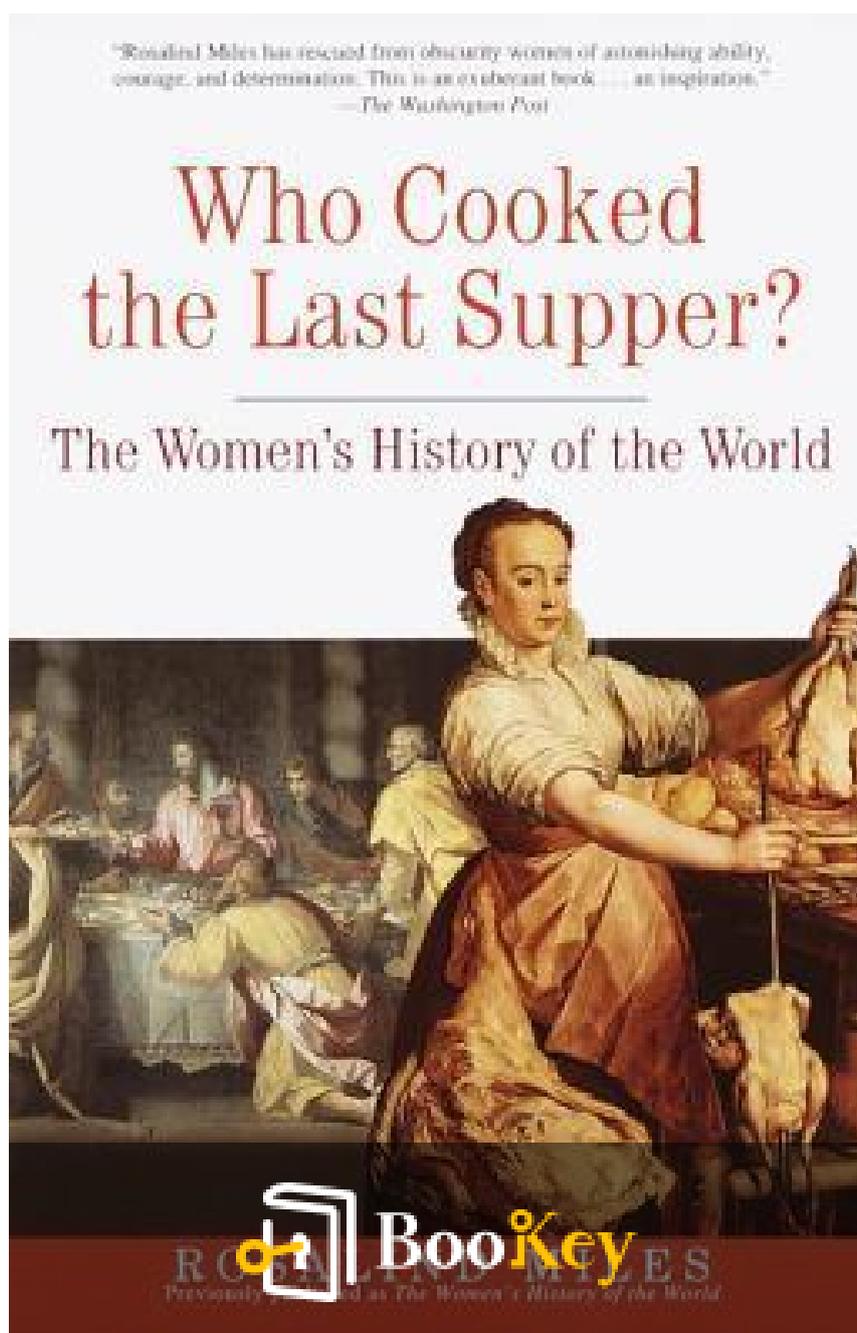


Who Cooked The Last Supper PDF (Limited Copy)

Rosalind Miles



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Who Cooked The Last Supper Summary

Exploring Women's Hidden Role in History's Culinary Legacy.

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About the book

In "Who Cooked the Last Supper?", Rosalind Miles takes readers on an enlightening journey through the hidden narrative of women's pivotal roles in shaping history, culture, and even religion, often overlooked in traditional storytelling. With sharp wit and meticulous research, Miles probes the often patriarchal lens through which history has been written, revealing how women—not just as muses but as active agents—have profoundly influenced the course of human events, from ancient times to modern society. This provocative exploration calls for a reevaluation of the past, encouraging readers to consider the untold stories of women who stand at the crossroads of history, making this an essential read for anyone eager to rediscover the rich tapestry of our shared heritage.

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About the author

Rosalind Miles is a renowned British author and feminist historian celebrated for her engaging exploration of women's history and her impact on the discourse of gender and culture. With a diverse academic background, including a degree in English literature, Miles has written extensively, producing not only historical narratives and novels but also critical essays that challenge traditional gender roles and showcase women's contributions throughout history. Her work, particularly 'Who Cooked the Last Supper?', exemplifies her commitment to illuminating the often-overlooked roles women have played in shaping society, blending rigorous scholarship with accessible prose. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for storytelling, Miles continues to inspire readers to reconsider the past through a feminist lens.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

The narrative about human evolution has long been dominated by the “Man-the-Hunter” theory, depicting early humanity primarily through the lens of aggressive male archetypes. However, this chapter shifts the focus to the fundamental role of women in the genesis and development of the human race, emphasizing their crucial contributions that have historically been overlooked.

1. Women as the Core of Humanity: Women are depicted as central to human evolution, possessing the “X” chromosome, which is foundational to genetic inheritance. The text argues that rather than being a deviation from a male norm, women are the original human type. Esteemed historians and scientists have acknowledged that women’s contributions are integral to the survival and advancement of the species, with their uterine biology driving significant evolutionary progress.

2. The Role of Women in Survival: From around 500,000 B.C., early women engaged in various crucial activities that were essential for survival, including food gathering, childcare, tool making, and shelter construction. Evidence indicates that women were responsible for up to 80 percent of the tribe’s food intake, highlighting their roles in sustaining community life while debunking myths of dependency on male hunters.



3. Innovations by Women: The author stresses that early women were not simply passive figures. Their foraging prompted advancements in technology and species development. They devised tools for gathering and food preparation, showcasing critical problem-solving abilities. Despite this, many of these early inventions have not survived, leading to an underrepresentation of women's contributions in archeological records.

4. Mothering and Cognitive Development: The chapter reveals the intricate relationship between mothering, cognitive skills, and social organization. Sally Slocum's analysis states that the organizing efforts required by women to care for children and gather food led to crucial developments in communication and social bonds, fostering a complex society. Child-rearing involved not only physical nurturing but also instilling cultural and social skills, marking women as vital players in the mental evolution of humanity.

5. Revisiting the Family Structure: Contrary to the "hunter's mate" stereotype, the chapter presents evidence that early family units were often matrifocal, with women and children forming the core societal structure. The roles of men were often secondary, with young males leaving the family unit, reinforcing women's position as central to social organization and continuity.

6. Challenging Myths of Male Heroism: The narrative critiques the

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longstanding belief in a solitary, aggressive male figure as a heroic hunter. Instead, it portrays hunting as a collaborative effort involving both men and women. Successful hunts necessitated group work and the support of all community members, including women, who contributed significantly to processing and utilizing the resources obtained from hunts.

7. Women and the Biological Shifts: The adaptation of menstruation, contrasting with primate oestrus conditions, is identified as a critical evolutionary development that allowed the human species to flourish. This biological shift facilitated higher reproductive rates and played a key role in population growth, underscoring the evolutionary advantages conferred by women.

8. Cultural Contributions of Women: The chapter posits that women's contributions extended into the spiritual and cultural realms of early societies. Artistic expressions depicting women in ritualistic contexts highlight their status and significance within tribal cultures. This portrayal challenges the perception of women as mere side characters in human history, instead recognizing them as foundational figures.

9. Conclusion: Ultimately, the text argues that women's central role in human evolution, survival, and cultural development must be acknowledged. The dichotomy of "Man the Hunter" oversimplifies the shared contributions of men and women and ignores the profound impact



women have had in shaping humanity's trajectory. The more we learn about early human societies, the clearer it becomes that women were not only helpers but the very architects of the human story.

This chapter emphatically calls for a reevaluation of the historical narrative surrounding human evolution, advocating for the recognition of women's indispensable contributions to civilization's foundation.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Women as the Core of Humanity

Critical Interpretation: Embracing the idea that women are not just secondary figures but the fundamental architects of human evolution can inspire you to recognize the equal importance of all voices and contributions in your own life. This perspective invites you to celebrate and uplift the often-overlooked roles within your community, understanding that true progress flourishes when everyone plays an integral part. Reflect on how fostering an inclusive environment where each person's strengths are valued can lead to collective success, echoing the collaboration and resilience of our ancestors.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In the second chapter of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" by Rosalind Miles, the author delves deep into the historical and cultural significance of the Great Goddess, a primal figure symbolizing femininity that has evolved over centuries. This chapter intricately narrates the roles, powers, and struggles of women in ancient societies where the reverence for the feminine was manifested through goddess worship.

1. Incarnation of the Feminine: The Great Goddess emerges as a powerful and multifaceted figure who embodies the essence of femininity. This role has been pivotal in both human culture and the individual woman's life, emphasizing that her influence is as timeless as humanity itself. From tribal songs celebrating her as the mother of all beings and nature to the first known poem honoring the goddess Inanna, the Great Goddess signifies strength, fertility, and the nurturing spirit inherent in women.

2. Historical Worship and Cultural Significance: The chapter recounts the long-standing recognition of the Goddess across various ancient cultures—Sumerian, Babylonian, Egyptian, and beyond. Institutions of worship characterized by female deities underscore the belief that women were endowed with capabilities beyond their roles as child-bearers. Over thousands of years, the Goddess was revered for her fertile power and the duality of life and death, symbolizing both creation and destruction.

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3. The Role of Women in Society: As women transitioned into agricultural societies, their roles as primary food producers solidified their importance. The chapter illustrates how they were not only pivotal in maintaining the family unit but were also embodiments of the divine, influencing societal norms and practices. Women often held significant power, managing their own finances and property, and even leading military campaigns—a stark contrast against later patriarchal norms.

4. Matriarchal Societies and Power Dynamics: The narrative examines the possibility of matriarchal societies where women enjoyed significant rights and freedoms. While acknowledging that gender dynamics varied widely, it suggests that historical accounts may often downplay the influence of women. Women ruled, inherited power, and shaped communities with their unique contributions, indicating a complex societal structure that valued womanhood.

5. Autonomy and Sexual Freedom: The chapter highlights women's physical and sexual autonomy, noting that many ancient cultures celebrated female nakedness and sexual freedom without the stigma that would come later. Rituals involving sexual service to the goddess indicated a veneration of femininity rather than degradation, countering modern misconceptions about such practices.

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6. Warrior Queens and Female Strength: The prowess of women as warriors is also emphasized through historical examples of queens who led armies, demonstrating that women occupied powerful positions even in combat. Figures like Queen Boudicca and the legendary Amazons reflect a tradition of women asserting their strength and agency in a male-dominated narrative.

7. The Transition to Patriarchy: Finally, the narrative addresses the eventual decline of goddess worship and female empowerment, suggesting that as male-centric perspectives gained prominence, women were systematically marginalized. The chapter postulates that this shift led to a cultural diminishment of the veneration for the feminine and the rise of patriarchal structures that sought to redefine women's roles while stripping them of their historical significance and autonomy.

This exploration not only reconstructs a history where the Great Goddess held dominion but also calls for a recognition of the roles women played in shaping human civilization, offering a critique of patriarchal narratives that have persisted throughout history. Russell Miles invites readers to reconsider historical biases and celebrate the divine feminine, underscoring that the legacy of the Goddess is both profound and necessary for the understanding of humanity.

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Chapter 3:

In the third chapter of "Who Cooked the Last Supper," Rosalind Miles delineates the significant cultural shift from matriarchal reverence of the divine feminine to a dominant patriarchal society characterized by phallic worship. This transition profoundly affected women's roles, status, and identity throughout history.

1. In ancient mythologies, the Great Mother was initially depicted as a primal force, responsible for creation and the center of life. Women were celebrated for their nurturing capabilities, while men seemed insignificant by comparison. As expressed through various cultural narratives, the Goddess's supremacy was often accompanied by a demeaning portrayal of men as powerless and dependent.

2. With the rise of male consciousness, men began to experience "uterus envy," leading them to create male-centric rituals that mirrored women's biological functions. These rituals, rather than respecting women, attempted to usurp their procreative power. For instance, initiation rites across various

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper," Rosalind Miles examines the profound transformation of women's status through the lens of major monotheistic religions. As historical narratives unfold, it becomes evident that traditional notions of divinity were gradually replaced by male-centric ideologies that systematically diminished women's roles and power. The chapter can be summarized through several key principles.

- 1. Historical Context of Divinity:** The chapter begins by addressing the gradual emergence of male-dominated religious systems. Early societies worshiped female deities, symbolizing nature and fertility. Over time, as agriculture and tribal structures developed, male divinity emerged, creating a hierarchy where the male god supplants the goddess. This transition marked the start of women's relegation to subservient roles.
- 2. Patriarchal Control and Religious Evolution:** As religions such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Confucianism originated, they propagated patriarchal values that further entrenched male supremacy. Each faith positioned women as inferior, a notion that led to the systemic dismantling of the previously revered female divine. In this patriarchal schema, the clear delineation of roles reinforced male authority.
- 3. Crisis of Female Power:** Throughout history, the narrative suggests



that women have resisted the loss of power through ingenuity and resourcefulness. However, the chapter also reveals that their attempts often faced brutal repression, as seen in historical figures like Boudicca, who fought against their oppressors. Despite the subjugation, women sought ways to maintain ties to their ancient practices and identities.

4. Monotheism as a Mechanism of Control: The monotheistic constructs introduced not only a singular male god but also a hierarchy of gods that established dominance over women. This led to the promotion of orthodox beliefs, which divinely sanctioned male superiority and female submission. St. Augustine's commentary highlights this gap—asserting that women, viewed as lesser beings, cannot embody godly imagery.

5. Legal and Social Restrictions: The chapter depicts the legal frameworks instituted by patriarchal religions that stripped women of their rights and freedoms. No longer could they choose their partners; marriage became a transaction controlled by male guardians. Laws oppressed women's rights to property, inheritance, and autonomy over their bodies and offspring, deepening their marginalization across cultures.

6. Psychological and Spiritual Implications: The narrative outlines how these religious systems instilled a sense of inferiority among women. Patriarchal doctrines conditioned women to internalize their diminished status, convincing them to accept a subordinate role in society. Their identity



became tied to their husbands or fathers, reducing their existence to that of mere instruments for procreation and servitude.

7. Resistance and Resilience: Despite the overwhelming forces of oppression, women throughout history continually found avenues for defiance and agency. While traditional narratives often overshadow these acts of resistance, the chapter highlights the courage and strength displayed by women who contended against the patriarchal fabric of their societies.

In conclusion, Chapter 4 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" articulates the historical journey of women's loss of power in the wake of patriarchal religions. It emphasizes the interplay of theological constructs and societal structures that perpetuate female inferiority, while also acknowledging pockets of resistance that have characterized women's experiences throughout time. Miles underscores that while women faced immense challenges, their resilience and tenacity have been vital in navigating the patriarchal landscape.

Key Principle	Summary
Historical Context of Divinity	Explores the transition from female deities to male gods, marking the beginning of women's subservience.
Patriarchal Control and Religious Evolution	Discusses how major religions reinforced male supremacy and diminished women's status.

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Key Principle	Summary
Crisis of Female Power	Highlights women's struggles against oppression and their efforts to preserve ancient identities despite repression.
Monotheism as a Mechanism of Control	Describes how monotheism established male dominance and sanctioned female submission, as evidenced by St. Augustine.
Legal and Social Restrictions	Outlines legal frameworks that stripped women of rights and autonomy, deepening their marginalization.
Psychological and Spiritual Implications	Details how patriarchal doctrines condition women to accept inferior roles tied to male figures.
Resistance and Resilience	Notes women's acts of defiance and strength in confronting patriarchal oppression throughout history.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In the fifth chapter of Rosalind Miles's "Who Cooked the Last Supper," the focus is on the devastating historical and cultural oppression of women, encapsulated through numerous historical practices and ideological constructs that have demeaned and dehumanized them.

1. The Reduction of Women to Reproductive Tools The patriarchal narrative, articulated by influential figures such as Martin Luther, framed women's existence primarily as child-bearers. This reductionist view transformed women into mere vessels for reproduction, stripping them of autonomy and value outside their reproductive capacities. The narrative constructed around women's bodies rendered them threats in patriarchal societies—fearful, dangerous, and responsible for men's anxieties.

2. Cultural Taboos and Punishments Women's bodies have historically been subjected to strict control through taboos associated with menstruation and sexuality. Menstrual blood was characterized as dangerous, leading to widespread stigmatization and social isolation of menstruating women. Such societal beliefs laid the groundwork for severe physical punishments, including mutilation and confinement, and for the justification of broader violence against women as 'necessary' for maintaining social order.

3. Violence Against Women: The text presents a harrowing examination



of physical violence against women through historical accounts of torture, including the use of chastity belts and systematic punishment of women for maintaining their sexual autonomy. Such practices showcase a deep-seated fear of female sexuality and illustrate how societal norms enforced compliance through brutal methods.

4. Enforced Marriage and Child Bride Practices: The chapter details harrowing accounts of enforced marriages, where daughters were often forced into unions against their will, highlighting practices that rendered women powerless. Child marriages were particularly grave, involving young girls often subjected to sexual abuse that resulted in severe health complications and premature deaths, illustrating the extent of violence engraved in cultural practices under patriarchal law.

5. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): FGM is discussed as a horrific practice rooted in a desire to control female sexuality by physically hindering women's ability to engage in sexual acts. The graphic descriptions of the mutilation process illuminate the brutality and the traumatic implications for women, often performed with cultural justifications that obscure its true nature.

6. Female Infanticide and Social Control: The chapter asserts that female infanticide has been endemic across various cultures, rooted in patriarchal oppression. Women's lives were often deemed worthless in

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societies wherein their survival depended on their reproductive capacity, leading to the systematic killing of female infants to control population gender ratios.

7. The Sins of the Mothers and Historical Narrative: The idea that women's historical narrative is fraught with violence and control is a recurrent theme. Women were seen not only as inferior but also a source of societal problems, a narrative reinforced through religious and cultural doctrines that vilified them while justifying their oppression.

8. Prostitution and Social Disposability: The chapter presents a paradox in how women's sexuality is commodified and vilified. Prostitutes, existing at the intersection of desire and disdain, represent the ultimate subjugation of women, revealing how patriarchal systems exploit women's bodies while also punishing them for engaging with male desire. The history of women's oppression through prostitution mirrors broader societal controls exerted on wives and mothers.

Through these lenses, the text emphasizes that the historical and ongoing struggles of women can be traced to deeply rooted cultural narratives that have defined them as inferior, leading to systemic violence, control, and dehumanization. It calls into question the very foundations of patriarchal ideologies that persist in shaping societal views on gender. Throughout the chapter, Miles urges readers to recognize these patterns of oppression and

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consider the resilience of women who have endured, resisted, and transcended these societal confines, paving paths for future generations.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Recognizing the Resilience of Women

Critical Interpretation: As you delve into the tragic narrative of women's oppression throughout history, allow yourself to feel the weight of their struggles, but also the strength that has emerged from them. Understanding the resilience of women who have faced unimaginable hardships can inspire you to confront your own challenges with courage and determination. Just as these women have fought against the societal constructs that sought to diminish their worth, you can draw from their legacy to challenge the barriers in your life. Embrace your autonomy, recognize your value beyond societal norms, and strive to break free from any constructs that seek to define you narrowly. Let their stories remind you that even amidst adversity, there lies an undeniable strength within you that can uplift not just yourself, but those around you—paving the way for a future where everyone recognizes their intrinsic worth.

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Chapter 6:

The narrative of "A Little Learning" from Rosalind Miles' "Who Cooked the Last Supper" delves into the complex interplay between gender, knowledge, and power throughout history, particularly as they relate to women. For centuries, patriarchal systems dictated women's lives, relegating them to roles that denied them access to education and empowerment. However, as the era transitioned into the late Middle Ages and early modern period, the impetus for change emerged, showcasing how the rigid frameworks of patriarchal dominance began to evolve.

1. The Limitations of Patriarchy: The text begins by elucidating the oppressive constraints imposed by both religious doctrine and societal norms that maintained the subjugation of women. Practices like enforced abstinence from sexual relations and strict behavioral expectations served to reinforce a hierarchy where women were deemed inferior. However, this portrayal doesn't account for the robust resistance to such norms, whereby women's natural desires defied the oppressive labels cast upon them.

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper," Rosalind Miles delves into the multifaceted nature of women's work throughout history, emphasizing the often-overlooked contributions that women have made across cultures and epochs. The narrative weaves historical anecdotes and feminist perspectives, highlighting how women have long been the backbone of societal labor, undermined by pervasive invisibility in historical records.

1. **Women's Ubiquitous Labor:** Miles asserts that women have always worked tirelessly in various capacities—from nurturing and household management to labor in farms and markets. These contributions, while crucial, went largely unrecognized in official histories often dominated by male figures. Women's roles have persisted through generations yet remain uncelebrated due to their omnipresence becoming taken for granted.
2. **The Burden of Domestic Responsibilities:** Women have historically assumed most domestic duties, managing not only the household but engaging in agricultural labor as well. The text contrasts the visible labor of men, which terminated at sunset, with the continuous demands on women, whose work appeared endless. This cycle of responsibilities was further intensified by societal neglect of women's rights, where their contributions were absorbed into the patriarchal systems that defined family and labor dynamics.



3. **Historical Recognition and Misrepresentation:** The chapter examines how historical records often failed to directly acknowledge women's labor. For example, a farmer's output might document productivity without recognizing the wife's undisclosed contributions. Instances of women gaining prominence, like the Irish women engaging in agricultural theft or managing trades, highlight sporadic instances of recognition yet stand out against the overarching invisibility of women's work.

4. **Work Across Contexts and Cultures:** Miles identifies how women's labor differed across geographies—from working in agriculture in Europe to engaging in trade in African markets. The text explains how some cultures recognized women as essential to their economies, with trade networks and markets often facilitated by women. Despite the diversity in their roles, a common theme emerged: women were consistently relegated to secondary or lesser status, undermining their substantial contributions.

5. **Feminine Resilience in Challenging Environments:** The realities of women's labor were not only grueling but often hazardous. The chapter offers vivid descriptions of women's roles in physically demanding tasks, either within their households or in broader communities. Miles draws on examples that highlight women's resourcefulness and ingenuity, narrating the hard lived experiences that emphasized their strength and resilience.

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6. **The Interconnectivity of Home and Work:** Miles illustrates the duality of women's lives where domestic responsibilities intertwined with economic activities; whether caring for family members or managing produce, women's agency was both crucial and constricted. The text emphasizes that ownership of trade and produce often remained with male family members, despite women's significant roles in nurturing and sustaining these efforts.

7. **The Shift to Industrialization:** As the chapter progresses, it touches on the irrevocable changes brought by industrialization, which began to define traditional gender roles and diminish women's visibility in labor. The transition into machine-based production systems marginalized the familial partnerships that had existed on farms, fundamentally altering the fabric of work and home life.

Through every societal shift, Miles encapsulates a potent narrative of the hidden yet pivotal role women have occupied in shaping history—a narrative that requires acknowledgment and reexamination in contemporary discussions of labor, gender roles, and societal value systems. The chapter serves as a call to recognize women's contributions not only as historical footnotes but as vital threads in the tapestry of human development.

Topic	Summary
Women's Ubiquitous Labor	Women have consistently worked across various sectors but their contributions are often unrecognized in historical narratives

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Topic	Summary
	dominated by men.
The Burden of Domestic Responsibilities	Women traditionally bear most household and agricultural duties, which go unnoticed amidst societal neglect of their rights.
Historical Recognition and Misrepresentation	Women's labor is frequently omitted from records, though some instances of recognition exist, often overshadowed by their general invisibility.
Work Across Contexts and Cultures	Women's roles varied greatly by region, but they are typically placed in secondary positions despite their significant economic contributions.
Feminine Resilience in Challenging Environments	The chapter details the demanding nature of women's work and highlights their resourcefulness and resilience in difficult circumstances.
The Interconnectivity of Home and Work	Women's domestic and economic roles are deeply intertwined, yet ownership and recognition often remain with male family members.
The Shift to Industrialization	Industrialization marked a shift in gender roles, decreasing women's visibility in labor and altering family dynamics.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Recognizing the Hidden Labor of Women

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on the countless tasks that women have quietly executed throughout history—nurturing families, managing households, and contributing to economies—let it inspire you to see the unsung heroes in your own life. Every acknowledgment, no matter how small, can validate the immense effort that often goes unnoticed. Just as the women throughout history have woven strength and resilience into the very fabric of society, you too can champion the recognition of efforts in your community. Whether it's appreciating a partner's dedication at home or advocating for equal recognition in the workplace, your active acknowledgment can create ripples of change that contribute to a more equitable future.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In "Who Cooked the Last Supper," Chapter 8 explores the profound impacts of revolutions on women's roles throughout history, illustrating the dual burdens they carry as both caretakers and active participants in societal upheavals. Revolutions, far from being mere historical milestones, serve as transformative forces that provoke drastic shifts in gender dynamics.

1. Historical Context and Women's Roles in Revolutions Traditionally, women's lives were rooted in domesticity, revolving around home and family. However, during times of upheaval, such as the American and French Revolutions, they did not merely retreat into their domestic roles but emerged as active participants. Women supported revolutionary causes through acts of courage, even leading movements and challenging conventional norms. Notably, women were significantly involved in the American Revolution, from organizing boycotts to taking up arms in defense of their communities, demonstrating that their commitment to the cause often outweighed societal constraints regarding gender roles.

2. Examples of Active Participation: Throughout history, women have demonstrated remarkable resilience and agency. Figures like Mistress Drummond in the 17th century and those participating in the American Revolutionary activities highlight women's courage and determination in supporting their ideals, often facing dire consequences. Women like Eliza



Wilkinson and Sarah Hodkins voiced their discontent over the absence of their husbands while simultaneously maintaining an unwavering spirit for the revolutionary cause. Their struggles reveal the often unrecognized and unrecorded sacrifices made by women at home during wars.

3. Impact of the French Revolution: The French Revolution marked a turning point, as women became more visible in revolutionary fervor. From the storming of the Bastille to the Women's March on Versailles, women were critical players in revolutionary actions. Driven by hunger and desperation, they defied societal norms, showcasing their capability for both violence and organization. These events exemplified the disruptive power of women's collective anger, underscoring how they could pivot from affection to rage in a moment of crisis.

4. New Feminist Ideals: The revolutionary context also catalyzed early feminist discourse, with women like Olympe de Gouges advocating for equal rights explicitly. The "Declaration of the Rights of Woman" articulated demands paralleling the rights of men, questioning the exclusion of women from societal reforms. Her work and that of others set the groundwork for future feminist movements, illustrating that revolutions could give rise to new ideologies concerning gender equality, even as many revolutionary leaders overlooked women's rights.

5. Consequences of Industrialization: The Industrial Revolution,

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contrasting with the earlier political upheavals, devastated traditional structures that women had relied on. As economies shifted from agricultural to industrial frameworks, women found themselves stripped of the autonomy they once had. Factory work replaced home production, relegating women to low-wage, labor-intensive roles and fostering dependency on men. Despite the severe exploitation they faced, women began to resist against these new forms of oppression, organizing and advocating for better conditions.

6. Enduring Challenges and Inequality: Despite the strides made during revolutions, the predominance of patriarchal structures ensured that women's roles remained subordinate. Societal shifts often came at the cost of genuine equality, highlighting a recurring theme in history where revolutions offered a new platform for voices but failed to address gender disparity comprehensively. The fierce struggles and sacrifices of women were frequently overlooked or marginalized, emphasizing the necessity for conscious inclusion of women's narratives in historical accounts of revolutions.

In conclusion, Chapter 8 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" illustrates that while revolutions served as catalysts for change, they were often selective in the beneficiaries of that change. Women played pivotal roles within these historical contexts, demonstrating resilience, agency, and a burgeoning thirst for equality, forever altering the landscape of gender relations in profound and lasting ways.

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Chapter 9:

In the narrative of empire, women are often relegated to the shadows of history, overshadowed by the heroic exploits of their male counterparts. However, the realities of colonization reveal that women played crucial roles, both visible and obscured, in the expansion and sustenance of empires. Between 1796 and 1818, British imperialism saw the annexation of numerous territories, alongside movements by other colonial powers, creating a legacy that has shaped contemporary socio-political dynamics around the globe.

1. Women's Integral Role in Colonization: Women, as emphasized by Francis Bacon, were essential for creating sustainable colonies, where families could thrive instead of relying solely on shipping in new settlers. Not only did they bear the first imperial babies, but their contributions to survival and settlement were indispensable. For example, Virginia Dare was the first child born to British settlers in North America. In Australia, Rebekah Small, born to a convict mother, went on to have a significant family of her own, illustrating women's critical role despite societal disdain.

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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" by Rosalind Miles, the author delves deeply into the historical injustices and systemic oppression faced by women throughout history, particularly in light of legal, societal, and scientific constructs that have perpetuated male superiority.

1. Historical Context of Male Supremacy: The chapter presents a timeline of women's subjugation, illustrating that despite societal advancements, women were continually denied autonomy and rights, exemplified by historical cases like Mrs. Dawson and Cecilia Cochrane, whose pleas for divorce from abusive husbands were ignored by the legal system. The laws of the time asserted that women were essentially "civilly dead" upon marriage, with husbands possessing undeniable control over their wives.

2. Gender Roles and Societal Expectations: The narrative emphasizes that societal norms placed immense value on male authority, often supported even by women, as seen in the views of Caroline Norton and Queen Victoria. The idea of women's inferiority became rooted and normalized, with women taught from a young age to accept men's dominance.

3. Impact of Industrialization: Industrialization led to a transformation

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in women's roles, shifting them from productive members of the household to subordinate, segregated laborers. This transition further entrenched women in a cycle of dependency and removed them from positions of power or significance.

4. Scientific Justifications for Inferiority: The chapter critiques the rise of pseudo-sciences like craniology and Darwinism, which claimed to validate male superiority based on physical and mental capacities. These assertions, often disregarded women's capabilities and health, were twisted to justify their societal inferiority. Prominent theorists and doctors propagated the idea that women's frailty rendered them unfit for rights or responsibilities.

5. Legal Oppressions and Legislative Backlash: The legal framework, especially during Napoleon's time, reinforced patriarchal dominance through laws that stripped women of rights they had previously enjoyed. As male power structures sought to cement their control in light of evolving social dynamics, women found themselves subject to increasingly restrictive legislation.

6. Feminist Awakening Amidst such oppression, early feminists began to challenge these norms. Pioneers like Mary Wollstonecraft and Elizabeth Cady Stanton ignited movements for women's education, legal rights, and social status, insisting on the necessity of equal treatment. Their writings

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spurred revolutionary ideas that questioned the status quo and promoted the idea of women as equal participants in society.

7. Intersection with Abolitionism: The struggle for women's rights became intertwined with the abolitionist movement, as many women drew parallels between the oppression of slaves and their own subjugation. The activism surrounding both causes led to a broader understanding of justice and equality.

8. Protests and Progress: The chapter highlights the resilience of women as they organized for suffrage and broader rights. The courage of women activists, who not only fought against societal constraints but also against the ridicule of their movement, is emphasized. They sought not merely to be included in a male-dominated society, but to redefine their roles entirely.

9. Women's Rights Movement: The culmination of these struggles resulted in gradual legal advancements, including the right to vote and increased access to education and professions. However, the author notes that this was only the beginning, as deeper questions about what it means to be a woman in a new context remain unanswered.

10. Continued Struggle for Identity: Finally, while women achieved significant milestones in the fight for rights, the chapter concludes with a somber reminder that true liberation lies in the freedom for women to define

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themselves, rather than conforming to patriarchal standards. The journey is ongoing, with new battles for identity and purpose emerging in the wake of hard-fought victories.

This chapter navigates through historical, legal, social, and scientific narratives, weaving a rich tapestry of women's oppression and the burgeoning feminist movement, illustrating the complexities of their struggles against an entrenched patriarchal system.

Theme	Description
Historical Context of Male Supremacy	Illustrates women's ongoing subjugation and denial of autonomy despite societal advancements, with examples like Mrs. Dawson and Cecilia Cochrane.
Gender Roles and Societal Expectations	Highlights societal norms that valued male authority, leading women to accept their dominance, as seen through figures like Caroline Norton and Queen Victoria.
Impact of Industrialization	Describes the transition of women from productive household members to subordinate laborers, reinforcing dependency and removing power.
Scientific Justifications for Inferiority	Critiques pseudo-sciences that claimed to validate male superiority, undermining women's capabilities through flawed theories.
Legal Oppressions and Legislative Backlash	Explores laws that reinforced patriarchal dominance, stripping women of rights, particularly during Napoleon's time.
Feminist Awakening	Discusses early feminists like Mary Wollstonecraft and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who challenged norms and advocated for equality.

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Theme	Description
Intersection with Abolitionism	Notes the connection between women's rights and abolitionism, with activists drawing parallels between their oppressions.
Protests and Progress	Highlights women's activism for suffrage and rights, emphasizing their courage to redefine their roles against societal ridicule.
Women's Rights Movement	Describes gradual legal advancements in women's rights, while noting ongoing questions about women's identities.
Continued Struggle for Identity	Concludes that true liberation involves women defining themselves beyond patriarchal standards, acknowledging the ongoing journey for identity and purpose.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 11 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" by Rosalind Miles, the author delves into the intricate relationship between women's rights, control over their bodies, and the broader social implications of both issues. The chapter adopts a critical look at historical attitudes toward women, particularly in relation to their reproductive rights and sexuality, highlighting the struggles women have faced against patriarchal oppression. Key themes and principles emerge throughout the chapter, summarized as follows:

- 1. Independence Through Bodily Autonomy:** The chapter emphasizes the fundamental principle that true freedom for women is inextricably linked to the ownership and control of their own bodies. Initiatives like the suffrage movement, while significant, are shown to be inadequate without corresponding rights over women's reproductive choices.
- 2. Contradictions of Progress:** Although women achieved the right to vote, the chapter points out that physical freedoms and reproductive rights were necessary for genuine emancipation. Illustrating the plight of women suffering from childbirth-related complications, it questions the adequacy of rights when women still endured physical hardships that undermined their autonomy.
- 3. Historical Context of Contraception:** Miles discusses how the pursuit



of contraception emerged as a vital battle in women's quest for autonomy. The narrative chronicles the challenges and societal resistance faced as women sought to gain control over their reproductive functions, underscoring the fear men had regarding women's sexual independence.

4. Medical Misogyny: The chapter critiques the male-dominated medical establishment that has historically pathologized women's bodies. Male practitioners, spurred by historical biases, often disregarded women's health, resulting in harmful medical practices that only reinforced their dependence on male authority.

5. Societal Perception of Women: The author argues against the historical depiction of women as mere vessels for reproduction, a notion perpetuated in various disciplines, including medical science. This portrayal solidified the belief that women were inferior and servile, further marginalizing their individuality and contributions to society.

6. Cultural Mechanisms of Control: The text reveals the lengths to which women had to go throughout history to exert control over their bodies and reproductive choices. From ancient remedies to the introduction of rudimentary contraceptive methods, women consistently sought ways to evade the reproductive destiny imposed on them.

7. Emergence of Feminism: This chapter also highlights the emergence

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of the feminist movement, which challenged traditional norms and promoted women's agency. Feminists argued vehemently against the exploitation of women, framing the struggle for sexual autonomy within the larger context of human rights.

8. Sexual Liberation vs. Control: In a pivotal shift, the chapter contrasts women's quest for sexual freedom with ongoing societal pressures that attempted to reframe their desires under patriarchal scrutiny. The rise of psychoanalysis, particularly via figures like Freud, sought to reaffirm traditional gender roles at a moment when women were on the cusp of reclaiming autonomy over their sexuality.

9. Enduring Challenges: Lastly, the narrative reflects on the lingering effects of these historical struggles. Despite advancements in rights, women's sexual and reproductive autonomy continues to be a point of contention, often challenged by entrenched patriarchal attitudes that view women's autonomy as a threat.

Overall, Chapter 11 illustrates that the quest for women's liberation is deeply intertwined with the overarching struggle against patriarchal oppression and the right to personal autonomy, especially concerning their bodies and reproductive choices. The text serves as a reminder of the historical battles faced by women and the ongoing necessity for vigilance and advocacy in the pursuit of gender equality.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Independence Through Bodily Autonomy

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing firm in the knowledge that your body is your own, a powerful truth that can ignite a profound change in your life. Chapter 11 of 'Who Cooked the Last Supper' reminds you that true freedom lies in the ability to make choices about your own body without interference from societal pressures or patriarchal norms. As you reflect on this principle, consider how it empowers you to advocate for your own needs and desires, reinforcing the notion that you have the right to determine your path. This realization can inspire you to pursue not just your personal ambitions, but also to support others in their journeys toward autonomy. Rekindling your awareness of bodily sovereignty can drive you to challenge outdated perceptions, fostering a community that values independence and respects individual choices, ultimately reshaping the future for generations to come.

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Chapter 12:

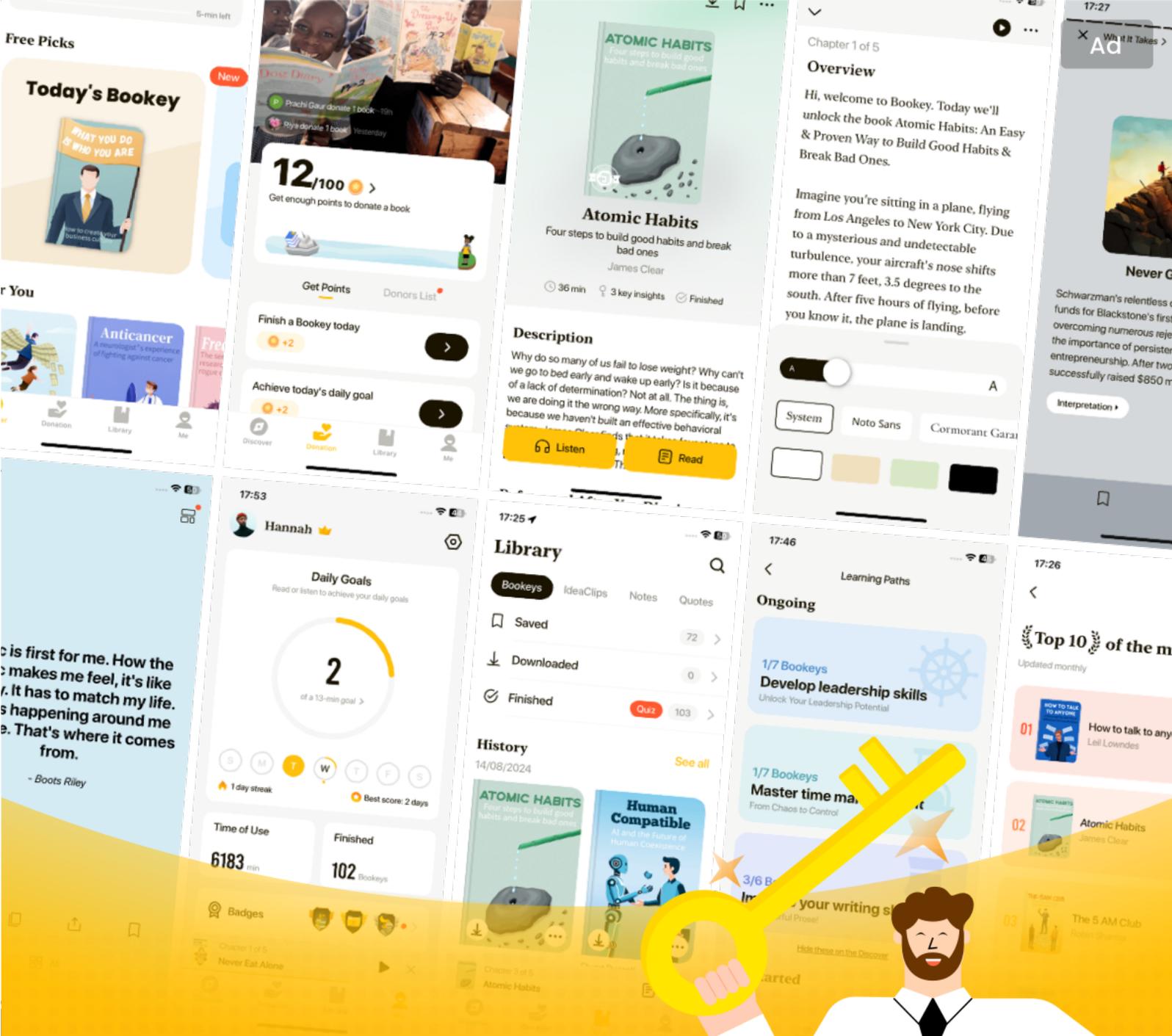
Chapter 12 of "Who Cooked the Last Supper" by Rosalind Miles examines the complex and often painful history of women's struggle for equality and recognition. It begins with the devastating impact of the two World Wars on society, particularly on women who lost fathers, husbands, and sons while still facing systemic gender inequality.

1. The horrors of war are starkly illustrated, revealing that while men returned from battle, women were simultaneously honored for their service yet excluded from the equality they fought for. For instance, during the WWI era, figures like Edith Cavell were celebrated, yet women's roles remained secondary to men's. This pattern of sacrifice was repeated in WWII with the rise of oppressive regimes, like the Nazis, which severely regressed women's rights and contributed to their exploitation.

2. The chapter recounts how revolutions have often depended upon women's involvement, yet women's rights have consistently taken a back seat to men's agendas. Notable historical instances, from women fighting in the

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