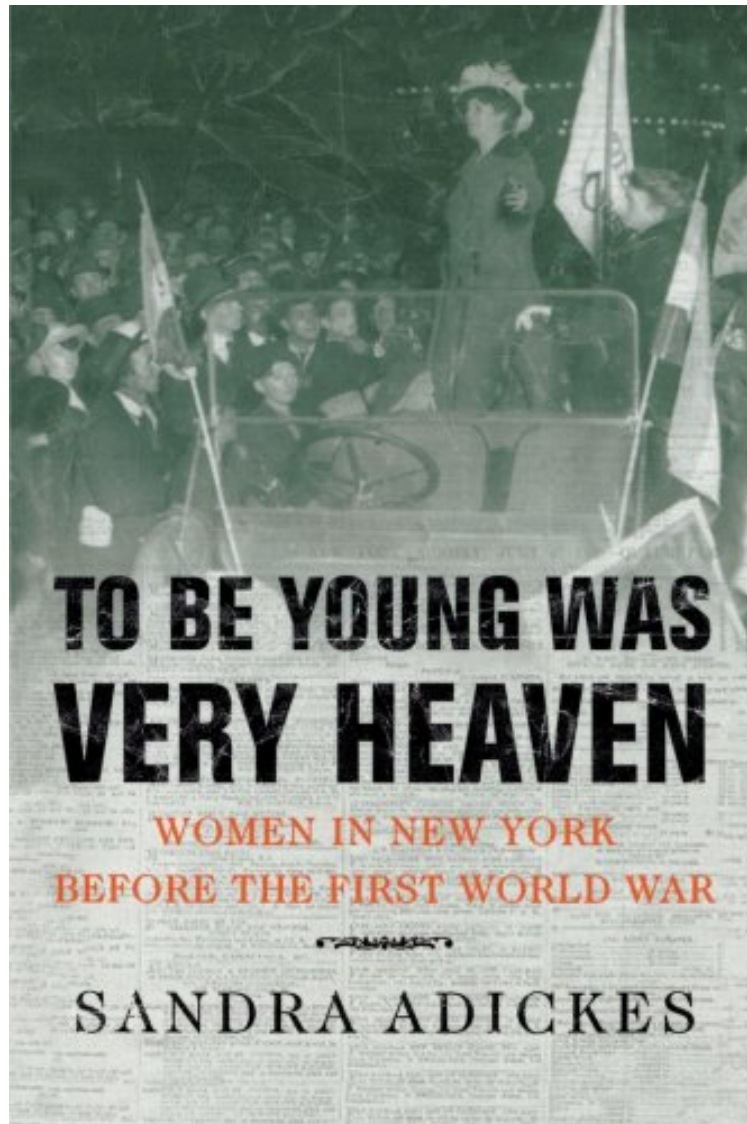


(Pdf free) To Be Young Was Very Heaven: Women in New York Before the First World War

To Be Young Was Very Heaven: Women in New York Before the First World War

Sandra E. Adickes

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Sandra E. Adickes : To Be Young Was Very Heaven: Women in New York Before the First World War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Be Young Was Very Heaven: Women in New York Before the First World War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heaven is Participation in LifeBy Marjorie J. RomanoI would most surely recommend this well written and beautifully researched book. The only downer is looking at the past and

realizing progress has been spotty since this time.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. facts about a fire
By Mary Dougherty
It is an amazingly organized and coherent book about an amazingly explosive time and place. And therefore a precious resource - where probably was x when y was organizing in Nebraska. And is full of useful reminders of what the world beyond New York was really like through the experiences her subjects brought back with them from trips outside. But it fails to convey to me the hope or the horror of the times. Though the author herself felt them as evidenced by the title. Maybe she simply has to cover too much given a broad audience. There is enough in every page, sometimes every paragraph for a life and times book and a novel on the size of Dickens or Balzac not to mention having to give constant background on the Haymarket riots and presidential elections and on and on. I admire her for being able to handle all this. But I was looking, because of the title, for something else. If you know about say labor history or some of her subjects then you can imagine, or just have your mind boggled by their conjunction in one place and time. But I don't think the book alone succeeds in conveying it. If you want to feel about the period as the author obviously does feel, then you should read her along with books about say Mother Jones and Mable Dodge and a book of Sloan paintings. And then perhaps the author's purpose will be fulfilled.
It is a time worth thinking about.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Ideal Time and Place for these Wonderful Women
By Ricky Hunter
To Be Young Was Very Heaven is both a beautiful and an apt title for this entertaining and inspiring book by Sandra Adickes. It tells the story of a number of left-leaning, idealistic, young, and adventurous women who emerged in New York around the turn of the century and grew in prominence and significance larger than this one town in this one time. Among the more famous women are Margaret Sanger, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Dorothy Day, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (a personal favourite). This book is not a dry, academic look at the reasons behind the rise of some women at this time, nor is it an examination of the lives of the women in general in New York at this time. This book, instead, explodes with the joy of being in the right place and the right time and having the courage and idealism to believe you can change things. Ms. Adickes takes the reader to the beating heart of New York when it truly had one and brings this time alive and shows us some true heroes in their prime. A pleasure to read.

In the years before World War I, New York City's Greenwich Village was a place of great artistic and political ferment. Political causes attracted throngs of supporters. Artistic movements filled cafes and restaurants with boisterous conversation. And for the first time, women began to seize power and shape the landscape of the time: Margaret Sanger began her crusade for birth control; Mabel Dodge hosted salons for the avant-garde; Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Workers Movement; Elizabeth Gurley Flynn helped to organize the Workers of the World. The list of women who played integral roles in American life and letters then is endless, and Sandra Adickes captures them all while evoking the now-lost paradise that New York offered to women at the turn of the century.

.com Was there ever a time in America that could be described as the golden age of women? Certainly each era has had its perils, but *To Be Young Was Very Heaven* persuasively argues that the decade before World War I held promise and realization for many women artists and crusaders in New York. Fights for birth control, the vote, the labor movement, parity in wages, and simple respect were in full swing. Sandra Adickes combines lively quotes with a wealth of sometimes overearnest background research as she sketches powerhouses like Marie Jenney Howe, a suffragist and founder of the women's club *Heterodoxy*, from which early inklings of feminism emerged; settlement worker Jane Addams; socialist feminist lawyer Crystal Eastman; international labor organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn; and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman. She adeptly captures the contradictions of that time and place, too, when such women rocked the social barricades but the mayor of New York could congratulate public education for its role in turning every girl into a useful housekeeper who knows how to "sing a little, dance a little ... and at the same time knows how to cook to make her husband good-natured." --Francesca Coltrera
From *Library Journal*
Adickes (English, Winona State Univ.) has taken a snapshot of pre-World War I American progressives. Her coverage ranges more widely than expected, highlighting better-known figures such as Margaret Sanger and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and others less so, with analysis not only of individual achievements but of their relationships as participants in a movement that still continues. Her work is balanced and thoroughly documented, and contemporary photos add interest, but tighter editing would have helped. Some material is repeated three times as the focus shifts from the chronological to the biographical to the thematic and back again. Still, this is a clear, readable portrait of a period of women's history worth rediscovering that will also be useful in labor history collections.
?Barbara Hutcheson, Greater Victoria P.L., British Columbia
Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. ...It's heart is in the right place and it succeeds in illustrating a chapter in history. -- *New York Times Book Review*
A rich cast of fiery, romantic idealists. -- *The Sunday Times Bookshop* (UK)