

Strumento  
by Claudia Barnett

directed by Lauren  
Elisabeth Terry

Eusapia: Brooke Maroldi  
Lina: Caroline Humphrey

When looking at this story, I want to do our best to honor the history while telling a present day story.

I think the struggles these women were facing - seeking truth, trying to tell their stories, struggling in their professions - are still relevant issues women face today.

Visually, things will be minimalistic, as our resources dictate. Because these issues are timeless, I do not feel it is important to make things historically accurate in dress or furnishings.

We will take inspiration from the historical truths, but apply them to what our modern audience would see.

These are two women in a power struggle. They struggle against each other, though they find connection and common ground in the *real* fight they both have.

At the end of the day, this is a play about two women, and I want them to seem as relatable as possible. They're just women, as many audience members will be. Let's focus on that commonality.

# Sexual Assault

On average, there are 433,648 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States.

Every 73 seconds another American is sexually assaulted.

1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted). In the U.S., one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime.

12% of sexual assaults occur while at work, with 8% of rapes occurring while at work.

- RAINN and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

*It was really quite nice, not to worry about being pinched. - Lina*

# Credibility

Rape allegations are, and always have been, deeply intertwined with questions of credibility. In the paradigmatic case of “he said/she said,” accuser and accused offer two opposing versions of events: one party is telling the truth; the other is not. To pick between competing accounts, the decider must judge credibility. Accusers—typically women<sup>1</sup>—do not tend to fare well in these contests. Over time, skepticism of rape complaints has remained firmly lodged, migrating from formal legal rules to informal practices, toward much the same end—the dismissal of women’s reports of sexual violation.

- Incredible Women: Sexual Violence and the Credibility Discount, Deborah Tuerkheimer

Generally speaking, we (men) do not believe things when they’re told to us by women. Well, women other than our mothers or teachers or any other woman who happens to be an established authority figure. Do we think women are pathological liars? No. But, does it generally take longer for us to believe something if a woman tells it to us than it would if a man told us the exact same thing? Definitely! - Damon Young

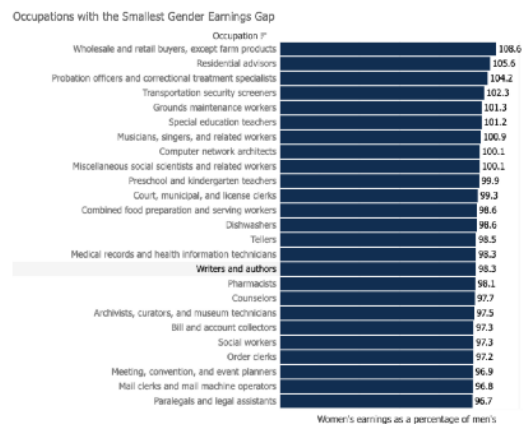
# Journalism / Media

While many female reporters in the 1800s and early 1900s were restricted to society reporting and were expected to cover the latest in food or fashion, there were a few women who reported on subjects that were considered the domain of male reporters - [Wikipedia](#)

Twenty-eight female journalists in the United States and 47 of their news counterparts in four other nations said online harassers directed lewd comments, sexual solicitations and rape threats against them, according to the University of Texas Center for Media Engagement. - [Women's Media Center](#)

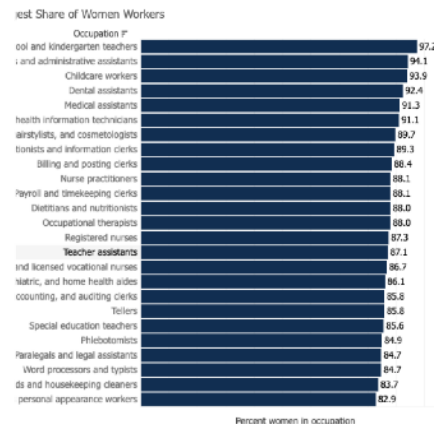
Over 12 years, through 2018, men accounted for 93.4 percent, or, 654, of the 704 individual directors of the highest-grossing films. Women accounted for 6.6 percent, or, 46 of those 704, according to the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative. - [Women's Media Center](#)

Occupations with the Smallest Gender Earnings Gap



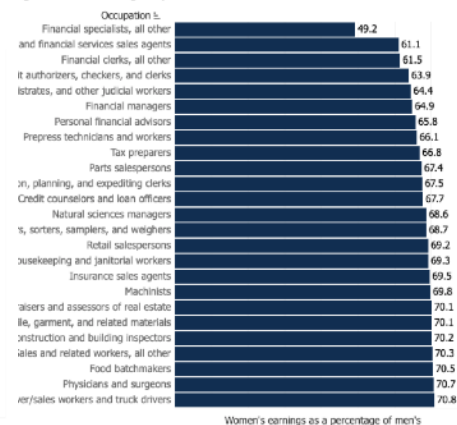
Note: Full-time, year-round civilian employed 15 years and older  
Data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017  
Graphic: U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau

Occupations with the Largest Share of Women Workers



Note: employed 16 years and older  
Data: Community Survey 2017  
Women's Bureau

Occupations with the Largest Gender Earnings Gap



Note: employed 16 years and older  
Data: Community Survey 2017  
Women's Bureau

# Reading / Writing

In 1870, 20 percent of the entire adult population was illiterate, and 80 percent of the black population was illiterate. By 1900 the situation had improved somewhat, but still 44 percent of blacks remained illiterate.-  
National Center for Education Statistics

Women make up 2/3 of the worlds 750 million illiterate population. -  
UNESCO

# Lying

In his book "The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty," researched Dan Ariely showed that we fudge the truth by about 10 percent or so.  
Research from the University of Notre Dame has shown that when people consciously stopped telling lies, including white lies, for 10 weeks, they had fewer physical ailments (like headaches) and fewer mental health complaints (like symptoms of depression) than a control group that did not focus on honesty. - Judi Ketteler

# Food for thought...

Dead Poets Society

Validation / Acceptance / Approval

Hidden Figures

Expectations / Reality / Truth



READING THE CRYSTAL U.D.  
N.Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PICTURE COLLECTION



U.D.  
N.Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PICTURE COLLECTION

Harry Herman Roseland  
New York Public Library Digital Collections



21. N. Times Nov. 15, 09 THE NEW YORK

MME. EUSAPIA PALADINO.



The Italian Medium Whose First Seance Was Given Here Last Night.



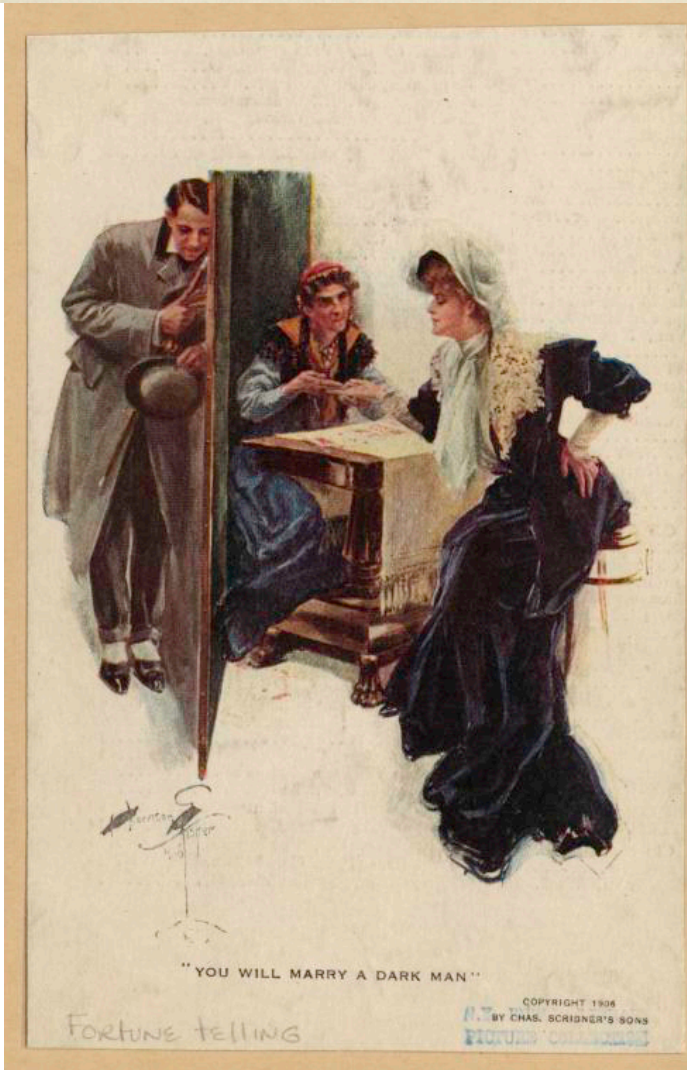




Fig. 156.—Specimen of the Left Hand, with the Lines and their Horoscopic Denotations.

Fortune tellers

N. Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PICTURE COLLECTION



"YOU WILL MARRY A DARK MAN"

FORTUNE TELLING

COPYRIGHT 1906  
BY CHAS. SCRIBNER'S SONS  
PICTURE COLLECTION



Fortune tellers

Photograph Dupl. "Telling Fortunes"  
by A. Toussaint

N. Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PICTURE COLLECTION





