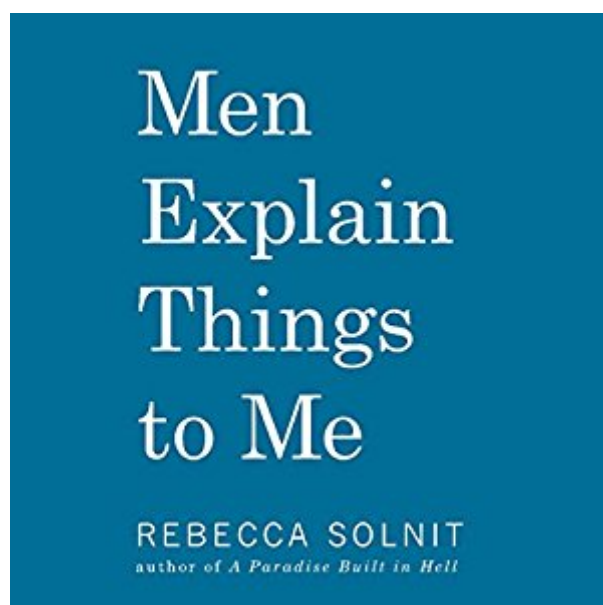


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# Men Explain Things To Me



## Synopsis

In *Men Explain Things to Me*, Rebecca Solnit takes on the conversations between men who wrongly assume they know things and wrongly assume women don't. The ultimate problem, she shows in her comic, scathing essay, is female self-doubt and the silencing of women. Writer, historian, and activist Rebecca Solnit is the author of 14 books about civil society, popular power, uprisings, art, environment, place, pleasure, politics, hope, and memory, most recently *The Faraway Nearby*, a book on empathy and storytelling. She is a Harper's Magazine contributing editor.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my brother-in-law shortly after my sister gave birth to a daughter. I thought it would be a fun "Hey, you have a daughter, this might be a good thing to start thinking about" type gift. And so he didn't feel totally alone while reading it, I bought myself a copy as well. Solnit is clearly a powerful mind and talented writer. Her prose is strong and forceful, and she writes with stirring conviction. The book's most powerful essays ("Men Explain Things To Me" and "#YesAllWomen") are intelligent, clear-sighted looks at a massive, difficult, dangerous topic. It saddens me to applaud Solnit for her courage in writing this, if only because that acknowledges the typical backlash against women who speak out against misogyny, but she IS courageous and that alone warrants commendation. The book starts out with a funny, almost playful anecdote about being mansplained to by a pompous idiot at a party in Aspen, but then quickly moves into darker waters. Solnit goes on to use politics, art, history and new media as springboards for discussing the interconnectedness of cultural misogyny and how mansplaining

and rape can be viewed as existing on a continuum. Towards the end of the book she summarizes this nicely: "It's a slippery slope. That's why we need to address the slope, rather than compartmentalizing the varieties of misogyny and dealing with them separately." (p. 134) It's a new way of looking at an ancient problem, articulated in a way that I don't think I've heard before, and Solnit rounds out her case by anticipating counter arguments (i.e. men being falsely imprisoned for rape) and responding to them to the degree that they deserve.

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