

The Girl I Left Behind: A Narrative History of the Sixties. Nies, Judith. Jun 2008. 368 p. HarperCollins, hardcover, \$24.95. (9780061176012).

Nies, author and activist, offers a refreshingly candid look at her own life as a product of the '60s and '70s. After completing graduate school overseas in international affairs, Nies returns to the U.S. in 1966 to race riots and the burgeoning antiwar movement. She marries a Treasury Department employee, then lands "the most interesting job in Washington," working as an aide to a group of 10 liberal congressmen. Against the familiar backdrop of assassinations, the Chicago Democratic Convention riots in 1968, and the invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State shootings in 1970, Nies outlines her own hostile work environment during those years. After writing an article on the "institutionalized sexism prevailing on Capitol Hill," she lands a new job working for a congressman's wife. At the same time, her own marriage is disintegrating due to the chasm between her activism and her husband's administration job. Nothing really new here, but Nies' personal take on the ripple effects of the women's movement—both on those involved directly and those who followed—is honest and engaging.

— *Deborah Donovan*