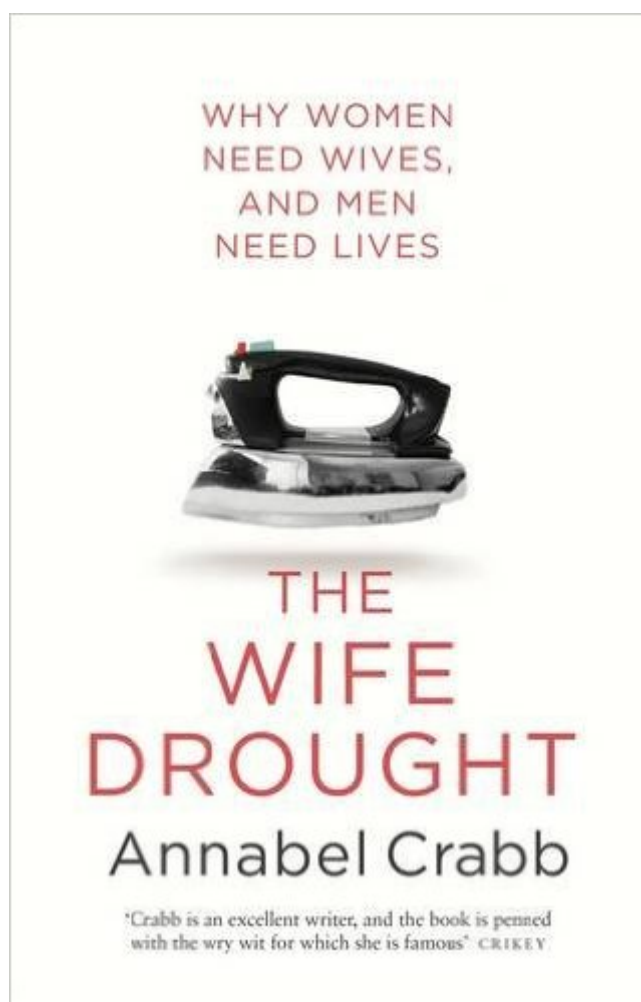


The book was found

The Wife Drought



Synopsis

For decades, feminism has argued the case for getting women into the workplace. Affirmative action, support schemes, paid maternity leave... all valuable devices, and yet still we agonize over why women aren't better represented in the boardrooms and ministries of this country. But the answer is so shriekingly obvious, and yet hardly anybody ever acknowledges it. It's because for women, the opportunity to work at those elite levels usually means opting out of having a family. Either that, or working like a lunatic whilst being plagued by personal guilt on one hand and the covert critique of other mothers on the other. The greatest asset male executives, politicians, and sportspeople have enjoyed throughout centuries of success is one that never appears on balance sheets or tax returns. And yet this asset keeps their lives turning over more efficiently than an accommodating accountant or the most obliging of personal assistants. And it is: The Wife. "Why can't I have a wife?" It's a common joke among busy women. But it's not a joke. Male politicians who reach their 40s without having children are so rare as to be remarkable, but politics is full of women who are childless. Why? Because if you want to combine kids with an elite career, the first thing you need (if you're going to have the best possible shot at it) is a stay-at-home spouse. And it's awfully hard to interest a bloke in a gig like that. This book is not a shout of rage, but it is asking us to sit up and listen. Sometimes as women we spend too much time thinking about flexibility from only one perspective--ours. But what about the men? Shouldn't the fight for workplace flexibility extend to men as well? And then perhaps it wouldn't be seen as such an anomaly to see a man in a part-time role so he can spend more time with the kids? Cliche but true: kids need their fathers, too. This book is full of stories from the author's work in and around politics and media, and involves anecdotes about high-profile women--and men. It will look at some research about flexibility in the workplace; it will look at statistics about childlessness and correlation to financial success for women and men. It will include some embarrassing disclosures about things Annabel Crabb has done to make life work in a busy career with three children. It will look at what happens to men who pitch in and take responsibility for their children. It will seek out some blokes who have made the decision to do more at home, and it will love them up pretty concertedly. It will contain some advice about how to build your own artificial wife, using trained partners, child care, friends, and family. This is a shout-out to men and women everywhere to take control.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Random House Australia (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0857984284

ISBN-13: 978-0857984289

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #923,338 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #164 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Women in Politics #1479 in Â Books > Business & Money > Business Culture > Workplace Culture #1754 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Feminist Theory

Customer Reviews

'Whether theyâ™re men or women, though, the main thing wives are is a cracking professional asset.â™ Many women who juggle work and family responsibilities would like to have a wife. Someone to take care of the domestic stuff, including cooking, cleaning, childcare and ironing. In some households these responsibilities are shared, but why â “ in the second decade of the 21st century â “ is this still an issue? After all, equality (of opportunity and pay) has been around for forty years or more, or has it?â™ Who gets wives? Dads do. Most mums have to make do with alternative arrangements.â™ This entertaining and thought-provoking work is about men and women, family and work. About the barriers that exist for men as well as for women in trying to balance work and family. About the differences in approach to work which, for me, a comment by George Megalogenis (included in the book) summarises neatly: â “ Women have trouble asking for pay rises, and men have trouble asking for time offâ™. Thatâ™s surely part of it, but my own observation is that men are not always able to get the same flexible working arrangements available to women in the same workplaces. How many of these barriers are cultural, as distinct from legal? While Ms Crabbe is writing about Australia, many of the issues will apply similarly in other developed economies.â™ Well having a wife is an economic privilege. A privilege far more men enjoy than women. But itâ™s a state of affairs so broadly accepted as to be barely mentioned.â™ Some of us who read this book have managed to survive the experience of combining full-time work and parenting.

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