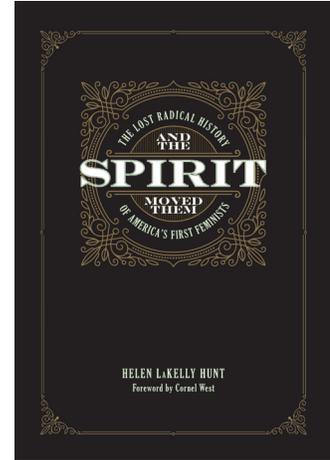


EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

AND THE SPIRIT MOVED THEM: THE LOST RADICAL HISTORY OF AMERICA'S FIRST FEMINISTS

Helen LaKelly Hunt | Foreword by Cornel West

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1. In *And the Spirit Moved Them*, author Helen LaKelly Hunt puts forth a new origin story of the women's movement in the US, positioning its beginnings eleven years before the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. Prior to reading this book, what did you know about feminist history in the US? Where did you learn it?
2. Although many of the figures in this book are religious, the church is not always a site of justice for those figures. Identify two moments in the text where there is a conflict between Christian teaching and behavior within the church.
3. How did these abolitionist feminists integrate faith into their activism, calling for a societal revolution?
4. Hunt is drawn to these women for several reasons, but especially for their "organizing methodology" of practicing empathy with enslaved people. How might an empathetic practice translate to contemporary feminist movements?
5. Another of their organizing principles is "relationality"—the idea that the self always exists in relation to and with others. How did the idea of relationality function in their movement?
6. Hunt argues that the history of feminism in the US must begin with these two abolitionist feminist conventions, even if their mission wasn't exclusively about women's rights. What is gained by locating the beginning of feminism in 1837 rather than with Seneca Falls? What is lost?
7. These women lacked many rights, including the right to speak in public, vote, or hold leadership positions in the church. What are the current barriers to power, justice, and equality for all people? How might women today use their relative empowerment to ignite a similarly impactful revolution?
8. In the introduction, the author relates to the abolitionist feminists and finds in them permission to be her whole self within feminism. Are there any thinkers, texts, or histories that you have encountered that have changed your personal worldview, or allowed you to better relate to larger social movements or issues?

ABOUT THE BOOK

And the Spirit Moved Them tells the unsung story of a courageous group of women—both black and white—who fought racism and sexism through two antislavery conventions in 1837 and 1838, and in the process, created a powerful sisterhood that anticipated the contemporary intersectional feminist movement.

In a compelling blend of memoir and historical investigation, Hunt pairs her discovery of these pioneering abolitionists with a deeply personal search for her own place in feminism—as a Christian, philanthropist, and advocate for social justice.

As current events inspire resistance from feminists across political and religious spectrums, the roots of our collective movement need to be given fresh voice in the present. *And the Spirit Moved Them* is issued in a “red letter” edition that highlights the inspiring oration of these early feminists. The book is both a galvanizing testament to where we have been, and a blueprint for where we could go.

HELEN LAKELLY HUNT, PhD, is the author of *Faith and Feminism*, a mother of the women’s philanthropy movement, and a donor activist. She is coauthor of several bestselling books with her husband, Harville Hendrix, with whom she developed Imago Relationship Therapy.

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