

**BOOK REVIEW: *BIRDS AND WOMEN
IN MUSIC, ART, AND POLITICS* BY
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Birds and Women in Music, Art, and Politics (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, \$119.95) hosts a variety of topics tying together the treatment of birds and women to and within music, arts, and politics. The chapters, “Music,” “Art,” and “Politics,” delve into these connections with the final chapter, “Rotten Egg,” focusing on species management and survival and the impact and enrichment felt by all involved. The research is novel and gripping. Although scholarly and well researched, the book provides levity to otherwise serious and heavy discussions with its, at times, sarcastic and playful tone.

Birds and Women in Music, Art, and Politics repeatedly discusses mistreatment of mothers and children. The work describes why children and family are essential in the grand scheme. Unexpected and tragic arguments defend children from media,

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sexual abuse, and pornography. It discusses birds' hardships and how their lives may be brutal, while some birds' lives are full of play and whimsy, and the book aptly compares these lucky strokes to human women's fates and decisions. The sections of each chapter include surprising and unexpected pairings of some species of birds with specific people to help illustrate the point.

Birds and Women in Music, Art, and Politics includes dozens of illustrations that ground and enliven the literature. Research helps readers emotionally to resonate with the subjects, concretizing law. The assistive analyses facilitate reimagining of icons, including Big Bird, who connects with nearly anyone's childhood. Other important figures, including Martin Luther King and Outkast, are brought into serious discussions.

Cusack tenderly explicates why animal and human suppression and aspiration are depicted by great stars, such as Audrey Hepburn's portrayal of Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. These connections are at the heart of this excellent book and

give the reader a conduit through which to understand the suffering of birds and women as well as the relevant law.