

A Woman's Place

Naomi Wolf

Biography

- Born In San Francisco in 1962 into Jewish family
- BA in English Literature from Yale
- Continued education at New College, Oxford on Scholarship
- *The Beauty Myth, Fire with Fire, Promiscuities, Misconceptions*
- *Considered part of Third-wave feminist movement (early 90's)*
- Advisor to Bill Clinton and Al Gore in Clinton's 1996 re-election bid
- Accused Harold Bloom of "sexual encroachment"
- Arrested at a protest

Situation & Audience

- May 17, 1992
- Commencement Speech at Scripps College
- All Women's liberal arts college
- Less than 1000 students in 2018
- No constraints
- Previous and future speakers both men and women

Organization

Introduction: Attention grabbing

“My own commencement, at Yale, eight years ago, was the Graduation from Hell. The speaker was Dick Cavett, rumored to have been our president's "brother" in an all-male secret society”

Conclusion:

“Next time, ask: What's the worst that will happen? Then push yourself a little further than you dare. Once you start to speak, people **will** yell at you. They **will** interrupt you, put you down and suggest it's personal. And the world won't end.”

Body: Consists of 4 messages

1. You have already "Become a woman"

I say that you have already shown courage: Many of you graduate today in spite of the post-traumatic syndrome of acquaintance rape, which one-fourth of female students undergo. Many of you were so weakened by anorexia and bulimia that it took every ounce of your will to get your work in. You negotiated private lives through a minefield of new strains of VD and the ascending shadow of AIDS. Triumphant survivors, you have already "become women."

2. Ask for money in your lives._ Expect it. Own it. Learn to use it. Little girls learn a debilitating fear of money -- that it's not feminine to insure we are fairly paid for honest work. Meanwhile, women make 68 cents for every male dollar and half of marriages end in divorce, after which women's income drops precipitously.
3. Never cook for or sleep with anyone who routinely puts you down.
4. "Become goddesses of disobedience. Virginia Woolf once wrote that we must slay the Angel in the House, the censor within. Young women tell me of injustices, from campus rape coverups to classroom sexism..."

Style

- Strong word choice and does not avoid trigger words.
- Can see this in her 4 messages
- Talks about rape, eating disorders, STD's, pornography, and even calls out a former colleague
- Active voice
- Inspirational