



Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter

Sally Armstrong

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The earth is shifting under the status of women. UPRISING tells a remarkable story about women claiming their own space – against all odds - and how this shift from oppression to emancipation will improve the economy, reduce poverty and curtail conflict. Sally Armstrong, also known as the war correspondent for the world's women, has been following the action on the front line for women and girls in Bosnia, Egypt, Congo, The Middle East, Afghanistan and America for twenty-five years. She says the manifesto for this revolution is being written in mud-brick huts in Afghanistan and on Tehrir Square in Egypt and in the forests of the Congo, as well as on the streets of Kenya, where 160 girls sued their government for failing to protect them from being raped, and won, and in Pakistan, where Malala Yousafzai, is fighting for the rights of all girls. Armstrong has been an eye witness to the worst atrocities and is now the first to write about the astonishing changes that are happening in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Her eye-witness reporting has earned her many awards including the Gold Award from the National Magazine Awards Foundation and the Author's Award from the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters. She received the Amnesty International Canada Media Award in 2000, 2002 and again in 2011. She was a member of the International Women's Commission a UN body that consists of 20 Palestinian women, 20 Israeli women and 12 internationals whose mandate is assisting with the path to peace in the Middle East.

Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter Details

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From Reader Review Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter for online ebook

Laura says

Awe-inspiring, powerful and important.

Uprising is something everyone, women and men, need to read. At times it is heartbreaking but it is consistently eye-opening. Although it is full of facts it does not read like a textbook; on the contrary, it is an easy and enthralling read.

I won this book through a first reads giveaway and am so thankful that I had an early opportunity to read it. Many of the women's stories are tragic and unimaginable in their cruelty, but Armstrong always follows up with the ways in which things are changing for the better. So even though I was horrified, there was a certain amount of vindication for these women, which provides a kind of light at the end of the tunnel; making it not just a story of destruction but a story of redemption.

"Women's rights are human rights belonging to every citizen" and when necessary we must fight so that our sisters everywhere are provided with these rights that can be so easy to take advantage of here in America. We are lucky, but not all women are and it is more important than ever that we come together in support of what is right, so that women the world over can live comfortably and enjoy complete equality with men.

I am so thankful for the knowledge this book has provided me with. Having read Uprising I feel more informed and am filled with the overwhelming desire to help in any way that I can. I have every intention of getting involved in some way in the immediate future. Sally Armstrong, you have truly moved me.

Zuzanna says

4,5/5*

Bill says

I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads First Read and was attracted to the book out of my concern about inequality in general and gender inequality in particular. What an eye opener for me! While I thought society has made significant progress around gender equality and women's rights, I learned that we have such a very long way still to go. Brutal violence perpetrated by husbands and religious and cultural leaders against women around the world is staggeringly common and accepted as "the cultural norm." Religions have been hijacked and twisted, teaching believers that unequal treatment of women is ordained as the holy word of their God. Yikes!! Rape as a weapon of war is truly deplorable.

While the book explained, at times in gory details, all the terrible and despicable things done to women and girls in the name of God or local, culture norms, it highlighted the growing, persistent and tenacious uprising underway to ensure women and girls around the world achieve the equality and economic opportunity they rightfully deserve as members of the global human community.

Using international laws such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, civil rights organizations across the world are taking the legal and moral high road to ensure women have equal access education, healthcare, and freedom from violence and death at the hands of husbands, fathers, uncles, police and marauding soldiers and religious zealots.

Another very pragmatic approach employed by these organizations is to inform and educate local and national leaders that when women are engaged, educated and empowered, the local and national economies will improve and prosper. When women are fully represented, societies are more peaceful and stable. In short, as women engage and prosper, so does the economy and this rising tide of prosperity will lift all economic boats.

At times this book can be very depressing - the things that are done to women and girls in the name of God is reprehensible. Rape is such an ugly act but it is used in many parts of the world as a weapon of war, of ethnic cleansing or as part of the "ownership" of wives and daughters by their husbands and males family members. Misogyny is such a terrible word but it is embedded in this world.

On the positive side, I felt tears of joy for the many teenagers and women in the early twenties who are standing up to the violence, violence that has been perpetrated on many of them personally, to shout out for change and work tirelessly for the girls and women across the world for a better life, free of fear of rape and violence and the promise economic opportunities.

We have a very long way to go but the seeds of change have been planted, thanks to women and men who have stood up to the madness and said no more! I highly recommend this book - it is a teaching moment!

Patricia M Thompson says

The book was a difficult book to read through. As most people my age living in the United States do not want to believe a the harshness that goes on in foreign countries to women. What made the book good for me was that there were signs that improvements are being made. The governments of other world controlling countries are listening and seeing the problems women face in the oppressed countries.

Dianna says

Ms. Armstrong should be appreciated for penning "Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter". The text is well thought-out and combines broad historical and political events and their significant impact on individuals whose stories were collected by the author herself and retold in a respectful and touching manner. It reports about the who's who in current reform and describes their roadblocks and methodology for improving the life of women. It is the type of book that can change perspectives, convey a sense of empowerment to change, educate about women's rights the world over, and provide a reference for how to become better involved in women's rights activities. Although some of the content of the book is extremely difficult to read from an emotional perspective, trust in the author's decisions and the book's totality will be worthwhile.

Sarah says

Everyone needs to read this book. If you are a woman, you need to read this book. If you have a daughter, mother, sister, wife, girlfriend, you need to read this book. If you are a member or follower of the One Billion Rising movement, you need to read this book. If you have ever been made to feel shame for being a woman, you need to read this book.

If you ever asked why women think they are unequal, read this book. If you have ever closed your eyes to violence against women because you thought, or were made to feel like it wasn't your place to intervene, read this book. If you have ever hurled "feminist" at a woman like it's a slur, read this book.

The author Sally Armstrong is a human rights activist and journalist. Uprising is the culmination of her time in the field over the course of her journalism career and a gift to those who might find feminist theory difficult to understand. She speaks with a straightforward voice, has done and lived her research, and knows her facts. It's hard to face those facts and deny that inequality exists. This kind of violence is still happening. Violence against women is current. It is happening right now.

Armstrong talks about the realities of topics such as rape in warfare, marital rape, honor killings, forced child marriages, genital mutilation, poverty, religious scriptures, and cultural traditions on women, regardless of culture or age. Interwoven with these topics, she shares legal action being taken, right now, by women all over the globe, rising up to become a force of change in their worlds. Better still, Armstrong introduces us to the women she has met and interviewed who stand at the front of these waves.

We meet people like the 106 daughters of Kenya who had the courage to sue their government for not protecting them against rape, Eva Penavic in Croatia who found the courage to speak when no one else could, the grandmothers of Swaziland who are raising their grandchildren after an entire generation succumbed to AIDS/HIV, the women of Liberia who marched into Ghana and demanded peace, Siffy from the horrors of Congo, Hoda Elsadda of Egypt who returned to help shape her country, and Alaina Podmorrow of British Columbia, a teenage girl who started raising money to hire teachers for the young girls of Afghanistan.

Uprising is an accessible read with content that is not always easy to read. But underneath every horror is a rising, and in some cases, a breaking down of walls and a giant push forward. In order to help women, we need to understand what all the women of the world face. We need to be willing to open our eyes. Sally Armstrong breaks your heart with the truth, and then fills the cracks with hope.

At the core of this book, for me, were two strong messages. The first one is that, with the advent of globalization, we do not get to hide behind the wall of "that's not our business." What we ignore, we allow with our silence, and we become complicit patrons in its development. And this desire for change is not about women versus men. It's about women AND men standing up against the mistreatment of women. Both genders are born with equal opportunity in the world. It is society and culture that puts up the barriers that divide and oppress. And it's time to bring them down.

Story Circle Book Reviews says

Uprising is an invigorating, eye-opening, tragic yet inspiring look at the status of women in some of the most oppressive countries and cultures in the world. Author Sally Armstrong's premise is simple and compelling—that even in places where women's rights have been severely curtailed, where they have been

subjected to violence, rape, genital mutilation, harassment and murder—a new age is dawning. Her 25 years of experience reporting on women's issues worldwide has given her a unique perspective and added strength to her claim. Not only have women gained rights to education and political and economic power, but international economists and world leaders are linking economic development, the end to military conflict, and improvements in health directly to a country's treatment of its women.

Economist Jeffery Sachs, Armstrong reports, has found a direct correlation between women's status and the economic security of a given nation. Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow for US Foreign Policy, has asserted that "Countries which oppress their women are doomed to be failed states." Hilary Clinton has claimed that "In country after country we have seen women help push peace agreements to the finish line." With world leaders backing women's rights as they have never before, change, Armstrong believes, is at a tipping point.

"[N]ow the threads required for serious progress on human rights have started to weave themselves together into a tapestry of change. You want a better economy? Put women to work. Your health system is lagging? Improve maternal and infant health care. War is your problem? Bring women to the negotiating table. Is poverty stuck at unacceptable levels? Ask your women to make the budget." (p. 11)

Armstrong identifies two "unlikely factors" spurring this global women's movement: the rise of Islamism that is inspiring Middle Eastern and Asian women to protest the "extreme hijacking" of their religion, and the AIDS epidemic in which African women realized that without change in the attitudes of men toward women, whole villages would die out. Social media, blogging, and the internet are fueling the fire of this gentle but insistent revolution. Women are using these powerful tools to educate, to expose harassment, to shame those responsible, to announce protest actions and to tell their stories. They are fighting the dogma that has argued the oppression of women in some parts of the world that is cultural and therefore unchangeable. New strategies are being employed such as using nations' constitutions and new and existing laws on social justice to hold oppressors accountable and force governments to act.

Armstrong's book is densely packed, not only with facts, but with personal histories of women she has interviewed. The result is part textbook, part social commentary, and part women's history. Rather than a straightforward and chronological format, Armstrong uses a spiral structure, organizing chapters by broad subject matter: shame, oppression, cultural factors, poverty, etc. The result can be a bit dizzy and daunting when the same information is repeated in each new context. It isn't light reading. This book takes work, but it is worth the effort, and it has a good index which helps.

This is also not a book for the overly sensitive. Armstrong doesn't flinch in her reporting of the shocking details of girls and women gang-raped to death, specifics of genital mutilation so severe young women die in childbirth, girls pushed back into a burning building because they weren't wearing their headscarves, or stoned to death for adultery. Yet ultimately her message is one of optimism and hope. She ends her book with the inspiring story of Noorjahan Akbar, 21 and Anita Haidary, just 19, cofounders of Young Women for Change (YWC) in Kabul, Afghanistan.

When Armstrong interviewed Akbar in 2012, the young woman explained that YWC was founded to mobilize the youth. "Sixty-five percent of the population of Afghanistan is under the age of thirty," Akbar noted. "We have never fought a war. We have new ideas. And we want to get rid of those old customs that nobody wants." YWC launched an art contest to create posters championing the organization's causes such as gender equality, women's rights, the participation of women in society and an end to street harassment of girls who, if unaccompanied by male family members, are accosted with sexually explicit comments and even a pinch on the bottom. YWC encourages men to join too. Male and female, they have carried placards to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission calling for women's rights and an end to street harassment. They have established an internet cafe at their headquarters. They have screened a documentary film, "My Voice, My Story," about Anita's personal experiences of harassment followed by a coed discussion of how and why women are targeted and what men and women can do to stop it. We are left with

the conviction that Armstrong is right; this is only the beginning.

by Lisa Shirah-Hiers
for Story Circle Book Reviews
reviewing books by, for, and about women

Sue Jackson says

Wow. This book is powerful and depressing at times but important to read. Sally Armstrong takes us on a journey of the abuse of women. She chronicles the painful stories of women in many parts of the world yet shows that they are able to be strong.

Uprising is a book that is difficult to read. It is hard not because it is poorly written but because of the painful story it paints. It is filled of stories of women being deprived of power, of being controlled, and even of being raped. The stories are difficult but important to hear and they show that there are similarities from places all over the world.

The author describes in detail the painful struggles that women face merely because they are female. She also shows how women are able to rise up and fight against these inequities. Although it is about specific regions at specific times when women were abused or not given equal rights, it is still timeless.

Ironically, in the United States, women are just now feeling comfortable enough and willing to talk about inappropriate touching by their male counterparts. Maybe this isn't an uprising, but it ties in perfectly with women gaining confidence and the willingness to speak about things that are unfair and in appropriate.

M says

I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads.

In Uprising, Sally Armstrong give voice to recent activists in the worldwide struggle for women's civil and personal rights. This is not a scholastic tome, it is written in a journalistic narrative style.

While some of the material is difficult and disturbing to read, these are issues that must be brought to international awareness. Crimes against women and the suppression of rights to women are not localized problems.

I would especially recommend this book to young women and those who teach young women.

Wanda Gibbons says

Just amazing! The women written about in this book are beyond amazing. They are brave, determined, smart, dedicated, loving, tenacious and deeply inspiring. Beautiful people. Armstrong shows how women have been the way forward and are continuing to be the way forward in many countries where strive, poverty, violence, conflict, hatred toward women and intolerance are rampant. Very moving to read about the strength of these women in their movement for justice and equality in all parts of the world, even here in

Canada. A truly uplifting read about women heading toward success.

Just says

Poruszaj?ca!

Kimberly says

The World Bank asserts that if women and girls are treated fairly, the economy of a village will improve.

“Countries that oppress their women are doomed to be failed states.”

Malala Yousafzai, sixteen of Pakistan, has become the voice of girls throughout the world. When cowardly Taliban shot her in the head in 2012 for daring to go to school and speaking for girls' education.

“By targeting Malala, extremists showed what they feared most: a girl with a book.”

The changes described in this book are aimed at solving the world's most intractable problems - poverty, conflict, and violence.

It's a sweeping generalization, but my experience writing about women in zones of conflict as well as in developing and developed countries tells me that women are more interested in fair policy than power, in peace than in a piece of the turf. And women leaders have long asserted that a sense of community is far more valuable than a sense of control.

“Talking is the antidote for oppression and injustice.”

Historically, when you alter the status of one woman, you alter the status of her family.

Once religion took a male-dominated stand, it nurtured the oppression of women.

In twelfth-century, Islam was the only religion of the time that allowed people to practice any other religion, and its leader, the prophet Muhammad, had a working wife. So why do today's mullahs and imams interpret the Quran in ways that oppress women? The Quran was written one hundred years after the prophet died; the interpretation of the prophet's words reflect the times more than they do the holy man.

Farida Shaheed, the prominent Pakistani women's rights activist, says, “Religion as faith is the least problematic; as custom, it's a bigger problem; but as politics, it becomes the most problematic.”

In fact, in most of the countries where I work as a journalist, the thugs in power are quick to tell me, “You're not from here. You're not part of our culture, so you have no right to write about our women.”

Culture flies like a banner of pride. But it also covers a host of misogynist acts that have oppressed women for centuries.

After 9/11, the world was drawn to the human rights catastrophe taking place in Afghanistan. U.S. president George W. Bush claimed that he was invading Afghanistan to rescue the women, but a more honest

explanation was that American soldiers happened to stumble over burqa-clad women on their way to avenge the attack on the World Trade towers. In fact, throughout history, no military or government has ever gone anywhere to rescue women.

The fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, concentrated entirely on the human rights of women and girls. The resulting Platform for Action - asserting that women's rights are human rights - was mainstreamed into all policies and programs of the United Nations. The slogan "Women's Rights Are Human Rights" went viral and became a rallying cry for women the world over.

More than 130 million women who are alive today in twenty-eight countries have been sexually mutilated in the name of tradition. Every day, an average of six thousand little girls are taken to old women known as "the cutters" who excise their clitoris and labia with a razor and then sew them up. No anesthetic, no sterilization. There's just agony, a future of pain and sometimes death.

Men who come from a patriarchal cultural background do not agree with full and complete equality for women and men, and the reason for it is that equality weakens their power.

If it were up to the women, Palestine and Israel would have signed a peace accord in the late 1980s.

"In the kingdom of death, Israeli children lie beside Palestinian children, soldiers of the occupying army beside suicide bombers, and no one remembers who was David and who was Goliath."

Many Afghans see the Taliban as a menace and a throwback to the dark ages. The biggest obstacle to a Taliban return is the women, particularly the young women active in Afghanistan today. Young Women for Change (YWC) is challenging old customs and is growing dramatically.

Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi banker, economist, and founder of Grameen Bank, was among the first to see women as the way forward, the way out of the intractable cycle of poverty. His (Yunus) philosophy: lend money to women and they will break the cycle of poverty; lend it to men and they will spend the money on themselves.

Hillary Clinton: "When we liberate the economic potential of women, we elevate the economic performance of communities, nations, and the world."

Research on women and the economy shows that women save more money than men, that they use their money to feed and educate their children, and as a result their families are healthier and better educated.

Empowering women through education changes lives - as girls marry later, have fewer children, and those children are healthier.

Hillary Clinton predicts a change in the economic climate for women, and there's research data to support her view. Economists estimate that women-owned businesses will create nearly a third of the new jobs anticipated over the next seven years. Globally, women will control \$15 trillion in spending by the year 2014.

Dismissing violence as cultural rather than criminal excuses the act. Until we call crimes against women (and humanity) by their names, we'll not only fail to stop the violence against women that is endemic throughout the world, we will be endorsing it.

American filmmaker Abigail Disney says, "Women mobilizing to stop war is our last best hope." Referring to the ever-increasing number of civil wars going on in the world today, she stresses, "We have been moving closer to perpetual war every day. One thing we've never tried, never given a chance to, is women's

leadership.”

The new revolutionaries know that you have to speak your truth and use the law of the land to hold the state accountable for changing the status quo and then be prepared to wait out the naysayers. But the process begins with finding the nerve to conquer fear.

“Sexual harassment is just a way for men who feel threatened by women’s leadership to stop us from living up to our full potential.”

“The democratic world, which has told us a lot about the virtues of democracy and good governance, should not be indifferent to what is happening in Yemen and Syria, and what happened before that in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, and happens in every Arab and non-Arab country aspiring for freedom. All of that is just hard labor during the birth of democracy, which requires support and assistance, not fear and caution, to win their rights in a society dominated by the supremacy of men.”

In Afghanistan, Noorjahan Akbar and Anita Haidary have launched the most powerful change agent that Afghan women have ever known with their organization Young Women for Change. Gloria Steinem thinks their stories are the art of the possible. She says, “Women are certainly the way forward. Men are also the way forward. Progress lies in the direction we haven’t been.”

Akbar speaks precisely, “I am still afraid very often. I think anyone who has joined YWC has had fear because people who dare to speak out against injustice face backlash, and any new idea is bound to be rejected before being accepted, especially if it challenges societal norms and rules.

Heidi says

I read the first chapter thinking I would put a post-it on each page with interesting information, horrific but memorable statistics and issues I wanted to follow-up on. I ended up with post-its everywhere. The book is really a comprehensive collection of essays looking at the most pressing issues facing women around the world. Violence, rape (women and children are raped at a rate of 1 every 48 seconds in the Democratic Republic of Congo), abject poverty, exclusion from society and persistent and violent harassment all feature. This book is much more than just a catalogue of issues, though. For each issue there is commentary on the large wins and small successes that women are experiencing in their battle for equality, a battle to live in peace and to secure their social and economic futures. There is an uprising and it is women who will wield the power of change. A must read - disturbing but also uplifting.

Heather says

Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter by Sally Armstrong Due to some of my other reading, the information contained here is not entirely new for me, but it would serve as a great starter for anyone looking to understand the state of women in the world today, the progress that we are making, and the vision for the road ahead.

The book is optimistic without being naive, acknowledging both the current progress and that which we have lost along the way. The plight of feminism appears to follow "two steps forward, one step back" in its overall path. Progress gets made, a little at a time. We are in an interesting era for everyone, for women, and for

feminism. This book brings the reader along on the journey of women around the world as it is today, it shows us what is happening outside of our bubble.

Like I mentioned above, it's a great starter or even if you're a few books in. There were a few organizations mentioned that I'd never heard of but most of them were familiar. Maybe you'll find something new too!

Overall great book!

Jim says

This is a remarkable book about the progress of seeking equality for 50% of the human race - those of the female gender. The author is a reporter and editor who has been reporting on women's issues and political issues for over 25 years.

The book presents a positive outlook for the coming of equality among the sexes - the author sees the world today at the "tipping point" when things will really begin to improve for women and girls in this world. But she does not hold back from talking about the horrors that come with inequality and misogyny: widespread rape, including the use of rape as a weapon of war such as in Bosnia and Congo and Sudan; female genital mutilation, which is still practiced in many countries, especially in Africa; the inequality and mistreatment faced by women and girls in Islamic countries; the issue of polygamy as it is practiced by some fundamentalist religions; the use of religion or "custom" to keep women under control and not allow them to work outside the home or control their own bodies.

For each of these issues, and many more, the author provides stories of hope: the successful suit against the Government of Kenya on behalf of 160 girls who were raped - the government was found guilty of not fulfilling its obligation to protect the girls; the success of women in numerous villages in West Africa to stop FGM; the organization of women in countries from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Egypt to Libya to demand their rights; the support given to women in Afghanistan and elsewhere by organizations in Canada, the US and other countries - both financial and moral.

This book is not easy to read - it makes one nauseous at times hearing the stories of how females have been treated. Probably the worst for me was the report that a newborn girl had been raped in Africa by a man who believed that intercourse with a young virgin would cure him of AIDS! But this is an important book about an enormously important subject.
