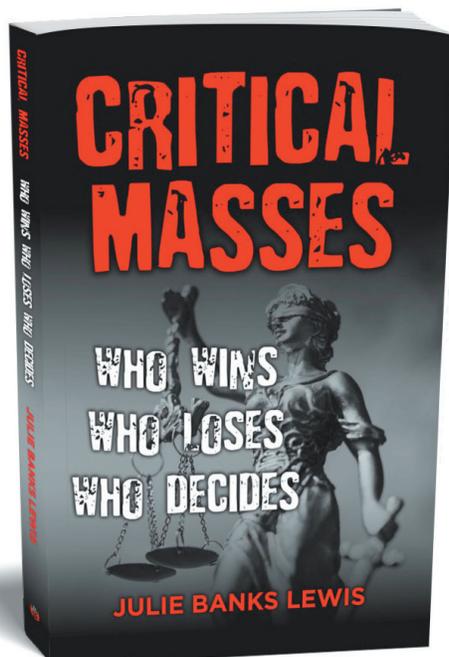


PRESS KIT



JULIE BANKS LEWIS

Compelling Hearts • Challenging Minds • Connecting Lives



BIO:

Julie Banks Lewis is an advocate, speaker, and author focusing on universal human rights and socioeconomic justice. With her book *Critical Masses: Who Wins, Who Loses, Who Decides*, Lewis explores how power dynamics are manipulated and structural inequalities created and maintained for the privileging of a relatively few and the oppression of many. Further, she examines how each of us is implicated in current power relations and how we may think, feel, and act to change them.

Her unique perspectives have been molded by her experiential knowledge as an economically challenged, single mother of three children, an other-abled individual, and as a domestic abuse survivor and, adult survivor of sexual, physical, and emotional childhood abuse. She attended Sonoma State University where she earned a BA in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) and an MA in a self-designed Interdisciplinary Studies program: Power Dynamics and Structural Inequalities. She is an organic intellectual, deconstructing official historical and cultural narratives, and marrying theoretical explanations with real-life experience. Her goals are to compel hearts, challenge minds, and connect lives in an earnest attempt to upset the status quo and help create understanding for a social order that elevates all peoples and subjugates none.

When not seeking out ways in which to change the world, bring peace among all peoples, and save the planet—she spends time enjoying nature in beautiful Colorado with her preteen daughter, her two adult daughters, their husbands, and her young grandson.

CRITICAL MASSES SYNOPSIS:

In *Critical Masses: Who Wins, Who Loses, Who Decides*, the author presents a multi-disciplinary examination of power dynamics and structural inequalities throughout American history demonstrated in patterns and continuities in social interaction, beliefs, and behaviors. The book deconstructs systems of power, i.e. Patriarchy, Capitalism, and a faux democracy and considers how those who decide are also those who win. Ultimately, it is these Power Elite who decide the movements of the world's peoples, as well as the fate of the planet. The author illustrates how these systems are maintained and perpetuated through ideologies and institutionalized through religions, schools, propaganda, and positioning. It is now and has historically been, the people who lose. Systemic problems of classism, genderism and racism, all "ism's" are integral parts of a system of control intended to keep peoples separated and divided and in these respective places as based on race, gender, ethnicity, and numerous other markers of identity. It is these constructed divisions the author attempts to bridge, if only in understanding, such that people may find common ground to come together in creating a new world vision.

The preceding is a limited introduction to the topics presented for readers consideration within the pages of this book. The perceptions and explanations are those of an educated, but marginalized citizen. Her words speak to how privilege and power create and maintain poverties and masses of Poor, here and globally. This book is this author's voice being introduced to conversations on social justice and human rights; as if she were taking a seat at the table of power and contributing a voice, of and for the People.

ABOUT JBL PRESS:

Julies Banks Lewis as JBL Press publishes books focused on universal human rights and economic social justice.

FACTS:

- Julie Banks Lewis is an advocate, speaker, and author focusing on universal human rights and socioeconomic justice.
- Julie attended Sonoma State University where she earned a BA in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) and an MA in a self-designed Interdisciplinary Studies program: Power Dynamics and Structural Inequalities.
- *Critical Masses* launches on Amazon and earns a #1 Hot New Release and Best Seller status.

POVERTY FACTS:

- In the United States today there are over 37 million people living in poverty.
- Nearly one-quarter of families (23.4%) living in poverty are headed by females.
- Single, white, non-hispanic women make up approximately 42% of those living in poverty. However, Black and Hispanic women are disproportionately affected.
- American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women have the highest rate of poverty among women or men of any racial or ethnic group.
- More than ten million children under the age of 18 live in poverty; that's nearly 1 in 7.

JULIE BANKS LEWIS QUOTES:

Equality of condition and equality of opportunity must provide the foundation of an interdependent nation with building blocks found in dignity and respect given to every American, regardless of socioeconomic status. —Julie Banks Lewis

We do not have to take from ourselves in order to give to others. It is possible to care for our own needs and still give due consideration to the needs of others. —Julie Banks Lewis

In embracing diversity we do not diminish the uniqueness of the individual; rather, in embracing differences, of and between individuals, we celebrate diversity of each and all. —Julie Banks Lewis

A pattern is only a pattern as long as it continues. A pattern interrupted, must as a matter of course, change. And, in change is possibility. —Julie Banks Lewis

Until every member of society can feel secure, no one will truly be secure, and no amount of fear will protect us. —Julie Banks Lewis

PROFESSIONAL QUOTES ABOUT *CRITICAL MASSES*:

This slender volume, about the size of an inspirational book, is indeed inspiring, but not in the same way as the usual books in that category. It contains no pretty and easy pathways, no serene meditations or light beams from heaven. The inspiration is buried deeply in the trauma of this country's bloody past and present. The inspiration is there in a powerful call to action to save our beautiful planet, our children, grandchildren and loved ones.

—*Frances K. Ransley, author, This House Protected by Poverty, 2013, Tenacity Press Productions.*



Critical Masses is a self-help, non-fiction book, and it assesses the power dynamics and structural inequalities throughout American history. It discusses the system of powers, Capitalism, democracy, Patriarchy, and so much more.

It was sad to see how the power elite are the ones who control the movement and fate of the living. I found it fascinating to know how schools, churches, propaganda, and strategic positioning affected gender equality, race, and ethnicity. It was evident to see why these topics have always created division amongst people. You can definitely understand the term “divide and conquer” when you read this book.

The literature is written well, and it is easy to understand the premise. This is a thought-provoking book, and I enjoyed reading it. I believe books that educate and make you wonder are a great source to have. The subject matter was organized well and presented intriguingly.

—*Jeyran Main, Editor-in-Chief, Review Tales*



Critical Masses diligently examines and challenges global inequality with numerous examples. It is a well-researched piece of work that might be beneficial for those seeking to understand the barriers set forth for certain populations.

—*Mandy Feder Sawyer, Professor, Editor, Journalist*

CRITICAL MASSES EXCERPTS:

This climate of fear, as integral a part of human interaction as it appears to be, is permeable and mutable. If we fail to get around it, we face further separation and division, more exclusion, marginalization, and oppression. Human beings need each other, we are social creatures; we thrive on connection and are mutually dependent on each other to fill basic human needs. We need to take steps to address this climate of fear in opposition to what the government and media keep feeding us about national security, personal security, financial security, etc. Approaching relationships with *others* in a spirit of interdependence with patience, understanding, open communication, and tolerance, fear can and must be overcome. Until every member of society can feel secure, no one will truly be secure, and no amount of fear will protect us.

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Tools for manipulation of public opinion include censorship, propaganda and public relations, suppression of information, and other methods. Through the control of information and manipulation of its meaning, America's leaders have molded a pliant mass public consciousness to meet their ends. The public consciousness is manipulated and controlled by relatively small groups of capitalist corporatist men. Differences and divisions for the masses are constructed within these spheres of influence. Keeping the masses separated and uninformed allows the Elite to continue with business, as usual, uncontested, and abetted by conformance, complicity, and complacency of the populace. Social injustice is bred and thrives in conditions such as those created and maintained in America's patriarchal, capitalist, quasi-democratic society, and so too, are the divisions that separate and fragment people.

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In each human interaction there is a chance for good, for love, for connection, and ultimately, for belonging. However, each time connection is denied, love withheld, or goodness turned bad, hope diminishes. Such is the case for thousands of disenfranchised inner city and rural community youth. They suffer from alienation as most come from marginalized communities. They live as estranged members from society-at-large by virtue of their birth into an excluded ethnic group, race, or socioeconomic class. Societal expectations, rules, and roles are in confusing and often contradictory spaces in these young people's lives.

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