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SCUM Manifesto



Synopsis

First circulated on the streets of Greenwich Village in 1967, the SCUM Manifesto is a searing indictment of patriarchal culture in all its forms. Shifting fluidly between the worlds of satire and straightforward critique, this classic is a call to action—a radical feminist vision for a different world. This is an update of the essential AK Press edition, with a new foreword. To see the SCUM Manifesto's humor, to let it crack you up page after page, is not to read it as a joke. It's not. The truth of the world as seen through Valerie's eyes is patently absurd, a cosmic joke. Humor such as this is a muscle, a weapon. It was the truth, and the truth is so absurd it's painful. • Michelle Tea; Unhampered by propriety, niceness, discretion, public opinion, morals, the respect of assholes, always funky, dirty, low-down SCUM gets around... You've got to go through a lot of sex to get to anti-sex, and SCUM's been through it all, and they're now ready for a new show; they want to crawl out from under the dock, move, take off, sink out. • Valerie Solanas Valerie Solanas was a radical feminist playwright and social propagandist who was arrested in 1968 after her attempted assassination of Andy Warhol. Deemed a paranoid schizophrenic by the state, Solanas was immortalized in the 1996 film I Shot Andy Warhol. In Oakland, California on March 24, 2015 a fire destroyed the AK Press warehouse along with several other businesses. Please consider visiting the AK Press website to learn more about the fundraiser to help them and their neighbors.

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Customer Reviews

The manifesto opens with Solonas' claiming that women must "destroy the male sex" and demands women birth only female children from now on. She describes men as "biological accidents[s]," "walking abortion[s]" and "emotional cripple[s]." She details the supposed negative effects inherent male defectiveness has on society. Most of her incredibly questionable assertions are bigoted statements about men, but she also makes other outlandish claims, like "the problems of aging and death could be solved within a few years." The remainder of the book is a call to create SCUM, a terrorist organization/movement that will take over society through theft, sabotage, vandalism, forcibly removing people from their jobs, taking over news media, forcibly breaking up heterosexual couples and murder. Lots of murder. Solanas clearly states, ""SCUM will kill all men who are not in the Men's Auxiliary of SCUM." Although, even being part of the Men's Auxiliary is "not a sufficient condition for making SCUM's escape list." On the other hand, even women who do not cooperate with SCUM will be spared, because Solanas believes killing women would confuse the public's perception of SCUM. She also thinks it is unnecessary. Unlike men, she believes women are "improvable" and if SCUM can "eliminate men" then "women will shape up." The book provides basic details about how the organization/movement will operate. SCUM will always rely on criminal activities and not "picket, demonstrate, march or strike to attempt to achieve its ends." SCUM will actively recruit.

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