

The Truth Behind the Mommy Wars: Who Decides What Makes a Good Mother?

By Miriam Peskowitz



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The media, from Dr. Phil to the *New York Times Magazine*, is adamant that there is no love lost between working parents and those who stay home with their children, each fighting an ideological and economic war based on what they think is best for their children. Yet in reality, as Miriam Peskowitz powerfully discloses, parents don't want to fight one another at all; they simply want more options. Moreover, the very sides in this debate don't exist: one third of all mothers work part-time, falling in the vast abyss between full-time careerist and at-home mommy. How does the corporate climate in America force women to claim either a career or a family at any given time? Are the choices women are making—to either adjust careers, "carousel" in and out of the workplace, or quit altogether—really choices at all? And how do we expand the definition of productive worker to include an engaged parent? These questions and more are answered and explored in this moving and convincing treatise on the newcentury collision between work and mothering.

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Review

An original book, with an interesting, well-substantiated argument on every page. A strong contribution to an important, ongoing debate. -- *Kirkus Reviews*

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