

PEOPLE

April 11, 2011

THE UNCOUPLING

Meg Wolitzer

Books



The Uncoupling

by Meg Wolitzer | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

NOVEL

Wolitzer's previous novels, most recently the 2008 bestseller *The Ten-Year Nap*, have established her as a whiz at smart send-ups of American culture and the people (us!) who comprise and consume it. In this, her wittiest and most incisive work yet, she delivers a modern version of the ancient *Lysistrata* story, in which the women of Greece withheld sex to convince their men to end a war. Wolitzer's sex strike takes place in suburban Stellar Plains, N.J. When the high school drama teacher chooses *Lysistrata* for the school play, "Women who had suddenly risen up from long, happy relationships . . . inexplicably said no." One after another, every woman and teenage girl in Stellar Plains loses interest in lovemaking—threatening high school hookups and lifelong marriages, forcing men and women in suddenly sexless relationships to reassess their romantic attachments and the very meanings of their lives. Stunningly insightful, characteristically hilarious, Wolitzer's latest holds a mirror up to modern America, offering a shock of recognition amid the laughter.

What if suddenly women lost all interest in their men?

