

GOAL DIGGERS



The Question

Isn't Who Is Going To Let Me;

It's Who Is Going To Stop Me



BY:
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AYN RAND

“I am often asked whether I am primarily a novelist or a philosopher. The answer is: both. In a certain sense, every novelist is a philosopher, because one cannot present a picture of human existence without a philosophical framework; . . . In order to define, explain and present my concept of man, I had to become a philosopher in the specific meaning of the term.”

—*Ayn Rand, “Preface,”*

When I first encountered Ayn Rand's Objectivism philosophy, I was drawn to its emphasis on individualism and rational self-interest. I admired her rejection of collectivism and her advocacy for laissez-faire capitalism. However, as I read more of her works, I began to see the limitations of her ideas.

LIMITATIONS

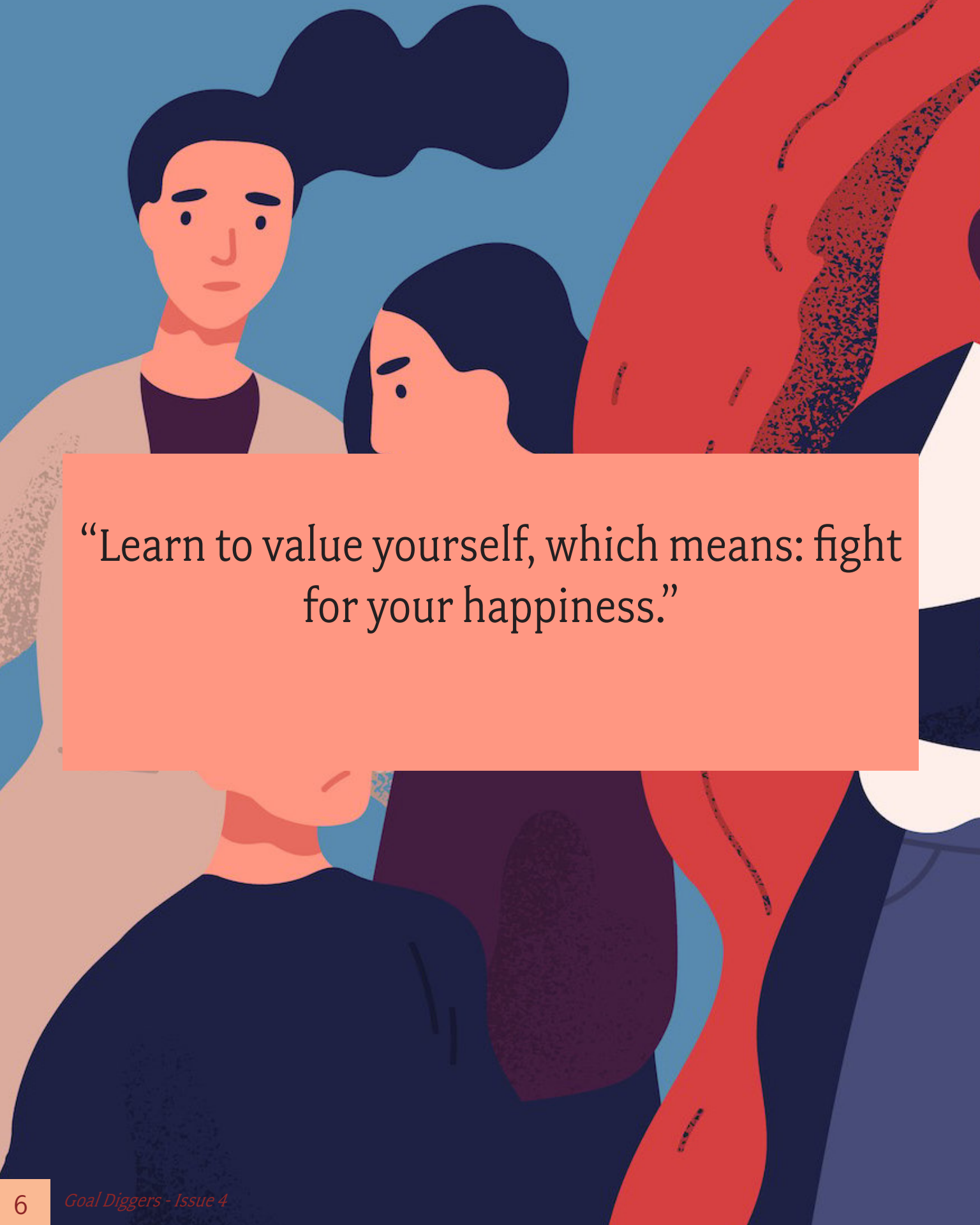
One of the main issues I had with Objectivism was its emphasis on selfishness as the highest moral purpose. While I believe in pursuing our own goals and interests, I also value compassion and empathy in our relationships with others. Rand's philosophy sometimes seemed to dismiss these qualities as unimportant, leading me to question whether her worldview was truly compatible with my own values.

Despite my reservations, I al-


ways admired Rand's views on feminism. Her emphasis on individual rights and freedom extended to women as well, and she was a strong advocate for women's independence and autonomy. As a woman myself, I appreciated her recognition that women are just as capable and deserving of success as men, and her rejection of traditional gender roles and expectations.

In the end, while I no longer consider myself an Objectivist, I still appreciate the impact that Ayn Rand's philosophy has had on my thinking. Her ideas on feminism continue to inspire me, while her emphasis on reason and rationality continue to guide my understanding of success and happiness. I may not agree with all of her ideas, but I will always respect the role that she has played in shaping my worldview. So I hope you enjoy my essay about her.



A stylized illustration featuring two people. On the left, a person with dark hair and a light-colored shirt looks forward. To their right, another person with dark hair is shown in profile, looking down. A large, vibrant red abstract shape, resembling a flame or a large brushstroke, dominates the right side of the image. The background is a solid blue color. A large, semi-transparent orange rectangle is centered over the image, containing a quote.

“Learn to value yourself, which means: fight
for your happiness.”

An illustration of a crowd of people. In the top left, a woman with dark hair has her eyes closed and a sad expression. In the top right, a woman with dark hair looks surprised with her hand near her mouth. In the center, a person with brown hair looks forward with a neutral expression. In the bottom right, a man with brown hair looks forward with a neutral expression. The background consists of large, flowing, abstract shapes in shades of red, orange, and blue, with a grainy texture.

“My happiness is not the means to any end. It is the end. It is its own goal. It is its own purpose.”



Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism challenges many commonly held beliefs on feminism. Rand was a strong advocate for women's rights and believed that women should be free to pursue their own goals and interests, without being restricted by traditional gender roles and societal expectations. In this essay, I will explore some of the common beliefs on feminism that Ayn Rand challenges.

COMMON BELIEFS THAT AYN RAND CHALLENGES

GOALS

Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism challenges many commonly held beliefs on feminism. Rand was a strong advocate for women's rights and believed that women should be free to pursue their own goals and interests, without being restricted by traditional gender roles and societal expectations. In this essay, we will explore some of the common beliefs on feminism that Ayn Rand challenges.

BIOLOGICAL

One of the main beliefs that Rand challenges is the idea that women are inherently weaker or less capable than men. Rand believed that the only meaningful differences between men and women are biological, and that individuals should be judged based on their own abilities and merits, rather than their gender. She argued that women are

just as capable and deserving of success as men, and that any attempt to limit women's opportunities or potential is a form of discrimination.

ROLES

Rand also challenged the belief that women should prioritize their roles as wives and mothers above all else. She believed that women should be free to pursue their own interests and careers, without being judged or criticized for doing so. She argued that the choice to have children or get married should be a personal decision, rather than an obligation imposed by society.



Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism has been both praised and criticized for its views on feminism. While Rand's emphasis on individualism and personal freedom has inspired many women to assert their independence and pursue their own goals, her philosophy also has some notable flaws. Some of these flaws include a lack of attention to systemic inequalities, an overly simplistic view of relationships, and an idealistic approach that may not fully address the harsh realities of gender-based violence and oppression.

SYSTEMIC

One of the main criticisms of Rand's views on feminism is that Rand's emphasis on personal achievement and autonomy ignores the ways in which women are affected by systemic inequalities and discrimination, and the ways in which collective action can be used to challenge and change these injustices.

OPPRESSION

It can also be argued that Rand's feminism is that it ignores the ways in which gender intersects with race, class, and other social identities. Rand's focus on individual rights and freedom can sometimes overlook the ways in which certain groups may be disproportionately affected by discrimination and oppression. For example, women of color may face unique challenges and barriers that are not addressed in Rand's philosophy of individ-

ualism and self-interest.

SELF-INTEREST

While Rand advocated for women's independence and autonomy, some argue that her emphasis on self-interest can lead to a narrow and limited view of relationships and human connections. For example, Rand's ideal of the "rational egoist" may not account for the complexities and nuances of human relationships and emotional connections.



