

FROM REMEMBRANCE TO RESISTANCE: WHAT COMES NEXT

This book has documented millennia of blame, erasure, and violence. You've read about women burned, forgotten, stolen from, silenced, and deleted.

Now what?

Documentation without action is just another form of archiving women in the past tense.

The patterns we've traced—from Eve to NASA, from witch pyres to Wikipedia gaps—are not historical curiosities. They are active, ongoing systems that operate right now, in your workplace, your government, your community, your algorithms, your texts.

Recognition is the first step. Action is the necessary second.

Individual Actions: What You Can Do Today

1. Interrupt erasure in real time

When someone's idea is repeated without attribution: "That's what [Name] said five minutes ago."

When credit is being assigned: "Who else worked on this? Let's document everyone's contribution."

When someone is interrupted: "I'd like to hear the rest of [Name]'s point."

Do this even when it's uncomfortable. Especially when it's uncomfortable.

2. Cite women

When you're writing, teaching, or sharing information:

- Actively seek out women's work
- Cite original sources, not men who cited women
- Check your references—what percentage are women?
- Go deeper than the famous names everyone knows

Every citation is a choice about whose work we amplify.

3. Edit Wikipedia

Seriously. If each reader of this book added or improved one article about a woman, we'd add thousands of women to the digital record.

Art+Feminism hosts edit-a-thons. Women in Red tracks missing women's biographies. You can help.

4. Challenge AI

When ChatGPT or other AI gives you a list of "great scientists/writers/leaders" that's all men, push back: "Now give me the women who made comparable contributions."

AI learns from use patterns. Make it learn to value women's contributions.

5. Support women's work with money

Buy books by women. Support women-owned businesses. Donate to organizations fighting for reproductive justice, Indigenous women's rights, and gender equity.

Economic support is recognition that counts.

6. Teach children differently

Tell girls:

- "You're smart" (not just "you're pretty")
- "Your ideas matter" (not just "you're so helpful")
- "You can be loud" (not just "you're such a good girl when you're quiet")

Tell boys:

- "Share the space" (not just "let the girls go first")
- "Listen when others speak" (not just "good idea!")
- "Credit others' ideas" (not just "you're so smart")

The next generation doesn't have to repeat these patterns if we don't teach them to.

Institutional Actions: What Organizations Must Do

1. Audit credit systems

- Who's getting promoted?
- Whose names are on publications?
- Who speaks at conferences?
- Who's invited to leadership?

If the pattern is consistently male, the system is biased.

2. Change documentation practices

- Name individuals, not “teams”
- Use active voice: “[Name] discovered” not “It was found that”
- Require explicit attribution in collaborative work
- Preserve full contributor lists even when journals limit author names

3. Mandate pay equity audits

- Compare salaries for equivalent work
- Include unpaid labor in economic analyses
- Provide paid parental leave (not just maternity leave)
- Value care work as professional experience

4. Redesign AI systems

- Audit training data for gender bias
- Test outputs for discriminatory patterns
- Build evaluation into women's contributions
- Create algorithmic accountability mechanisms

5. Protect women's knowledge from appropriation

- Enforce plagiarism policies rigorously
- Investigate claims of stolen credit seriously
- Create consequences for credit theft
- Establish clear authorship protocols

Systemic Actions: What Society Must Demand

1. Reproductive justice as human right

- Access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare
- Legal protection for bodily autonomy
- End to forced sterilization (yes, it still happens)
- Support for chosen parenthood in all forms

2. Economic recognition of unpaid labor

- Count domestic work in GDP calculations
- Social Security credits for caregiving years
- Universal childcare as public infrastructure
- Compensation for care work

3. Truth and reconciliation for historical erasure

- Official acknowledgment of women's stolen contributions
- Rewriting of textbooks to include accurate history
- Renaming of buildings/awards to include erased women
- Reparations for specific harms (forced sterilization, medical exploitation)

4. Legal frameworks protecting women's contributions

- Stronger intellectual property protections
- Credit theft as prosecutable offense
- Workplace policies requiring attribution
- Digital rights protecting against deepfakes and harassment

5. Indigenous sovereignty and women's leadership

- Recognition of Indigenous women's land rights
- Investigation of MMIW cases
- Support for Indigenous women-led solutions

- End to policies that disempower Indigenous women

The Tools We Have That They Didn't

Previous generations of women fought erasure with limited tools:

- They whispered stories in kitchens
- They hid manuscripts
- They wrote under male names
- They preserved knowledge through daughters
- They survived

We have more.

We have:

- Digital archives that can't be burned
- Decentralized networks that no single authority controls
- Global communication that connects us instantly
- DNA evidence that proves claims of stolen credit
- Data analysis that reveals patterns of bias
- Social media that amplifies voices
- Legal precedents protecting some rights (even as we fight to keep them)
- Historical documentation of all the ways erasure operates (including this book)

Most importantly, we have each other.

We have networks of women who refuse to be silent. We have men who choose to be allies rather than appropriators. We have institutions beginning to acknowledge their complicity. We have a generation raised to question everything.

And we have choice—the same choice Eve made:

Choose knowledge over obedience. Choose truth over comfort. Choose voice over silence. Choose action over complicity.

To The Women Reading This

You are not alone in an empty library.

You stand in a lineage stretching back to Inanna and her descent into the underworld, to Hypatia teaching in Alexandria, to Hildegard writing in her cloister, to Margaret Hansen keeping her ledger, to Katherine Johnson calculating trajectories, to every woman who insisted her work mattered even when the world said it didn't.

Their blood is in your veins. Their courage is in your cells. Their defiance is your inheritance.

You don't have to be exceptional to matter. You don't have to be flawless to deserve recognition. You don't have to be silent to be good.

Your work counts. Your ideas matter. Your name belongs on your contributions. Your body belongs to you. Your voice deserves to be heard.

And when someone tries to erase you—in a meeting, in a publication, in a decision about your body, in a system designed to minimize your existence—remember:

They tried to erase Eve. We're still here. They tried to erase Inanna. We're still here. They tried to erase thousands of women. We're. Still. Here.

Erasure has never been permanent.

Because women remember. Women document. Women preserve. Women resist. Women rebuild. Women return.

We are the archivists of our own lives, the authors of our own stories, and the inheritors of all the women who refused to disappear.

The Last Word (Which Isn't Really Last)

This book ends here.

Your work begins now.

Choose one woman from these pages and research her further. Choose one pattern and interrupt it. Choose one space where women are erased and insert them back in. Choose one moment where credit is stolen and demand attribution. Choose one girl who needs to hear that her voice matters and tell her.

Choose action over silence.

Because the opposite of erasure isn't remembrance.

The opposite of erasure is presence.

And you are present.

Now make sure you stay that way.

The work continues. And you're part of it now.