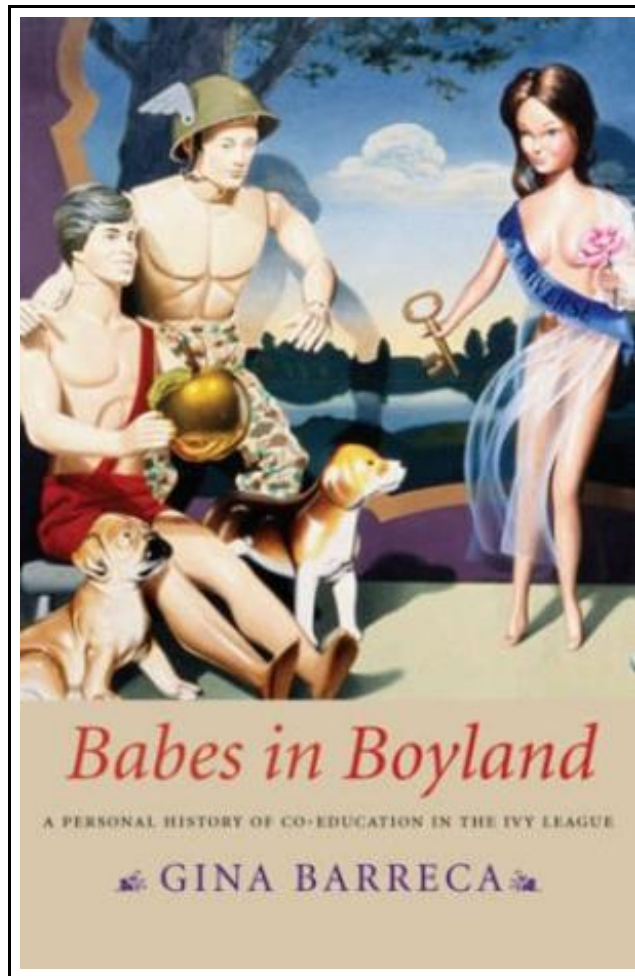


Babes in Boyland: A Personal History of Co-Education in the Ivy League



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University Press of New England. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Babes in Boyland: A Personal History of Co-Education in the Ivy League, Gina Barreca, Offering a frank and observant look at gender, education, and identity at a critical juncture in the author's-and America's-development, Babes in Boyland brings to life a pivotal moment in the history of co-education. It was a time in which hostility to women was still rife (fraternity house banners at Dartmouth read "Better Dead than Co-Ed"), but one that promised equal education to promising young women. Gina Barreca entered Dartmouth College as a freshman in 1975, a few short years after the college became co-educational. As a working-class girl of Italian-French Canadian descent raised in Brooklyn and Long Island, Barreca's looks and style set her apart from Dartmouth's blonder, better-heeled undergraduate majority. Barreca's story begins with a snapshot of her parents-their courtship and marriage, her father's six-day work week sewing bedspreads and curtains in New York City's garment district, and her mother's death from lung and bone cancer a year before Gina receives news of her acceptance to Dartmouth. With the dubious blessing of her Italian aunts ("New Hampshire? You gonna go to school in New Hampshire?") , she leaves Long Island for Hanover, chauffeured by her father in their 1967 Buick Skylark. His parting words of advice become a recurring mantra for the anxious freshman:"You can always take the next bus home." Surveying the campus on her arrival, Barreca is overcome with a paralyzing sense of inadequacy. But as freshman year gets underway, she makes friends, starts an unofficial sorority (Tau Iota Tau, or TIT) and begins to discover the joys of a first-rate education. Over the next three and a half years, self-consciousness gives way to self-confidence as she tests her wit, intellect, and...

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