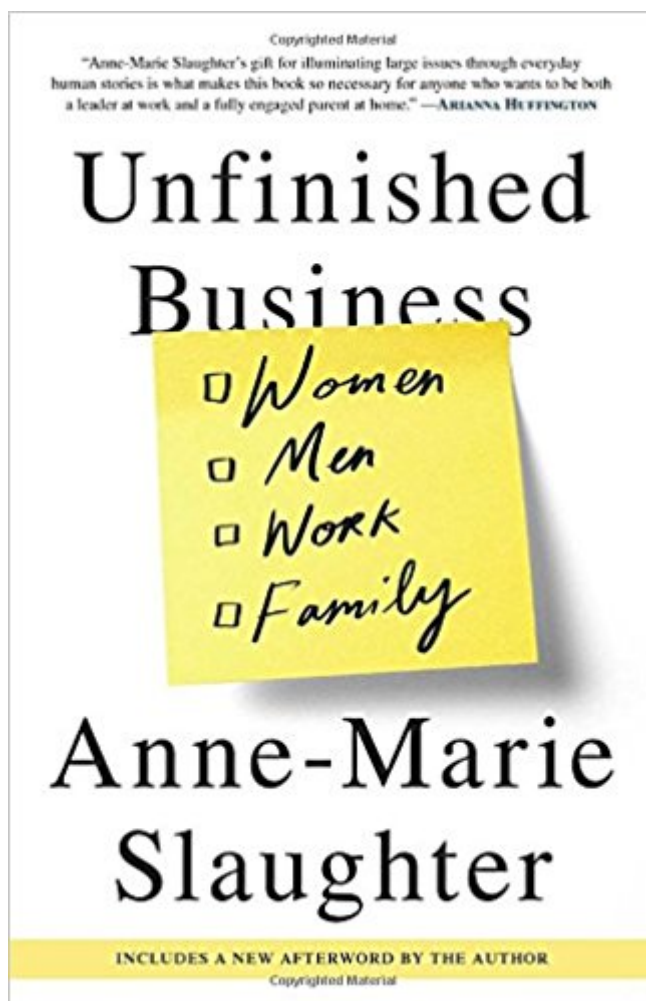


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# Unfinished Business: Women Men Work Family



## Synopsis

Includes a new afterword by the author

“Slaughter’s gift for illuminating large issues through everyday human stories is what makes this book so necessary for anyone who wants to be both a leader at work and a fully engaged parent at home.”

•Arianna Huffington NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY

THE WASHINGTON POST, NPR, AND THE ECONOMIST

When Anne-Marie Slaughter accepted her dream job as the first female director of policy planning at the U.S. State Department in 2009, she was confident she could juggle the demands of her position in Washington, D.C., with the responsibilities of her family life in suburban New Jersey. Her husband and two young sons encouraged her to pursue the job; she had a tremendously supportive boss, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; and she had been moving up on a high-profile career track since law school. But then life intervened. Parenting needs caused her to make a decision to leave the State Department and return to an academic career that gave her more time for her family. The reactions to her choice to leave Washington because of her kids led her to question the feminist narrative she grew up with. Her subsequent article for *The Atlantic*, “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All,” created a firestorm, sparked intense national debate, and became one of the most-read pieces in the magazine’s history. Since that time, Anne-Marie Slaughter has pushed forward, breaking free of her long-standing assumptions about work, life, and family. Though many solutions have been proposed for how women can continue to break the glass ceiling or rise above the “motherhood penalty,” women at the top and the bottom of the income scale are further and further apart. Now, in her refreshing and forthright voice, Anne-Marie Slaughter returns with her vision for what true equality between men and women really means, and how we can get there. She uncovers the missing piece of the puzzle, presenting a new focus that can reunite the women’s movement and provide a common banner under which both men and women can advance and thrive. With moving personal stories, individual action plans, and a broad outline for change, Anne-Marie Slaughter reveals a future in which all of us can finally finish the business of equality for women and men, work and family. Praise for *Unfinished Business*

“Another clarion call from Slaughter . . . Her case for revaluing and better compensating caregiving is compelling. . . . [Slaughter] makes it a point in her book to speak beyond the elite.”

•Jill Abramson, *The Washington Post*

“Slaughter’s important contribution is to use her considerable platform to call for cultural change, itself profoundly necessary. . . . It should go right into the hands of (still mostly male) decision-makers.”

•Los Angeles Times

“Compelling and lively . . . The

mother of a manifesto for working women. *Financial Times* “A meaningful correction to Sheryl Sandberg’s *Lean In* . . . For Slaughter, it is organizations not women that need to change. *Slate* “I’m confident that you will be left with Anne-Marie’s hope and optimism that we can change our points of view and policies so that both men and women can fully participate in their families and use their full talents on the job. *Hillary Rodham Clinton* “An eye-opening call to action from someone who rethought the whole notion of *‘having it all’*. *People*

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (August 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812984978

ISBN-13: 978-0812984972

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 70 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,521 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in *Books > Business & Money > Women & Business* #66 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Marriage & Family* #81 in *Books > Business & Money > Business Culture > Workplace Culture*

## Customer Reviews

“An eye-opening call to action from someone who rethought the whole notion of *‘having it all’*. *Unfinished Business* could change how many of us approach our most important business: living. *People* “Another clarion call from [Anne-Marie] Slaughter . . . Her case for revaluing and better compensating caregiving is compelling. . . . Slaughter skillfully exposes half-truths in the workplace [and] makes it a point in her book to speak beyond the elite. *Jill Abramson, The Washington Post* “Slaughter argues that the current punishing route to professional success or simply to survival is stalling gender progress. . . . [Her] important contribution is to use her considerable platform to call for cultural change, itself profoundly necessary. The book’s audience, then, shouldn’t just be worried womankind. It should go right into the hands of (still mostly male) decision-makers. *Los Angeles Times* “Slaughter

should be applauded for devising a new vocabulary to identify a broad, misclassified social phenomenon. And she is razor-sharp on outlining the cultural shifts necessary to give caregiving its due. . . . By putting these issues on the agenda, Slaughter has already taken an essential first step.

•The Economist

“A meaningful correction to Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean In . . . For Slaughter, it is organizations—not women—that need to change.

•Slate

“The mother of a manifesto for working women . . . Anecdotes from [Slaughter’s] own life and others are deftly interwoven with research, making *Unfinished Business* a compelling and lively read.

•Financial Times

“Anne-Marie Slaughter insists that we ask ourselves hard questions. After reading *Unfinished Business*, I’m confident that you will be left with Anne-Marie’s hope and optimism that we can change our points of view and policies so that both men and women can fully participate in their families and use their full talents on the job.

•Hillary Rodham Clinton

“Anne-Marie Slaughter’s gift for illuminating large issues through everyday human stories is what makes this book so necessary for anyone who wants to be both a leader at work and a fully engaged parent at home.

•Arianna Huffington

“With breathtaking honesty Anne-Marie Slaughter tackles the challenges of often conflicted working mothers and working fathers and shows how we can craft the lives we want for our families. Her book will spark a national conversation about what we need to do to live saner, more satisfying lives.

•Katie Couric

“*Unfinished Business* is an important read for women and men alike. Slaughter shows us that when people share equally the responsibility of caring for others, they are healthier, economies prosper, and both women and men are freer to lead the lives they want.

•Melinda Gates

“Important. Revolutionary.

*Unfinished Business* insists we recognize a simple truth: Human life requires space for caring for others—during childhood, illness, infirmity, and everything in between. And societies that consider caring as simply a women’s issue are fundamentally broken and unhappy. Anne-Marie Slaughter has written the instruction manual for our next cultural transformation.

•Atul Gawande

“Anne-Marie Slaughter has given us a blueprint for the future in which women truly have freedom to choose. They can be leaders at the workplace, and they can be leaders at home, at any point in their lives.

*Unfinished Business* paves the way for women and men to be equal partners in America’s cultural and economic success by accessing 100 percent of our brainpower and creativity.

•Kay Bailey Hutchison

“*Unfinished Business* sets out a powerful vision not only for gender equality, but for the future of work. Anne-Marie Slaughter

presents an important approach to tapping into the talent pool of gifted, educated women who have taken time out for their kids – and we need to pay attention. – Eric Schmidt  
From the Hardcover edition.

Anne-Marie Slaughter is president and CEO of New America. She is the Bert G. Kerstetter University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University and the former dean of its Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. In 2009 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appointed Slaughter director of policy planning for the U.S. State Department, the first woman to hold that job. A foreign policy analyst, legal and international relations scholar, and public commentator, Slaughter was a professor at the University of Chicago Law School and Harvard Law School and is a former president of the American Society of International Law.

I loved this book. I had expected it to simply be an extension of Slaughter's Atlantic article a few years back, but it's so much more than that. Yes, it does cover strategies for making work and family "fit" (a better term than the time-worn "balance"). It also expands on the themes of how both workplace practices and societal norms need to change in order to make the dual pursuits of having a career and raising a family more viable. But it goes well beyond these (important) themes to explore how both women and men need to think differently about their careers and families going forward... in part because the "traditional workplace" is becoming as outdated as the typewriter, and in part because our priorities have started to get seriously out of whack. Millennials are starting to want something different and, with the advent of technology that can transform the work-place, they have a tremendous opportunity to achieve it. Along the way, some seriously interesting topics get explored. How young women need a different career path approach in an era where life expectancies are headed north of 100. How spouses/partners need a plan to make it all work, even though life will inevitably get in the way. How men who take the lead parenting plunge are likely to run up against (and need to prevail against) outdated cultural biases. How the language we use is incredibly important to achieving gender equality in the workplace. How big business has no incentive to change traditional work formats... until flexible models start winning the war for talent. How workplace solutions need to be across the socio-economic spectrum. And how society as a whole needs to "revalue caregiving". Does Slaughter have all the answers? No, but she does have some great ideas, from disruptive technologies to legislative priorities to personal approaches. The point is to get the dialogue started. And having now given the book to my two daughters, it has in

my house...

Insightful read regarding work, family, gender roles, and care. It got me to re-examine the way I value people who work in care and stay-at-home parents, especially mothers. My only complaints are that some of the points got a little repetitive which I think could've been fixed by simply shortening the book. (I may feel this way because I read this book in small increments over the course of a few months.) This also had a very particular group of women in mind--professional women. I wish she talked more about single mothers and mothers who work on hourly wages. That being said, I understand she was drawing inspiration from her life experiences and those around her. It's especially disappointing that she didn't cover the struggle for non-professional women in greater depth because she was so thorough with her arguments--able to deftly and honestly make arguments for and against what she's saying. This author is self-aware and objective throughout this book. This one's worth a read if you like reading about work, family, feminism.

Everyone should read this - young and old! So much personal stress and unhappiness could be avoided if we could lessen these gender role issues and improve our parenting. Since personal stress is created, in part, by the way employers treat their employees, and stress in employment is created by unhappy employees, changing things is a no-brainer. But there are too many people entrenched in the old ways of thinking, causing personal and societal problems. This is a must read, right up there with "Being Mortal," on a very different topic.

This is a counter argument to Sandberg's "Lean In

Anne-Marie Slaughter makes a well-argued and thoroughly researched case for pinning gender inequities on one aspect of our lives - caregiving- specifically, the diminished status of caregiving and that of caregivers. This keystone of caregiving captures a huge range of problems, both for men and women in their attempts to get their desired share of career advancement and family time. See full review here: <http://nanduseternaljournal.blogspot.com/2015/12/the-elegance-of-caregiving.html>

If you liked Lean In, this is a necessary reading. Addressing the same issue, it offers a different perspective. Mrs Slaughter advocates for a new take on care and child rearing, in which they are given as much importance as getting to the C-Suite. You might agree with her (or not), but in any event, it is food for thought in the ever-lasting subject of women's challenges in the

workplace.

Great discussion of something that needed to be said. I have watched for many years as friends and loved ones, one after the other, lost their realistic chances for job advances or tenure to meet the needs, some even minimally, of their families. She also considers the plight of the woman who suffers the same losses to care for aging parents. It's time this country's corporate administration, en masse, gets its collective head out the 1960's sand and fixed this problem. This author does an excellent job of covering this topic WITHOUT BASHING MEN and it's definitely worth a read.

This is a must read for anyone who wants to be successful as a human being, a parent and a partner. Anne-Marie shares great insight as well as humor while discussing this huge issue our society is facing .

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