

Barbie's History

By Cristina Aguilar

The signifier for Mattel's Barbie has always been some unattainable beauty standard. The Barbie dolls have been greatly criticized for instilling these unrealistic beauty standards within young girls.

In my personal experience, my mom never let me play with Barbies, she wanted me to play with something more realistic like the American Girl Dolls. The blonde blue eyed Barbie beauty was seen everywhere when I was growing up.

Although I was never allowed to play with the dolls it was so relevant in popular culture I definitely was exposed to Barbie through its different movie and series adaptations. Mattel's original Barbie doll proportions, "Scaled up to life size (multiplying each of her [Barbie cont. pg 3])



All I Want For Christmas Is

Gender Equality

By Elizabeth Rivabem

Now that the holidays are coming up, children all around the world are writing their letters to Santa. Many girls will beg Jolly Ole St. Nick to leave them princess dolls to play dress-up with and just as many boys will eagerly await toy cars and video games. A past interview with Mr. Kamal James inspired this question: is wanting to be a princess inherently bad? Not necessarily.

After thinking about it and reading for quite some time, I realized that playing with dolls and

loving the color pink are not just rules of what girls should like based on what the patriarchy has imposed. The issue is much more complex. Rather than labeling these preferences as "good" or "bad," we should be asking ourselves "why?" Why is it that so many girls would rather wear tiaras than astronaut helmets? Society has typically reinforced the gender stereotype of men being powerful while women take on a supporting role (e.g. Prince Phillip and Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*). Girls are pressured to look pretty and obey societal beauty standards, from painting their nails to obtaining an often unrealistically slim figure. Meanwhile, boys are encouraged to be strong leaders— to lead their sports teams and be "men of the household." Although there are exceptions, these stereotypes are ubiquitous

in the US. However, some girls feel empowered when they embrace what society has associated with femininity. They strive not to be frail princesses, but mighty queens. Women who enjoy make-up should not be shamed for doing what they love, but we should think twice before celebrating the standards that make females feel like they have to conform. Consider what is motivating you to purchase certain gifts over others for the women in your life. Are you doing it because the item is something she would like, or is it because she is a girl? Mariah Carey may have wanted her special someone for the holidays, but I hope that this year makes people more conscious of how and why their decisions impact their loved ones.

*Icon made by Smashicons with
www.flaticon.com*





First But Not Last: Kamala Harris Becomes Highest Elected Woman in America

By Katie Lewis

On the night of Nov. 7, former Senator Kamala Harris stood before a sea of honking cars and cheering supporters to deliver her [victory speech](#) after being elected as the next Vice President of the United States. She wore a [white suit](#), symbolically representing the fight for women's suffrage, the very reason she was able to take the stage that night at all. The daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants, Harris spoke about the importance of democracy and her gratitude towards her family, voters, and President-Elect Joe Biden for giving her the opportunity to serve as the first female vice presi-

dent.

To anyone who attended the victory speech in Wilmington, Del. or watched it live on television, it was clear that viewers were witnessing a historic moment in our country's history. While there still has yet to be a female American president, simply the fact that we have elected not only the first woman, but the first Black and Asian-American woman, to office shows that a massive amount of progress has been made in terms of government representation. Many young women who watched Harris speak to the nation that night [felt for the first time](#) that someone who looked like them and understood

their struggles was in charge, and that it was possible for women to be leaders of a nation in crisis.

Some [feminists criticize](#) Biden's deliberate choice of a woman of color as vice president, claiming it to be patronizing and prioritizing his running mate's race and gender over her accomplishments and qualification for the job. There is also still plenty of misogyny towards Harris, including her opposers' tendency to describe her as "[too ambitious](#)" and "radical," rather than "leading" or "forward-thinking," terms many are more likely to use towards a male candidate of the same caliber.

However, to the majority of feminists, these accusations do not hold ground; it is the responsibility of men in power, like Biden, to share it with women in order to achieve a truly equal political climate. Additionally, most of the sexist language directed towards Harris is from the same lexicon that has been applied to [many other female politicians throughout history](#). Harris is more than just her gender and she is more than just her race. But for this moment, regardless of opinion on Harris's political stances or her ambitious personality, let's allow America to celebrate the progress we have made. "While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," she said. "Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."



Doing the Unthinkable

By Olivia Martin-Johnson

High-ranking women tend to have stories of prejudices that they had to face to become as successful as they are. In other words, women are treated unequal in most work environments and must do more work to be noticed than their male counterparts. Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, is an example of a woman who walked through gender barriers by positioning herself as the best candidate despite the gender injustices she was faced with. Ms. Jacko shared her experiences with me and how these prejudices affected her and how she had to make a stronger effort to receive the same distinction in the workplace.

Virginia Jacko became the first female finance major at Loyola University in the mid 1960s. She explained how in that era, “women did not major in finance” and were discouraged from aiming for high career choices. Once graduating, she focused on building her career in finance. Her first job was secretary to the head of a trust department of a bank in Chicago.

Once she began working, she immediately searched for ways to make her and her performance in the workplace stand out to her employer. Ms. Jacko explains, “I began thinking, if I start doing the Head of the Trust Department’s work, and he notices that my work is as good and even better than my male colleagues, then maybe that will help my career in the long run.” Ms. Jacko further explains that she began to ask to do extra work for the department head as an attempt to demonstrate her willingness, knowledge, skill and her determination. “I began asking if I [Jacko cont. pg 5]



O.M.G. this used to be okay?

By: Olivia Martin-Johnson

This Van Heusen tie advertisement from 1951 depicts a man lying in bed as a woman delivers him breakfast. The picture portrays a view of dominance from the male’s perspective and one of sticking to stereotypical roles for the woman. The man has on his work clothes, smiling with his hands behind his head displaying a picture of comfort. Meanwhile, his spouse is on her knees, appearing to serve him food almost as if he is king and she is his servant. This ad demonstrates the sexist acts that were expected in the 50’s from women having to serve men and please them in whichever way possible, as shown here with extreme servitude. The advertisement’s purpose is to sell the tie, which is supposed to look “power packed” with the power of controlling the spouse and since it is “for men only.”

[Barbie, cont. from page 1] measurements by six), the standard Barbie doll would stand at a height of 5-foot-9, weigh about 110 pounds, boast an 18-inch waist and lack the minimum amount of body fat required for a typical woman to menstruate”(Wu). For many generations this perfect Barbie figure is what many young women strived to obtain, an extremely unhealthy figure. Recently, I was passing through the toys section in Target and the Barbie dolls caught my eye, but not for a bad reason. As I looked at these dolls I was pleasantly surprised, they had diverse dolls. Dolls of color, dolls with prosthetics, “Creatable World” dolls that are gender neutral. Finally, Barbie added realistic body types that

are realistic and healthy: tall, petite, and curvy (US size 6). They also added career dolls, which are dolls with professions, such as president, biologist, and astrophysics. The career dolls expose young children to a variety of careers and inspires them to have career aspirations. The inclusion of dolls with different body types, dolls of color, and dolls with different body types appeals to a broad variety of people contrasting it’s previous homogeneous line, and creating a healthy toy for children.

By Juliana Vair

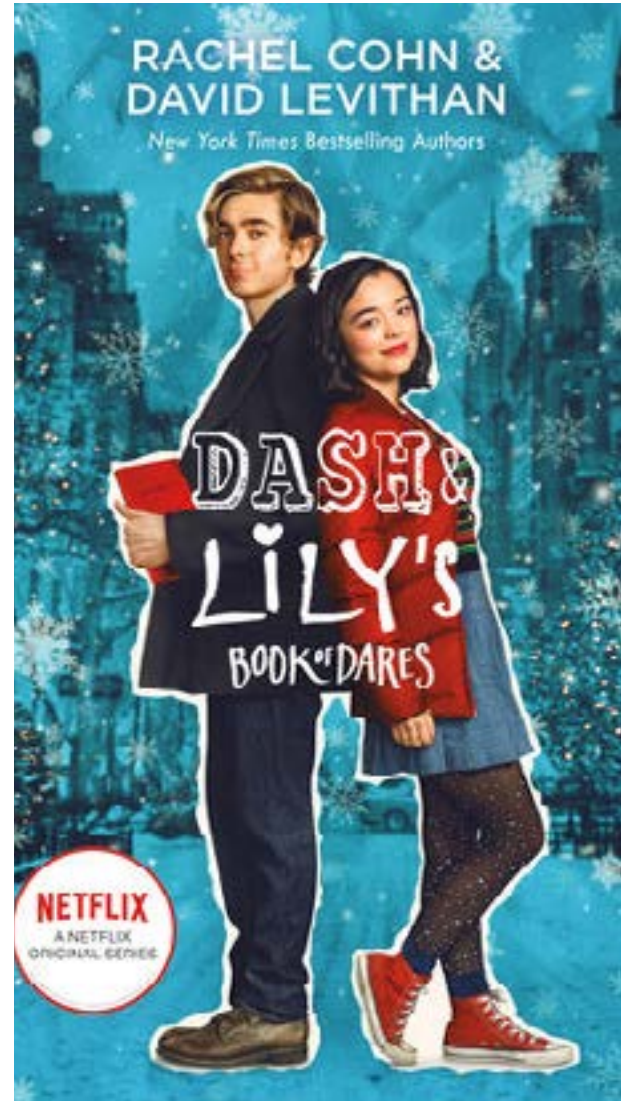
Wow, this show was horrible. Dash and Lily is a soaped-up, cringe-worthy, altogether mediocre depiction of Christmas in New York. Not gonna lie, I kind of loved it- at least at some (fairly infrequent) shining points. The focus of its rose-tinted gaze is on the cynical Dash and his antithesis, the cheery Lily. They communicate through a red journal and, accompanying it, an increasingly unlikely series of events, showing that love really does know no bounds (and no continuity). Through a plethora of shallow pop-culture references (à la washed up Gilmore Girls), they fall in love... It's so unrealistic, so annoying, that it does a full circle and ends up winning you over- for some moments, at least. I have to say, I genuinely laughed at some parts, but most of the time I was too busy suppressing the urge to turn off the volume and brightness (see: writers' attempt to make Lily into Strong Woman Defying Patriarchal Family, see: failed miserably, see: will attempt again season 2). Hey, if you're ready and willing to give up those 200 minutes of your life, go for it. I'll be in the back, still nursing my headache.

Netflix's "Dash & Lily"

1st Episode Review

By Cristina Aguilar

As it comes time for the holidays, Dash and Lily, the new Netflix series is a must. This is a wholesome show based in New York City, pre-COVID (weird seeing NYC crowded without masks). I vicariously lived out the Gossip Girl meets Gilmore Girls experience I always wanted. It is definitely silly and unrealistic but the romance of communicating through a red notebook mysteriously exchanging challenges rather than through a text message caught my attention. This showed a twenty first century romance not based on any social media, very unrealistic, yet enthralling. It is funny and entertaining, although will not be added to my cult classics. It was definitely an easy binge with only eight episodes, each ranging about twenty five minutes, a perfect introduction to this holiday season.



Recommendations by Cristina Aguilar

It is finally the holiday season. With the holiday season comes cooler weather, hot cocoa, and gift giving (my personal favorite.) So I've come up with a list of female founded stores you all can check out this holiday season. [Click here to read the guide!](#)

Here are some facts about women owned businesses, according to Wbenc, "[Top 10 Women Owned Business Facts.](#)" There are now **11.3 million women-owned businesses** in the U.S., employing nearly 9 million people and generating over \$1.6 trillion in revenues. Woman-owned businesses now comprise 38% of the business population, employ 8% of the country's private sector workforce and contribute 4% of the nation's business revenues. Since 2007, there have been 1,072 net new women-owned firms launched each and every day. Between 2007 and 2016, while the total number of firms increased by 9%, the number of women-owned firms increased by 45% – meaning that over this period the number of women-owned firms grew at a rate fully five times the national average.

Holiday Gift Guide

[Jacko, cont. from page 3] could do this and that for him,” she said. Once she had the opportunity to ask for his help, she did.

One day, the Head of the Trust Department was being interviewed for a position in Milwaukee as he was planning to move. At the end, he did not leave and instead stayed in Chicago. Ms. Jacko sought this opportunity and asked him if he would do her the favor of providing her contact information to the interviewer of the Milwaukee office. Her boss sent in his recommendation for her, and soon enough Ms. Jacko was moving to Milwaukee for a grand promotion. Ms. Jacko thanks her hard work and her extra effort for her career’s “big break.”

From there, Ms. Jacko became an investment analyst. She returned to school for her Masters Degree after getting married and having three children. At the time, she was also working a part time job. Eventually, her Milwaukee boss requested that she take on more responsibilities, the financial manager of three departments. This extra work would result in working three quarter time instead of half time.

Ms. Jacko knew at the time that the only way to receive retirement benefits was if one was working full time. She had to ask the administration for a full time job with benefits. This shocked them, as they expected me to not want to work a lot and instead be home with my kids.

Ironically, the same position that was supposed to be three quarters time with no benefits was given to a male and became a full time employee, shortly after denying those standards to Ms. Jacko. “I was very upset, but I had to bite my lip and move on, because if I were to speak out, then I would be regarded as a trouble maker and would not benefit.”

Ms. Jacko’s current position at the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind as the President and CEO began with discouragement based on her gender. As a student, Ms. Jacko was asked to be the pro bono CEO as the organization was in search for a replacement to the last CEO. Ms. Jacko had intentions of staying as the CEO instead of being their for a limited time. She spoke to her case manager about her intentions of applying for the position.

“Oh no Virginia, that man will never hire you. Remember you are a woman and you are blind,” she told me. Ms. Jacko was so discouraged that a fellow female had no faith in our gender. Ms. Jacko proved her wrong in only five months of being the interim CEO. Because of her work on a slew of successful grant proposals, she officially became Miami Lighthouse’s first blind president and CEO.

Ms. Jacko explains how she had to speak up for herself plenty throughout her career to be recognized. She advises women in the workforce to see themselves on an equal playing field if they want to be recognized. Meaning many women must be willing to redevelop their home life and not allow it to take away from the job.



City of Miami Commissioner Frank Carollo, CEO Virginia Jacko and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro

About Feminism Explained

Feminism Explained (F.E.) is a monthly newsletter. Its intent is addressing the negative connotations associated with the word ‘feminism’. In today’s society, it is somewhat common to hear people say they do not believe in feminism due to its “radical ideology.” As feminists, we know this not to be true. Feminism is not radical, nor is it dangerous. Feminism is simply the desire for equality amongst the genders.

What you can expect: F.E. Monthly newsletter will include interviews with women in high power positions. These women will be speaking about obstacles they faced, if any, to get to their positions. They will share the hardships they endured and how their present position continues to demonstrate the ongoing struggles many women must face to have influential places in society. F.E. will include statistics, providing facts and examples of gender inequality locally, nationally, and internationally. F.E. will also feature historical events, reminding us how our ancestors fought to allow modern women to function as we do today. Our newsletter will highlight initiatives taken on by women and the positive difference we can make in the world.

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