



## The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory (Bloomsbury Revelations)

By Carol J. Adams

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*The Sexual Politics of Meat* is Carol Adams' inspiring and controversial exploration of the interplay between contemporary society's ingrained cultural misogyny and its obsession with meat and masculinity. First published in 1990, the book has continued to change the lives of tens of thousands of readers into the second decade of the 21st century.

Published in the year of the book's 25th anniversary, the *Bloomsbury Revelations* edition includes a substantial new afterword, including more than 20 new images and discussions of recent events that prove beyond doubt the continuing relevance of Adams' revolutionary book.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Many cultures equate meat-eating with virility, and in some societies women offer men the "best" (i.e., bloodiest) food at the expense of their own nutritional needs. Building upon these observations, feminist activist Adams detects intimate links between the slaughter of animals and violence directed against women. She ties the prevalence of a carnivorous diet to patriarchal attitudes, such as the idea that the end justifies the means, and the objectification of others. In *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley made her Creature a vegetarian, a point Adams relates to the Romantics' radical politics and to visionary novels by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Dorothy Bryant and others. Adams, who teaches at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, sketches the alliance of vegetarianism and feminism in antivivisection activism, the suffrage movement and 20th-century pacifism. Her original, provocative book makes a major contribution to the debate on animal rights. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Writer/activist/university lecturer Adams's important and provocative work compares myths about meat-eating with myths about manliness; and explores the literary, scientific, and social connections between meat-eating, male dominance, and war. Drawing on such diverse sources as butchering texts, cookbooks, Victorian "hygiene" manuals, and Alice Walker, the author provides a compelling case for inextricably linking feminist and vegetarian theory. This book is likely to both inspire and enrage readers across the political spectrum: we learn, for example, that veal was served at Gloria Steinem's 50th birthday, as well as of the atrocities of the slaughterhouse. One wishes Adams had been more careful about documenting some of her claims--her contention, for instance, that early humans were entirely vegetarian, requires scholarly support. Nevertheless this is recommended for both public and academic collections.

- Beverly Miller, *Boise State Univ. Lib., Id.*

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Review

"A bible of the vegan community." *?New York Times*

"Important and provocative ... Likely to inspire and enrage readers across the political spectrum." *?Library Journal*

"Adams' original, provocative book makes a major contribution to the debate on animal rights." *?Publishers Weekly*

"In the 20th-anniversary edition of this thought-provoking book, Adams explores the links between the slaughter of animals and violence directed against women, and ties the carnivorous diet to such patriarchal ideas as 'the end justifies the means.'" *?Toronto Globe and Mail*

"...a richly polemical discussion of the relationships among patriarchal culture, the exploitation of women and of animals, and the politics of meat-eating." *?New York Review of Books*

"Adams' argument in *The Sexual Politics of Meat* is as elegant as it is disturbing ... It makes even the most cognizant among us feel a twinge of shame for not noticing, and reacting, sooner, and with due outrage."  
-James McWilliams, *Pacific Standard*

“The Sexual Politics of Meat couldn't be more timely, or more disturbing.” ?*Environmental Ethics*

“Adams’ argument in *The Sexual Politics of Meat* is as elegant as it is disturbing ... It makes even the most cognizant among us feel a twinge of shame for not noticing, and reacting, sooner, and with due outrage.” – James McWilliams, *Pacific Standard*

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