showing how the battle over women's bodies has become a global issue, and what consequences this has on over half the world's population. Goldberg also explains how empowering women and giving them reproductive choice could solve many of the world's most problematic health and human rights issues.

Women, Work, and Poverty: Women Centered Research for Policy Change by Heidi Hartman. Starting with the passage of the welfare reform bill in 1986, this book explores the effect poverty has on all aspects of a woman's life--including marriage, child care, employment, and education--and proposes new labor market policies that could reduce poverty and improve equal pay standards.

Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy by Arlie Hochschild & Barbara Ehrenreich. This series of articles that explore the consequences of globalization on women's lives as they leave their home countries in search of employment in affluent First World countries. By focusing on the traditional movement of labor on the basis of supply and demand, *Global Woman* explores how this transfer of women workers affects the culture in both poor and wealthy countries. The enormous rise in the sex trade, both voluntary and coerced, is also considered.

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World by Jacqueline Novogratz. In this memoir, Jacqueline Novogratz (founder of Acumen Fund) recounts her early experiences developing microfinance organizations in Africa to assist women and her later experience returning to Rwanda after the genocide. *The Blue Sweater* offers an insider's view of what global poverty initiatives, specifically microfinance, can do for women in developing nations.

When the Stars Fall to The Earth by Rebecca Tinsley. This is the story of five young Darfuri refugees as they run from their villages to escape certain death from the Sudanese militia. Author and former BBC journalist Rebecca Tinsley takes readers on a roller coaster ride of gut-wrenching atrocities and uplifting victories, leaving everyone with a story of hope and promise for Africa's future. Proceeds from this book go to Network 4 Africa, an organization devoted to helping genocide survivors rebuild their lives.

The Trouble with the Alphabet by Caryn West. The book highlights 26 different countries, one for each letter of the alphabet. The countries selected represent the wide range of human rights abuses and injustices that plague the world and prey on the smallest and youngest in society – the children. Each chapter closes with a respected non-governmental organization working in that country to provide every reader an opportunity to move from apathy to activism...one reader at a time.