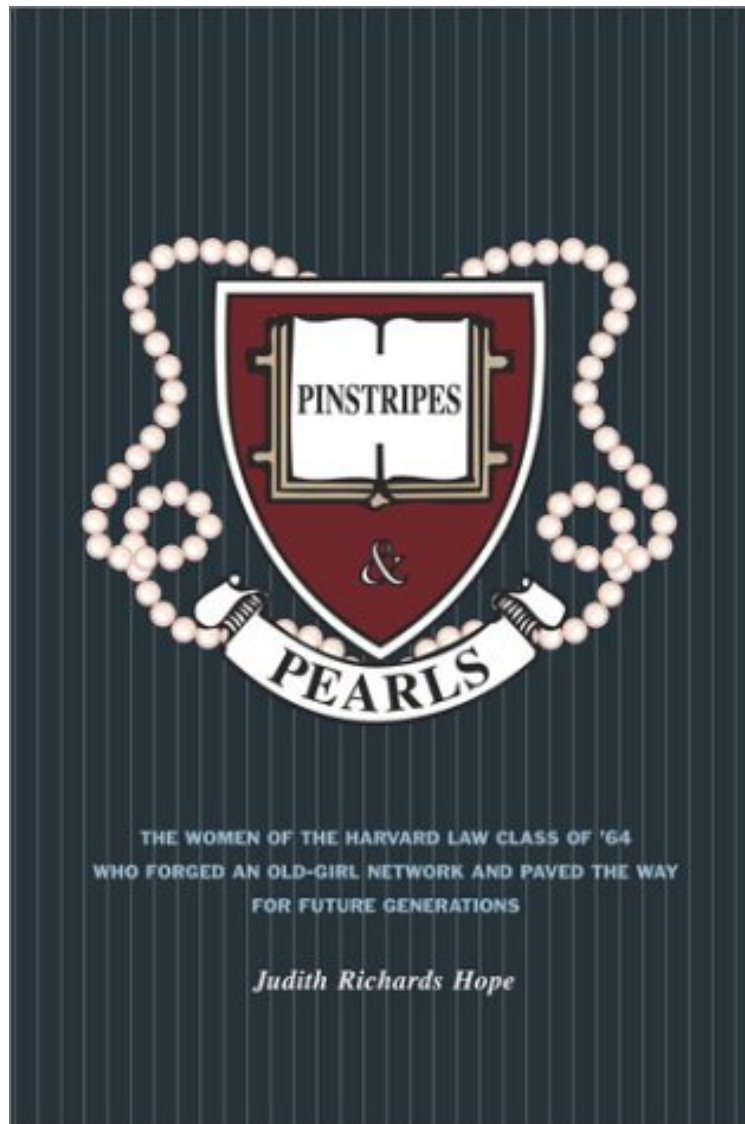


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Judith Richards Hope : Pinstripes Pearls: The Women of the Harvard Law Class of '64 Who Forged an Old Girl Network and Paved the Way for Future Generations (Lisa Drew Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pinstripes Pearls: The Women of the Harvard Law

Class of '64 Who Forged an Old Girl Network and Paved the Way for Future Generations (Lisa Drew Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My granddaughter recommended this book after she read it for her junior ...By AmAzonMy granddaughter recommended this book after she read it for her junior literature class. The book accurately describes the trials and tribulations that professional women faced from the '60's forward. These women were trailblazers for the women that came after them. Of significance was all the women that started in their class were profiled from beginning to end. Thus the experiences of life over 50 years were documented at the same time. Life is not fair but those that have a direction and persevere will achieve their goals. I found a number of life's lessons throughout the book for young women.2 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Another Harvard Genre BookBy A CustomerAs someone who can relate to Ms. Rogers Hope's experiences because I went to Harvard Law a few years after she did and went through some but not all of the same experiences, I have to say that I ran out and bought this book and read it immediately. I then decided that this genre of Harvard history book has been beaten to death. Those of us who actually went to these "select" schools know the big secret that those who went elsewhere do not: They are just like every other school with, perhaps, a more intellectually dynamic student body.Unfortunately, Ms. Rogers Hope chose to concentrate on a few of the women with whom she went to law school. Perhaps they were the ones who cooperated with her in writing this book. Perhaps they were the ones with the most interesting lives. Fundamentally, the women were no different than the women in my class many of whom did not have stellar careers or exciting lives. They just worked as lawyers and that was achievement enough.And, I just got a survey from someone in the class of '72 who wants to interview me for a book about the classes of 1970-1971. Here we go again.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Perfect, but it's a Great ReadBy dree85As someone who will start law school in the fall, I was interested in Judith Richard Hope's *Pinstripes and Pearls* as much for the perspective on the law school experience as for the historical perspective on being in one of the first Harvard Law School classes with women. The book is at its best when it describes the appalling way the women were sometimes treated, both in law school, and as they entered the work force, and how they banded together to survive in the legal profession. It's a little weaker when it strays from that central storyline, however it's still a good read.Hope documents her experience, and that of her 19 female classmates, as they entered Harvard Law School in the fall of 1961, in a class of 513 students. The book begins by providing an outline of the history of women at Harvard Law School. I was surprised to learn that Harvard was one of the last law schools to admit women, not opening their doors to them until 1950 (the reasons for the decision included the fact that turning a men's bathroom into a women's one would be extremely expensive). Hope provides some brief information about the childhoods and families of most of her female colleagues, before starting the story in earnest with registration day, where most of them meet.From there, the story reads somewhat like an extreme version of Scott Turow's *1L*, documenting the first year law school experience, along with all the added comments, criticism, and harassment the women must endure from plenty of male professors and fellow students. Amongst the many incidents described are a dinner party for the women held by a Dean; after dinner he asked all of them "Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?", and a class with a professor who would only call on female students on designated "Ladies' Days", humiliating them for the entertainment of the men.The heroines of the novel are clearly all brilliant, determined women who survived by sticking together, and getting advice and support from each other and older female law students. Together they formed the "old-girls network" of the title, their answer to the "old boys network" that dominated the legal profession at the time (and to some extent still does). 15 of the 20 graduate with the class in 1964, and all but one ultimately graduate from a law school. Although it was very difficult at that time for women to find work in the legal profession ("How well can you type?" and "Will you tell your husband about this position?" are some of the questions the women get asked on interviews) the women help each other out once again, and most ultimately end up finding work as lawyers, with several rising to high powered political positions or becoming judges.The book falters a bit when it tries to explore the age-old question of whether or not a woman can really "do it all", having both a successful career and a family. It's a complex question that has no easy answer, and although Hope seems to be holding up many of her heroines as women who do indeed have it all, the stories she tells suggest otherwise. Many of the women have failed marriages or struggle with depression, and even those who are seemingly happy on the outside do not have the idyllic family life they may appear to. The author herself includes comments from her children that suggest that while she succeeded wonderfully as a female lawyer in a man's world, she failed as a mother. I felt that the stories of the women's personal disappointments, while an important part of their individual lives, detracted from the book about a group of trailblazing women who changed the face of the legal profession.Also, while I am not attempting to condemn Hope for her desire to climb the private practice ranks, which often entails representing despicable clients, I was somewhat disappointed that the book included almost no mention of the moral issues involved, or her reasons for choosing to work in a firm that represented the Mob when her self-proclaimed reason for going to law school was to "to fight for what was fair and right".Overall, however, Hope is an excellent writer, the prose is lively and engaging, and the stories she tells so interesting, that I found the book hard to put down; I read it all in one afternoon. The tone is a bit self-aggrandizing at times, but it's clear that Hope and her female classmates have earned the right to brag; not only did they graduate from one of the toughest law schools in the

country, they bravely broke down barriers, and as the title suggests "paved the way for future generations".

"[W]e didn't fully understand what we were getting into -- what obstacles we would encounter, what trails we would blaze.... We just knew, from an early age, that we wanted both to serve our country, help make our world a little better and a little safer -- just like our fathers and our brothers -- and to marry; rear honest, happy children; and lead fulfilling personal lives -- just like our mothers." -- from the Introduction To illustrate the challenges facing women of her generation, author Judith Richards Hope describes the lives and careers of a handful of barrier-breaking women, including herself, from Harvard Law School's pivotal class of 1964, who fought and overcame preconceptions and prejudices against their entering what, at the time, was a male vocation. Despite their struggles in law school and in the workplace, they maintained their ambition and ultimately achieved remarkable success. They look back on law school as a time of enormous personal and intellectual growth. In 1961, before modern civil rights legislation and women's liberation, women were generally regarded as undesirable candidates for law studies. Most law firms believed that women couldn't keep up the pace, that they couldn't avoid emotional outbursts, and that their place was in the home. Nonetheless, 48 women applied to Harvard Law that year, 22 were accepted, and 15 graduated in a class of 513. The rigorous training at Harvard Law taught these women to survive and to thrive in one of the toughest, most competitive professions in the country. It took grit, confidence, resourcefulness, thick skins, and a certain irreverence for them to succeed. These qualities propelled Judith Richards Hope and her classmates into some of the most prominent careers of their generation, yet they did not sacrifice their more traditional female roles. Their achievements have helped pave the way for women of subsequent generations. *Pinstripes Pearls* illuminates the extraordinary trajectories of these women -- among them Pat Schroeder, Judith W. Rogers, and Hope herself -- who forged an old-girl network and became lifelong friends. Through compelling and often witty anecdotes, unprecedented archival research of Harvard records, and revealing testaments to the difficulties faced by women harboring serious career goals, *Pinstripes Pearls* personifies in these women the emergence of a new type of American female, one whose "goal is to reach the destination, not just to avoid humiliation on the way."

From Publishers Weekly Hope was one of 15 women (out of 513 students) who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1964. She went on to become the first female partner at a leading corporate law firm. This book, based primarily on her classmates' and professors' recollections, as well as yearbooks and other archival material, offers sketches of the women at different stages of their careers, starting with their first days at Harvard and ending with their musings on retirement. Of applying to law firms, Pat Schroeder recalls, "Almost all of them asked me if I could type. Many said they did not and would not hire a woman." Elizabeth Dole remembers working in the school's library while getting her master's degree in teaching at Radcliffe. After spending a year observing Hope and her classmates and grilling Hope about "how a woman could straddle... the huge chasm between the traditional career world... and the traditional world of home and family," she changed career goals and graduated from Harvard Law in 1965. Hope doesn't probe too deeply into her colleagues' personal lives; nor does she draw conclusions about how these women's aspirations paved the way for future generations. She lets the memories speak for themselves. The most vivid chapter describes a dinner hosted by the school's dean, Erwin Griswold, where the guest list included all of the women in each class (and none of the men), along with selected faculty and their wives. After dinner, the students were called upon, one by one, to answer Griswold's horrifying question, "Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?"

Photos. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In 1961 one would have been hard-pressed to find many women pursuing careers, let alone legal careers, and let alone at Harvard. Hope, who's had an impressive career in both the legal and political arenas, gives readers a glimpse at the women in her law class. Of the 510 graduates from Harvard Law '64, 15 were women who made their marks on the world. This is their story. Some notable classmates include Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder and D.C. Circuit Court Judge Judith W. Rogers. These women's achievements are presented in a refreshing way. First, Hope summarizes how the women came to attend Harvard, including what their families' reactions were, where they did their undergraduate work, and how their boyfriends felt about their choice. Then she delves into life as a woman at Harvard, from the higher expectations to the lack of ladies' facilities. Finally, Hope outlines the women's lives after graduation, most of which consist of legal, political, or business careers that would impress the most misogynistic classmate. A tale of true accomplishment. Mary Frances Wilkens Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Pinstripes Pearls" is an unexpected gem. . . . it's worth reading for all of us. -- The Boston Globe, March 9, 2003 Charles Fried Beneficial Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, and author of *Right and Wrong* and *Contract as Promise* A tough and tender look at how we were, how we are, and how we got from one to the other. Fascinating for those who have made the journey, this book has lessons for those who haven't had to. -- These women's achievements are presented in a refreshing way... A tale of true accomplishment. -- Booklist, December 15, 2002 [A] testament to female progress . . . exhilarating and at times shocking. -- New York Law Journal, January 23, 2003