



Gilmore Girls and the Politics of Identity: Essays on Family and Feminism in the Television Series

Ritch Calvin

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This work examines the *Gilmore Girls* from a post-feminist perspective, evaluating how the show's main female characters and supporting cast fit into the classic portrayal of feminine identity on popular television. The book begins by placing *Gilmore Girls* in the context of the history of feminism and feminist television shows such as *Mary Tyler Moore* and *One Day at a Time*. The remainder of the essays look at series' portrayal of traditional and non-traditional gender identities and familial relationships.

Topics include the hyper-real utopia represented by *Gilmore Girls*' fictional Stars Hollow; the faux-feminist perspective offered by Rory Gilmore's unfulfilling (and often masochistic) romantic relationships; the ways in which "mean girl" Paris Geller both adheres to and departs from the traditional archetype of female power and aggression; and the role of Lorelai Gilmore's oft-criticized marriage in destroying the show's central theme of single motherhood during its seventh season. The work also studies the role of food and its consumption as a narrative device throughout the show's development, evaluating the ways in which food negotiates, defines, and upholds the characters' gendered and class performances. The work also includes a complete episode guide listing the air date, title, writer, and director of every episode in the series.

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