



The Suffragettes

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'Once they are aroused, once they are determined, nothing on earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible.'

A potted history of the women who pioneered feminism and changed the world.

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The Suffragettes Details

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From Reader Review The Suffragettes for online ebook

Emily Turner says

This little book of just 60 pages gives us a concise insight into the history of the suffragette movement and anti-suffrage movement. It is filled with speeches, including the 'Freedom or Death' speech by Emmeline Pankhurst, as well as suffragette posters, newspaper articles, pamphlets and letters. This penguin little black classic is divided into three chapters, which are as follows: Suffrage, Anti-suffrage and Victory.

Sofia says

"We think that the vote is but the prelude to a social revolution which must set back progress, for we believe in the division of functions as the keystone of civilisation. It is as if the animals on a farm should insist on changing places - the cows insist upon drawing the coach, while the horses strive in vain to chew the cud and ruminate." - The Opponent's View, Women's National Anti-Suffrage League by Mrs. Frederic Harrison

I chose this particular passage of this book because it's important to note that such a brave, important and necessary movement by The Suffragettes was also opposed by a grand majority of women that didn't want anything to change, they settled on being submitted to men. This still happens nowadays when women fight each other and degrade each other and forget that we should unite ourselves to find that equality between both sexes that it's still very far from being achieved. Women weren't even taking serious by other women which shows that not only did (and still do) women need to prove themselves to men (which shouldn't be necessary) but we still need to prove ourselves to other women, our sisters. We need to find that union because we're all equals. This is a must read.

Suzi says

A nice little "summary" of the history of the suffragettes. It really makes you realise how far women's rights have come and how hard women have fought for these rights (even if there is still a lot to do, it's amazing how much has been accomplished already). However, the book was sometimes a little... dense: hence the three stars.

Xx

Tamsien West (Babbling Books) says

A great little selection of pamphlets, posters, newspaper articles & speeches related to the Suffragette movement in the UK. The collection is divided into 3 sections; for, against and victory.

I found the section on opposition to women's right to vote the most interesting. There was a lot in the language used which still echoes in our own time, in the sexism still retained by society. Interestingly the article featured was from a group of women opposed to women's suffrage. Which I think is important to

remember.

Of course such a tiny book cannot hope to encompass the complexity of the movement, of opinions within and without it, but I do think it's a nice little introduction that prompts further reading.

Overall one of the most enjoyable little Penguins I have read.

Ilaria says

Once they aroused, once they are determined, nothing on earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible.

Margot Vandersmissen says

Hey wow dude if you wanna gain a whole lot of insight in the Suffragette movement (AND the anti-suffrage movement!) in, like, 60 pages, you should pick this lil book up! It only costs one literal pound and it also is filled with really cool old newspaper articles and speeches and some hysterical anti-suffrage advertisements

ChrisDQ says

"Once they are aroused, once they are determined, nothing on earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible."

A small, enjoyable and interesting look into the Time of the Suffragettes. This Little Black Classic is full of speeches, posters, pamphlets and newspaper articles. Even a small view in the Anti-Suffragette movement, which seems silly and ridiculous now; it is a great feeling we can laugh about that now (most of the time), because the thought that women once had to seriously face these kind of opinions is scary as hell.

Barbara Rodrigues says

Um livro que todas as mulheres deveriam ler para terem uma pequena noção do que algumas mulheres tiveram de enfrentar para nós hoje termos direito a votar.

Yoana says

Hugely informative little book. The most impressive thing about it is how little anti-feminist rhetoric has changed in 100+ years. In fact it hasn't changed at all. Isn't that sad.

The book is divided into three sections: *Suffrage*, *Anti-Suffrage*, and *Victory*, the last one consisting of the relevant texts from the two Representation of the People Acts (1918 and 1928) and a newspaper article about

the number of voters swelling after each franchise bill.

So basically the suffrage movement had two branches - one sucking up to men, the "constitutional" suffragists who loved to emphasise how law-abiding and good they are (NUWSS). And the "militant" one whose members had grown a tad impatient with waiting, for 43 years and three reforms, to get recognition for women as regular citizens (WSPU). Can you guess which one got the job done?

Yup. People in power will never willingly give it up. Women were not "given" the vote, they won it by relentless and increasingly militant fighting. As Emmeline Pankhurst says in her speech given in Hartford, Connecticut, and published in the book, you have to make yourself obtrusive - and they did.

Though it is decidedly noteworthy that the militant actions of the suffragettes mentioned in this book (which I know is nowhere near exhaustive) only inflict property damage and damage to themselves. They set a library on fire - but during the night, and nobody was hurt. They cut off telegraphic communication between stockbrokers in London and Glasgow, upsetting their work. Miss Davison threw herself at a horse at a derby (and sadly died from her injuries), and her previous record, as reported in the newspaper article about the incident, consisted of obstruction, throwing stones at buildings, hunger strikes, setting fire to pillar-boxes and one assault. The suffragettes themselves emphasise that they are only willing to risk their own lives in their militant actions:

Human life for us is sacred, but we say if any life is to be sacrificed it shall be ours; we won't do it ourselves, but we will put the enemy in the position where they will have to choose between giving us freedom or giving us death.

What I found fascinating and a little disturbing is how closely the discourse from 110 years ago resembles our modern discourse on feminism, on both sides. Observe:

From the *Suffrage* section:

We women, in trying to make our case clear, always have to make as part of our argument, and urge upon men in our audience the fact - a very simple fact - that women are human beings.

It is about eight years since the word militant was first used to describe what we were doing. It was not militant at all, except that it provoked militancy on the part of those who were opposed to it.

From the *Anti-Suffrage* section:

They call it "justice" and "equality". It is nothing of the kind. It is the **subjection of man to woman.**

Men of all ages have had to do the brunt of the world's business, and ought to govern.

The *Suffrage* section was by far the most interesting. I especially enjoyed the newspaper report of an underaged suffragette whom the judge had decided to let go and wrote to her parents to come pick her up, to which they said they'd raised her in "Socialistic and Progressive beliefs", and that she'd requested that her father ask the judge to give her the same sentence as the other arrested suffragists, which he intended to do.

The militant suffragettes had a great sense of humour, too, it seems - when they set fire to that library, they left a book by Christabel Pankhurst at the site with a note reading: "To start your new library".

And finally, a few quotes I think merit attention:

To be militant in some way or other [...] is a duty every woman will owe to her own consciousness and self-respect, to other women are less fortunate than she herself is, and to all those who are to come after her.

This is the whole history of politics. You have to make more noise than anybody else, you have to be more obtrusive than anybody else, you have to fill all the papers more than anybody else, in fact you have to be there all the time and see that they do not snow you under.

[T]here is a good deal of warfare for which men take a great deal of glorification which has involved more practical sacrifice on women than it has on any man. It has always been so. The grievances of those who have got power [...] command a great deal of attention; but the wrongs and grievances of those people who have got no power at all are apt to be absolutely ignored. This is the history of humanity right from the beginning.

A large number of amiable but short-sighted M.P.'s **are willing to grant the demand, without getting your permission.**

Save suffragists women from themselves and other women from Suffragists.

(All bolded and underlined text in the quotes was so in the original.)

Cristina Leitón says

Once they are aroused, once they are determined, nothing on earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible.

Si buscas un texto de ensayo sobre la historia del movimiento sufragista, no lo vas a encontrar en este librito. Se trata, más bien, de una recopilación de panfletos, portadas de periódicos y textos de la época que nos permiten ver de primera mano lo que se publicaba mientras las mujeres luchaban por el voto femenino y el derecho a ser parte activa de la sociedad. Algunos documentos son muy curiosos y otros, reveladores. No puedo estar más contenta con estas joyitas que son los Penguin Little Black Classics.

Elisa says

This tiny little Penguin Classic actually contained a surprising amount of information, including letters, articles, speeches and bills of law, all focused on the time during and after the fight for women's vote.

Some of it made me cringe, some of it made me mad, and most of it made me feel incredibly proud to even belong to the same gender of the brave women who went through SO much to gain one more step towards equality for all of us!!

Such an incredible achievement, I am in awe and inspired, and more determined than ever to show people why feminism is still needed, and why we need to push for equal rights even when we have already achieved them *for ourselves* , but know that not everyone has.

This is how we pay it forward — what we have now, achieved through hard work and determination by those who came before us — by standing up and speaking up for those who can't speak for themselves
???????

Jojo says

"Once they are aroused, once they are determined, nothing on earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible"

This beautiful little book had been calling out to me for the past couple of weeks. Although this could easily be devoured in an hour, I decided to take my time.

This amazing little book contains legal documents, posters, leaflets and newspaper articles all about the UK Suffragette movement. It was interesting to hear from different sides, especially those who were actually against the vote. To be honest, reading the opposing side of women getting the vote, actually made me a little angry! This is where my feminist side comes out!

I still have difficulty getting my head around the fact that it wasn't until 1928, that women received the same voting rights as men. I see it as women were FINALLY recognised as being human beings.

Jennifer says

This is interesting and educational read on the Suffragette movement in England and it's information comes from pamphlets and newspaper articles of the time. A lot of this information I didn't know and I liked reading the opposing arguments.

Aimee says

3.5 stars!

Christine Spoors says

A very interesting little book of newspaper articles, pamphlets, posters and legal documents surrounding the Suffragette movement in the UK - focusing mainly on England. The book was split into three sections: Suffrage, Anti-Suffrage and Victory and I found it really interesting to learn more about the women. Especially those opposing the vote. It's so wild to think that it wasn't until 1928 that women got the same voting rights as men!

I'd definitely recommend if you're thinking about picking some up some of these Little Black Classics.
