

Working Women: Beyond “Baby Boom”

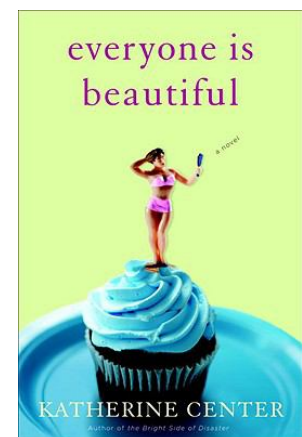
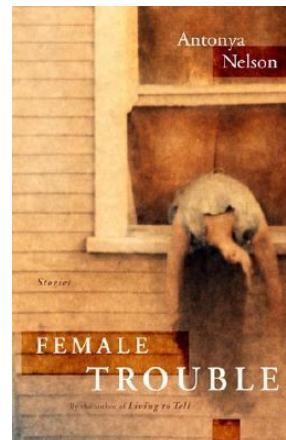
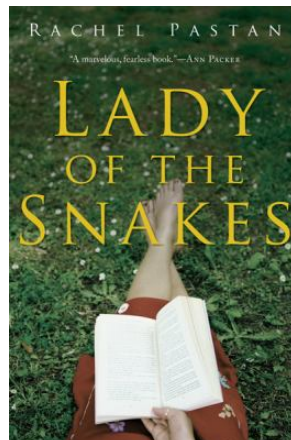
Women work. Women have families. How do they do both without going insane? And what is more important in defining who you are as a woman: the love of what you do... or the love for those closest to you? These are just a few of the questions the following novels (and one collection of short stories) explore.

[Lady of the Snakes](#) by Rachel Pastan – A young professor must balance a demanding new teaching job and her passion for literary research with her young daughter and a loving but flawed husband.

[Ms. Hempel Chronicles](#) by Sun-lien Bynum – These stories all feature the same character, a newly divorced middle-school teacher who negotiates the often-difficult terrain of what is expected from her.

[Everyone Is Beautiful](#) by Katherine Center – A mother with three young sons and a distracted husband struggles to carve out an identity separate from them.

[Female Trouble: Stories](#) by Antonya Nelson – A collection of stories, by a frequent *New Yorker* author, which explore how various women handle disappointments, forge (and often lose) relationships, and fall short of their own expectations.



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