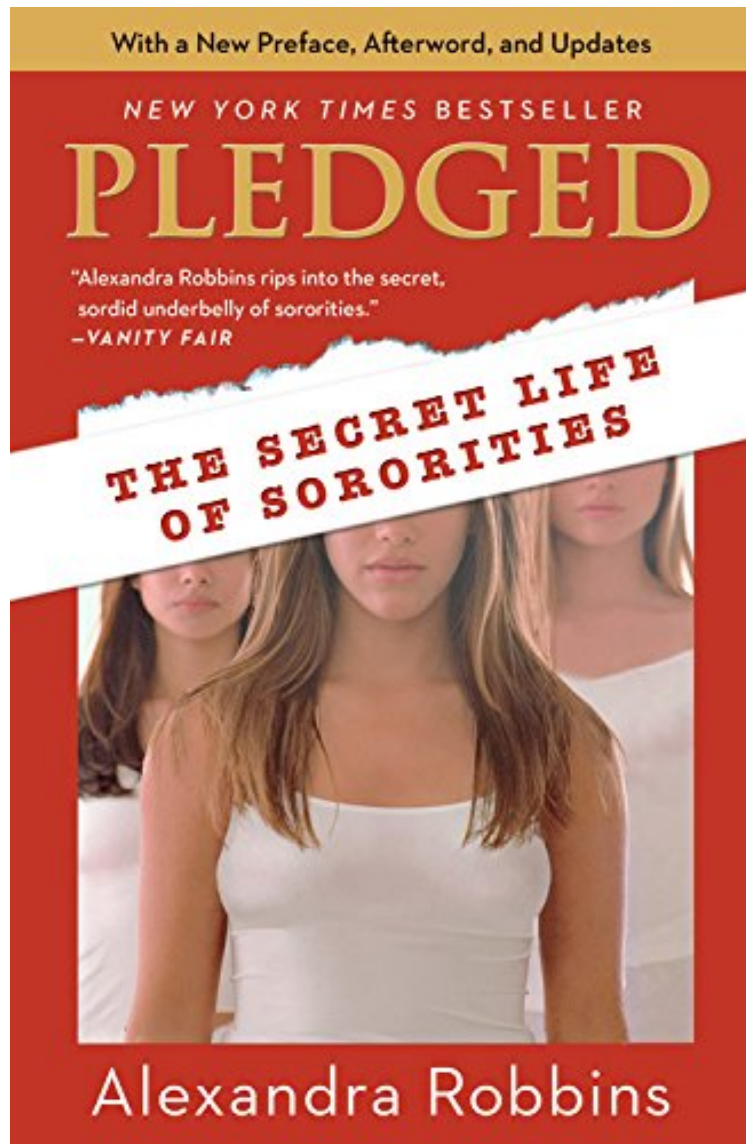


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Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities

Alexandra Robbins

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#279525 in Books Alexandra Robbins 2005-07-06 2005-07-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.25 x 5.251, .70 #File Name: 0786888598408 pages Pledged The Secret Life of Sororities | File size: 79.Mb

Alexandra Robbins : Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's an interesting book. And well worth the time ...By Matthew Bracher It's an interesting book. And well worth the time to read it. I've had a number of students who went off to Greek life, and up until the last few weeks (while I read this) I had little idea what that might entail. Neither university that I attended had a Greek program. The author doesn't try to sensationalize. She notes positives and negatives of Greek life,

and I think she tries to present her four students' stories as dispassionately as possible. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I suspect the author took some artistic license. By The Turtle Whisperer The book is good. She backs up most of her claims, although the undercover work she did cannot be verified. I refuse to believe she could have gotten such detailed conversations, especially in regards to some of the subject's relationships. I also refuse to believe that "Bitsy" is a real person, however that is more wishful thinking than doubt. Nevertheless, Robbins did a fine job with this book, although I can see how many people believe it is anti-Greek life. I do not believe there to be an anti-Greek life tilt in the book, it is simply that, when looked at as a whole, Greek life does not come out looking good. For those wondering about relevance today, the book has an updated introduction and afterword, both of which modernize the book. I would recommend this book to anybody who wants a full picture of Greek life. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating read! By Miz Moore First, a disclaimer: I was in one of the biggest NPC sororities 30 years ago at a large northeastern university, so my experiences weren't the same, I definitely had a much tamer and less alcohol-fueled ride in my sorority - wasn't hazed or forced to do anything improper. Also, we didn't have a house, so I don't have that experience either. I'm also currently one of the alumnae advisers for a local chapter of the sorority, and while times have certainly changed, this chapter seems to be pretty similar to the one I was in - no hazing, and they are very concerned about their on-campus image and being seen as reputable. Having said all this, this book was a really interesting read! I have no doubt that some of this stuff goes on - especially in the Southern schools where sororities and fraternities are a much bigger deal than they are in the Northeast and your affiliation apparently goes with you for the rest of your life. It was especially shocking to read about the behavior of some fraternities - some of this went on when I was in school too, one of the bigger fraternities got their charter yanked for assaulting some women at one of their parties and wasn't allowed to recolonize for five years. I really don't understand all the negative reviews, when you read the book, the author isn't negative or positive, she takes a more or less neutral stance. I'm a sorority sister too and I had no problem with it. As the author mentioned, sororities/fraternities are different on every campus, and just because your chapter "wasn't like this at all!" doesn't mean that another chapter wasn't at some other school.

2015 Edition: With a New Preface, Afterword, and Updates. "Alexandra Robbins rips into the secret, sordid underbelly of sororities." --Vanity Fair Updated ten years after its original publication, *Pledged* by Alexandra Robbins is as timely today as it was when first published. With salacious breaking news about fraternities and sororities shocking the general public (and members themselves) *Pledged* exposes what really goes on behind the facades of some of these Greek organizations. Robbins, an investigative journalist, went undercover as a sorority sister; her expose is a breathtaking narrative of tumultuous breakups, fights, drunk driving, stalkers, cover-ups, predation by faculty and staff, theft, rape, and an abundance of drugs and alcohol, and much, much more.

From Publishers Weekly Robbins, who previously researched Yale's Skull and Bones Society for *Secrets of the Tomb* and also coauthored *Quarterlife Crisis*, went undercover for the 2002-2003 academic year to investigate the inner workings of "Greek" (National Panhellenic Conference) sororities. Sororities are far from anachronisms; there are presently some 3.5 million women in almost 3,000 Greek chapters on campuses across America. After the national office forbade locals from cooperating with Robbins, she disguised herself as an undergrad and found four sorority women willing to risk expulsion to help her. While Robbins structures her narrative around the year's ritual cycle—the rush, the bid, pledging, initiation, Greek Week, etc.—the timeless soap opera of sorority life occupies center stage. And although battles between girls can be wrenching, there's nothing like a date gone wrong to bring out the tears and the thermos of vodka. Beyond romance, Robbins's informants have their own issues, among them, being black and poor in a rich white sorority and recovering from date rape by a frat brother. These problems are worsened by an environment that encourages binge drinking, drug abuse, eating disorders and blind obedience to what their pledge masters or sorority elders tell them to do. Historically black sororities, which are not the focus of this book, do have a reputation for promoting community service and sisterhood; "historically white" sororities, Robbins concludes, are really just social groups for making friends and meeting guys, despite their claims to academic and service values. Robbins makes suggestions for reforming sororities—more adult supervision, ending pledging, etc.—although the demystification that comes from reading her front-line account may be the best prescription. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Despite the provocative subtitle, most of the information gathered by the author as she went undercover as a sorority girl is nothing especially new. After all, everyone knows sororities can be exclusive, conformist, and superficial organizations. But Robbins' account of life inside the sorority house still makes for fascinating reading. Following four sorority sisters through their first year in the house, a world of sex, drugs, eating disorders, and insecurity is revealed. One wonders, though, if these experiences are that different from the experiences of those students not affiliated with Greek societies. What is arguably different, though, is the extreme pressure brought to bear on these young women to repress their own natural instincts, desires, and inclinations in order to fit in with an amazingly shallow and often unworthy group of friends. Where the author really scores is in her analysis of why otherwise intelligent and sensitive women would sacrifice

their independence, and often self-respect, for the sake of an artificially engineered secret society. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Funny but alarming. --People Magazine Alexandra Robbins rips into the secret, sordid underbelly of sororities. --Vanity Fair Fascinating reading. independence, and often self-respect, for the sake of an artificially engineered secret society." --Booklist Amazing in the same way that reality TV is amazing: It's the car crash you can't take your eyes off of... Every parent of a college-bound daughter should read this book. And Alexandra Robbins: You go girl. --The New Republic