Betty Friedan, born on February 4, 1921, in Peoria, Illinois, was an American feminist writer and activist who is best known for her influential book, 'The Feminine Mystique,' published in 1963. This groundbreaking work is often credited with sparking the second wave of feminism in the United States. Friedan graduated from Smith College in 1942 and went on to earn a master's degree in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. She later worked as a journalist, writing for various publications, before becoming involved in feminist activism. In 1966, Friedan co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW), which quickly became one of the most prominent feminist organizations in the United States. She served as the organization's first president and played a key role in advocating for women's rights and gender equality. Throughout her career, Friedan was a vocal advocate for reproductive rights, including access to contraception and abortion. She also spoke out against the societal expectations placed on women and the limitations they faced in pursuing their own ambitions and careers. Friedan's work extended beyond the United States, as she became involved in international feminist movements and traveled widely to speak about women's issues. She was a key figure in bringing attention to the global struggle for women's rights. In addition to her activism, Friedan continued to write and publish books on feminist topics. Her later works, such as 'The Second Stage' and 'The Fountain of Age,' addressed issues of aging and the changing roles of women in society. Friedan's impact on the feminist movement was profound, and she is often credited with helping to bring about significant changes in laws and policies related to women's rights, including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Despite her contributions to the feminist movement, Friedan also faced criticism from some activists who felt that she did not adequately address the concerns of women of color and working-class women. This criticism sparked important conversations within the feminist movement about intersectionality and inclusivity. Friedan's legacy continues to be felt in the ongoing fight for gender equality, and her work remains influential in shaping feminist thought and activism. She passed away on February 4, 2006, leaving behind a lasting impact on the feminist movement. In recognition of her contributions to women's rights, Friedan was posthumously inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2013, cementing her status as a pioneering figure in the history of feminism.