

# Women Seen and Heard Virtual Film Festival

## TIPS FOR A LIVELY DISCUSSION

### About the Virtual Film Festival

The authors of the **Women Seen and Heard** books are hosting their very first Virtual Film Festival as a way for women to stay connected while sheltering in place. Every week in May, we will recommend provocative and timely films and provide you with a [relevant Discussion Guide](#). All you have to do is find a few film-loving friends and schedule a weekly meeting (feel free to bring a glass of your favorite libation) and be prepared for a lively exchange of thoughts and ideas. Most of these films are available on Amazon or Netflix, although additional fees may apply.

### Before Your Virtual Meeting

Encourage everyone to watch the film a few days before your meeting and [download the free Discussion Guide](#). This will help get everyone's creative juices flowing. Use the questions as prompts to jump start the conversation. Structure the group in such a way that it keeps everyone engaged – either ask someone to be the facilitator or come up with a format that is sure to keep everyone engaged and allows the conversation to flow smoothly.

### Tips for a Lively Film Fest Discussion

1. It's essential that everyone rent the film and watch it in advance of your meeting. The films should be available via Amazon.com or Netflix.
2. The Facilitator/Organizer establishes and emails the link for an online meeting.
3. Everyone should review the [Discussion Guide](#) produced for that week's film.
4. [The Discussion Guide](#) provided will keep things moving if someone facilitates the discussion. Without a single facilitator, the discussion guide acts as a structure to follow to keep things moving. Don't let anyone dominate!
5. Individuals might select a question that they like from the guide. After people weigh in with either general reactions, or specific aspects of the film they liked (or didn't), the discussion can be a "free for all." That's where you "follow the breadcrumbs!"
6. If you know one another's backgrounds well, the facilitator (or anyone) can ask a specific participant to address a particular question that is relevant to their experience in politics, business, professional life, government, etc.

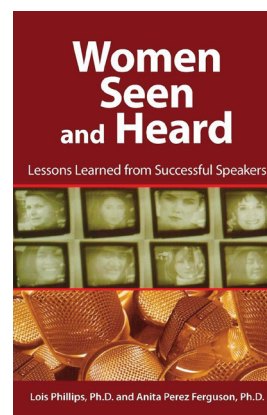
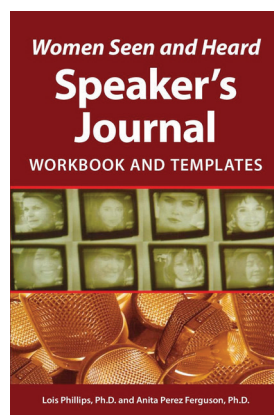
Please feel free to provide us with feedback and comments on how your group enjoyed the film on the [Women Seen and Heard Facebook Page](#) (and if you haven't already Liked our page, be sure to do so and invite others to do the same!)

## Women Seen and Heard Speaker's Journal

WORKBOOK AND TEMPLATES



Lois Phillips, Ph.D. and Anita Perez Ferguson, Ph.D.



Click on the covers to  
purchase the Women  
Seen and Heard books  
from Amazon.

# Women Seen and Heard Virtual Film Festival

## DISCUSSION GUIDE The Assistant

Available for rent on Amazon

### Discussion Questions

These questions are merely suggestions, so don't limit yourself to them. Given the unique makeup of your group, encourage new topics to emerge. Be sure to ask, "What else are we missing here?"

1. How did you feel about Jane's character? Have you known anyone like Jane? How did you treat your assistant (if you had one)?
2. Jane is **invisible** to her employer. How does the film depict her invisibility?
3. How does the film convey that Jane works for a sexual predator (her boss)? Does the director overplay that card, or is it subtle? What does the director want us to feel?
4. Are we sympathetic or do we find her passive, accepting her role as what she must suffer through in order to gain experience in a film production office?
5. How is that 'invisibility' a real issue facing young assistants in corporate offices?
6. Do you think that Jane's invisibility is exaggerated for the purpose of depicting life post #METOO?
7. Where did Jane shift from passive victim to active hero? Where did that get her?
8. What were some pivotal relationships in the film and what did they convey about Jane's powerlessness or real or potential power? Consider:
  - Her male co-workers
  - The women in the corporate office
  - Her parents
  - The HR Director
  - Her boss
  - The young, new "assistant" from Colorado
9. How did the power structure convey the morality (or lack thereof) demonstrated by the corporate structure? How did people involved in the work of the office cope with the morality depicted? What power did they have? From the way they reacted to the boss, what message did they send to Jane?
10. Would you recommend this film? If so, to whom?

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# CALENDAR & SCHEDULE

The producers of these films are not in any way meant to be presented as endorsing the **Women Seen and Heard** books. The films are being suggested because they align with the message of our books, specifically women's challenges communicating with decision-makers in male dominated sectors.

## May 8, The Contender

Navigating the endorsement process is tough and many believe it's torturous for a woman whose private life will be scrutinized with a magnifying glass. Ugh! Why not escape with a bit of a thriller about the endorsement process? The Contender, starring Jeff Bridges, Joan Allen, and Gary Oldman, holds up very well over time. People who are in their 20s and 30's likely never saw it, so do recommend it! Those over 40 will find it chilling in its relevance to current events. Watch the trailer and see what you think!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9bC0mg\\_nJY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9bC0mg_nJY)

[Click here for the Women Seen and Heard Discussion Guide for this film.](#)

## May 15, Equity

Equity is a fictional corporate thriller in the vein of Margin Call. It follows Naomi Bishop, an ambitious and aggressive senior investment banker working on a series of Silicon Valley IPOs in hopes of becoming the head of her division. The Atlantic said it was long overdue as a film exploring the motivations, aspirations, and drawbacks of being female on Wall Street. Watch the trailer and see what you think!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg2TSp5tJy4>

[Click here for the Women Seen and Heard Discussion Guide for this film.](#)

## May 22, Ms Sloane

Ms Sloane is a 2016 political thriller about Elizabeth Sloane, the most sought after and formidable lobbyist in D.C. The film is set in the high-stakes world of political power-brokers. When asked to help oppose a bill that imposes regulations on firearms, she instead joins a scrappy boutique firm that represents the backers of the law. Her defiant stance and determination to win makes her the target of powerful enemies who threaten her career and the people she cares about. Watch the trailer and see what you think!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMUkfmUu44k>

[Click here for the Women Seen and Heard Discussion Guide for this film.](#)

## May 29, Molly's Game

Molly's Game is an American biographical crime drama film written and directed by Aaron Sorkin (in his directorial debut), based on the memoir of the same name by Molly Bloom. The film follows Bloom (Jessica Chastain), who becomes the target of an FBI investigation regarding the underground poker empire she runs for Hollywood celebrities, athletes, business tycoons, and the Russian mob. Watch the trailer and see what you think!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu4UPet8Nyc>

[Click here for the Women Seen and Heard Discussion Guide for this film.](#)

## June 5, The Assistant

"The Assistant" is a brand-new film about power dynamics in the workplace. The film takes place over one very long day, when the young heroine comes to sense that something may be "off," not only with her boss, but also with the company he created. She starts her job in a culture that protects/ ignores/denies what is really going on in the office. It is a film that many align with the #METOO movement. Julia Garner's acting (seen recently on the TV series Ozark) is stellar as she tries to understand the nuances and minefields in her new workplace. Watch the trailer and see what you think!

<https://www.amazon.com/Assistant-Julia-Garner/dp/B0844J2MFZ>

[Click here for the Women Seen and Heard Discussion Guide for this film.](#)