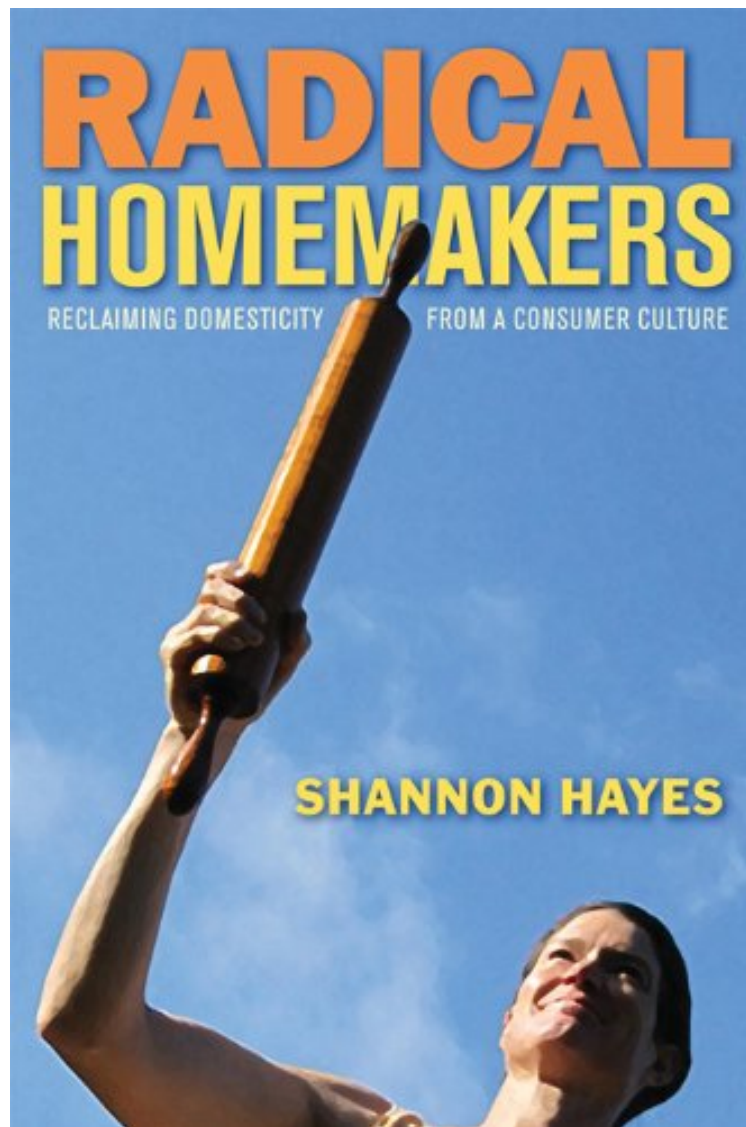


(Mobile pdf) Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture

# Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture

Shannon Hayes

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**Shannon Hayes : Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Yes!!! That's EXACTLY it! By M. Roberts I read this book every spare minute and got through it in 2 days. There were so many YES!!!! moments! This book is wonderfully affirming

for people who value OTHER things (like family, community and time to enjoy life) more than money and keeping up with the Joneses. I have lived for years on much less than I needed to so that I could be home with my kids. I have taken low paying work from home jobs rather than use my masters degree and get a "real" job. But that is because I don't value climbing the ladder and making tons of money at the expense of family life. This book affirmed that and helped me to take it a step further - toward becoming even more self-sufficient and living on less. If you want to live a more eco-friendly, family and community centered life, then you NEED this book. It gives you the permission to live differently that we just don't get in society. THANK YOU SO MUCH for writing this book! Wonderful!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not what you might think...By CustomerThis is an excellent book. I read nearly all 276+ pages in about 3 days. The title may be somewhat misleading though. It sounds like it may be about ladies who are looking to improve in what we have come to think "house work" is...nope, not even close. It is teaching the difference between consumer"ism" vs. being a producer. It's theme is discussing how big business, the industrial revolution and feminism (among other things) have moved the family out of the home where the family once produced much of what they used for living for themselves. They did not work for "the man" and in most cases lived within communities in which others were also producers so that within the community they were able to find what they needed. Perhaps there is the guy who does iron work and the farmer who has beef, the farmer who produces chickens, sheep and gardens, the guy who blows glass, the guys who cuts hair, etc. People could pass on their skills to put up (can) food, sew, knit and so on.The book discusses consumerism and the constant messages (lies) of the media that are telling us we need this and that and some of those all in the interest of hope...the hope that somehow when I buy their product my life will be changed by owning it. It also covers what others are doing in their everyday lives in order to be less reliant on outside sources for their livelihood. It is such an inspirational book! It really makes you think about where we have come as a society in just a couple hundred years even and what we have been raised to THINK is "the way" things are supposed to be...SO NOT TRUE!! I like to write in my books when I see something in them that I like so I can go back and find it quickly...in this book I underlined almost every page. True, it would be a lot of work to produce for yourself but if you didn't have to go out everyday for 10 hours a day to get money to buy what "they" have produced for you then spent millions of dollars in advertising to you (granted you can't produce all things you're going to need) you would be spending that time at home gardening, canning, sewing, carpentry... What makes it worth more when someone else does it for you??? Nothing, that's a lie.Anywho, if you've ever thought..."I wish I didn't have to spend my life away from my home and family..." this book is for you to read and think how your life can be different.I give it a 2 thumbs up!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but not satisfying exploration of this subjectBy KGJulieI have to agree with the other reviewers who pointed out this book's lack of thorough research. The subjects were hand-picked because they already fit the author's conclusions.I find it a very interesting subject and hope there will be more (and better) studies and stories of radical homemakers, urban homesteaders or whatever the people of this movement are called. It was interesting to read about their motivations and priorities, but I'd also like to read more "how-to" case studies that detail the process of leaving the extractive economy and how to successfully transition to the productive local economy.I also couldn't help but wonder what all these radical homemakers do for health insurance and health care -- this is a huge concern for many of us in the traditional working world but was hardly even mentioned in the radical homemaking context. Maybe they never get sick?

Mother Nature has shown her hand. Faced with climate change, dwindling resources, and species extinctions, most Americans understand the fundamental steps necessary to solve our global crises-drive less, consume less, increase self-reliance, buy locally, eat locally, rebuild our local communities. In essence, the great work we face requires rekindling the home fires.Radical Homemakers is about men and women across the U.S. who focus on home and hearth as a political and ecological act, and who have centered their lives around family and community for personal fulfillment and cultural change. It explores what domesticity looks like in an era that has benefited from feminism, where domination and oppression are cast aside and where the choice to stay home is no longer equated with mind-numbing drudgery, economic insecurity, or relentless servitude. Radical Homemakers nationwide speak about empowerment, transformation, happiness, and casting aside the pressures of a consumer culture to live in a world where money loses its power to relationships, independent thought, and creativity. If you ever considered quitting a job to plant tomatoes, read to a child, pursue creative work, can green beans and heal the planet, this is your book.

"The world is moving towards a tougher period, when the relative ease and luxury we've known will be tested. But that test can deepen our family and community lives, as Shannon Hayes shows, providing more of us-of both genders-become homemakers."--Bill McKibben, author of *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* and *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*"Imagine women with masters degrees and PhDs who choose home over career advancement. Imagine wives (and husbands) who reject the false promise of endless paid labor to tend gardens and children and friendships. In a time when Wall Street MBAs-producing nothing of value but rewarded with million-dollar bonuses and blinded by greed-have driven our country to bankruptcy and despair, Shannon Hayes' stories of women and men who choose simplicity, authenticity and community inspire hope. Outside the boxes of both

conservatives and liberals, this book is radical thinking at its best. Read it and think."--John de Graaf, coauthor of *Affluenza* and director of *Take Back Your Time*"Brilliant, visionary, and practical. This is a mind-bending book that will forever change your view of human possibility and compel you to rethink your life. My highest recommendation." --David Korten, author of *Agenda for a New Economy* and *The Great Turning*, and board chair of YES! magazine"Shannon Hayes retrieves the word "homemaker" from being a sort of quaint, yellowing doily laid in the sideboard, along with frugality and simplicity, and shows how radical, indeed, it is to take responsibility for the health of your family, community and world by raising wonderful food, wonderful kids and a wonderful ruckus in the face of injustice or greed. She and her husband had the courage to 'do the math' and see that a double-income life was not worth living (and was barely worth the money). They also had, as most radical homemakers do, the canny ability to question the standard assumptions about the good life . . . they could develop the skills, patience, and community connections of homemaking while keeping their minds sharp and their lives relevant. At a time when many of the pillars of our security are wobbly-the economy, oil and water and mineral supplies, climate predictability-I predict that *Radical Homemakers* will become a bible for those seeking to make their lives more manageable, safe, and deeply fulfilling." --Vicki Robin, coauthor of *Your Money or Your Life* and host of [yourmoneyyourlife.info](http://yourmoneyyourlife.info)"The real 4-Hour Workweek. Reclaim and upgrade your life with this urgently needed work from the integrity-driven soul of Shannon Hayes. No lives of quiet desperation here: rejecting outmoded, inauthentic and toxic societal practices, Shannon and her peers do nothing less than redesign the work-life-success paradigm. Breathtaking, scholarly, passionate and inspiring."--Holly Hickman, *Radical Homemaker*, former Fox News Radio reporter and creator of [SustainableSuppers.com](http://SustainableSuppers.com) --Holly Hickman, former Fox News Radio reporterAbout the AuthorShannon Hayes works with her family raising grassfed meat on Sap Bush Hollow Farm in upstate New York. She is the author of *Long Way on a Little*, *The Grassfed Gourmet*, *The Farmer and the Grill* and the controversial best-seller, *Radical Homemakers*. Hayes holds a Ph.D. in sustainable agriculture and community development from Cornell University, blogs for Yes! Magazine, hosts [GrassfedCooking.com](http://GrassfedCooking.com), and writes about her daily life farming, homeschooling her kids and cooking great food at [ShannonHayes.info](http://ShannonHayes.info).