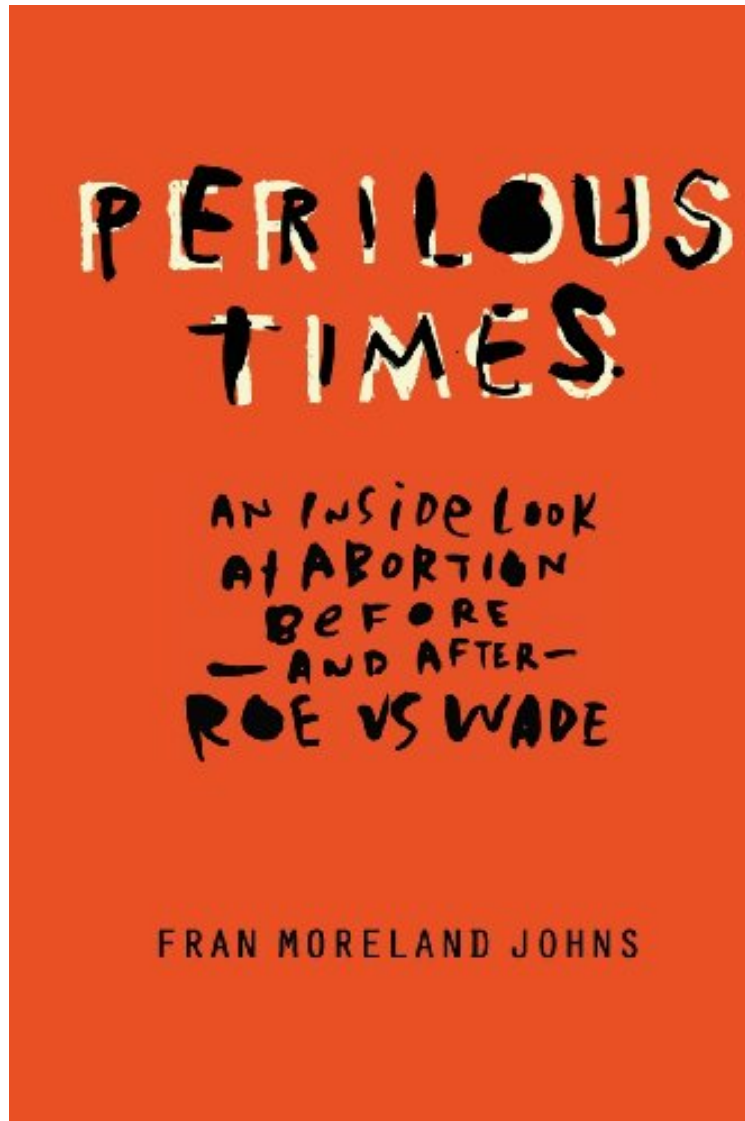


[FREE] Perilous Times: An Inside Look at Abortion Before-And After- Roe V. Wade

Perilous Times: An Inside Look at Abortion Before-And After- Roe V. Wade

Fran Moreland Johns

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#1056861 in Books 2013-05-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .38 x 6.14l, .56 #File Name: 1936411229176 pages | File size: 71.Mb

Fran Moreland Johns : Perilous Times: An Inside Look at Abortion Before-And After- Roe V. Wade before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Perilous Times: An Inside Look at Abortion Before-And After- Roe V. Wade:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Now I RememberBy dinahpfaffThis extraordinarily powerful book reminded me what it was like to be a 21 year old girl just out of college, lonely and alone for the first time in my life

and far from my cautious, conservative home. How heavy the obligation I felt to be the star of the family. How incredibly grateful I was not to have been impregnated that very first time. How ashamed I was to go, unmarried, to a doctor and ask for birth control pills. Fran Johns makes it very clear what millions of women felt who were not as lucky as I. Who could not go to a doctor, because of money, or the laws of the day. Who were ashamed and alone and desperate. Or who could afford a doctor, either outside our country or illegal but kind hearted and discrete -- and often not so kind hearted or scrupulous. Who struggled with the pain of abortion, but went forward because for them, at the time, it was the right thing to do. From my safe, secure, adult position today, I don't know that I could ever have an abortion. But I am safe and secure. I would not be bringing shame or humiliation on myself, ruin the life I had been working hard to build, drag my family into greater poverty. It is well to remember just what it felt like to be someone who was not/is not so fortunate. For abortion is under attack today as more and more states limit access to it in the name of "mother's health" and religion. As with so many things, it is the poor who suffer most in these circumstances. In my view, it is best for society when children are brought into the world by people who have the wherewithall to give them the love and cherishing each child deserves. To decide whether to have an abortion should be between a woman, her doctor, her family and her religious counselor. Not the state. And I have never felt stronger about that than now, having read this book. Fran has written an incredible book. Example after example, a wide spectrum of women tell what it was like when obtaining an abortion was close to impossible. I hope everyone will read it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Important, timely read. By Ronald C. Tierney I understand how two thoughtful, well-intentioned people can have seriously conflicting opinions on important issues. But the discussion of such subjects as Roe vs. Wade is owed perspective -- historic and personal. This is where *Perilous Times* comes in. The full title includes the sub heading *An Inside Look at Abortion Before -- And After -- Roe vs Wade*. The author is journalist Fran Moreland Johns who also wrote about important end-of-life issues in *Dying Unafraid*. The perspective, or perhaps context, necessary to understand, relates directly to the social domination by men and the cultural nature of time and place as they reflect the roles society expected women to play -- essentially property. Real stories, told in a fair-minded manner -- recreate the times before there were alternatives to "back-alley" butchers. You'll meet all sorts of folks along the way, none a stock character. Quite possibly the girl who lived down the street when you were a kid scooted into the back seat of an old Buick, and was quietly returned, missing only a couple of days of school. John's new book puts the past U.S. chapters in perspective and provides an important perspective on what is happening now and what we might face in the future. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read this book! By C. Collins There is much debate over on the subject of abortion. A lot of energy is devoted to figuring out why it should be considered a woman's right to choose versus an issue of legality. I cannot imagine anything more difficult than having to make the decision to have an abortion, much less try to find a place and a person to perform the procedure for me. And then there's the business of having to live with myself afterwards. The debate over whether it should be illegal is based on baby's versus mom's rights, the specifics of conception, and being labeled a murderer by the political right, etc. Rarely is a face put on the personal experience of getting an abortion, that of an old friend who I had no idea in the world had been down that dark alley, or an aunt who made a painful choice well before the opportunity of marriage, or the girl who dated my brother's friend who couldn't live life with a child out of wedlock. I always thought that movie with Natalie Wood and Steve McQueen was fiction. The reality is pregnancy happens to some 4,000,000 young girls and women a year in this country and half of those pregnancies are a mistake if not a nightmare in the truest sense of the word. As an advanced practice nurse specializing in mental illness and women's health, I gained a perspective on aspects of being a woman that broke my heart and strengthened my resolve to be their advocate. Fran Johns has written an illuminating masterpiece that should be read by everyone in the health care community who work with women. Abortion is not a legal issue, it's a fact of life.

Perilous Times: An Inside Look at Abortion Before-and After-Roe v. Wade gives a unique perspective on the days of back-alley abortions-- one of which the author experienced in 1956 following what would today be known as workplace rape-- and includes contemporary stories that indicate those grim days are returning. It is written for lay readers, making a strong case for reproductive choice and a plea for informed dialog. Author Fran Moreland Johns' comments on abortion rights have appeared recently in *The New York Times* and *New Yorker* magazine. *Perilous Times* expands on the issue through true stories of women and men whose lives have been impacted by unplanned pregnancies, and comments from leaders in the field of reproductive rights.

Perilous Times is riveting. Fran Johns is doing down-to-earth reporting, telling stories not told before. This is what journalism is supposed to be about. Not a bunch of stats, tables and graphs. Just people talking about what happened to them, in their own words. *Perilous Times* is a landmark achievement. --Milton Moskowitz, Writer/Author