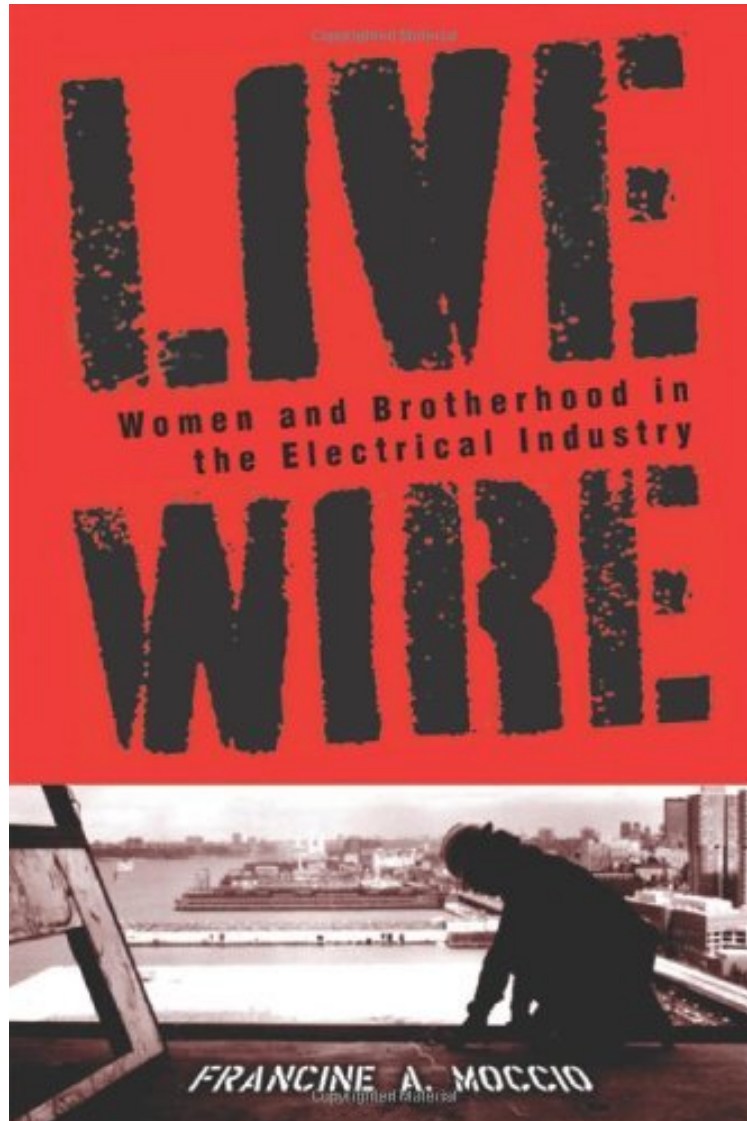


Live Wire: Women and Brotherhood in the Electrical Industry

Fran Moccio

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Fran Moccio : Live Wire: Women and Brotherhood in the Electrical Industry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Live Wire: Women and Brotherhood in the Electrical Industry:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking and Inspired!By JoanieFran Moccio has brought the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker's (IBEW's) dirty little secrets out into the sunlight. Live Wire depicts the continuing hardships and struggles faced by women who have dared enter the foray of the IBEW fraternity. As a nearly 30 year member of IBEW Local # 134, I readily attest to the truthfulness of Ms. Moccio's insightful account concerning the ongoing abusive treatment of Sister IBEW members.I hope that this book is distributed to all the

indifferent IBEW officials, the EEOC, government officials, and legislative policymakers to effectuate positive change for women working in non-traditional jobs. Thank you Ms. Moccio for portraying our story and our cause in such an inspirational light.

Live Wire, Francine Moccio brings to life forty years of public policy reform and advocacy that have failed to eliminate restricted opportunities for women in highly paid, skilled blue-collar jobs. Breaking barriers into a male-only occupation and trade, women electricians have found career opportunities in nontraditional work. Yet their efforts to achieve gender equality have also collided with the prejudice and fraternal values of brotherhood and factors that have ultimately derailed women's full inclusion. By drawing instructive comparisons of women's entrance into the electricians' trade and its union with those of black and other minority men, Moccio's in-depth case study brings new insights into the ways in which divisions at work along the lines of race, gender, and economic background enhance and/or inhibit inclusion. Incorporating research based on extensive primary, secondary, and archival resources, *Live Wire* contributes a much-needed examination of how sex segregation is reproduced in blue-collar occupations, while also scrutinizing the complex interactions of work, unions, leisure, and family life.

"*Live Wire* is the story of every group of outsiders who has ever tried to enter the world of insiders, of women braving an all-male kingdom, and of unions that cannot succeed without women—and vice versa. In telling the stories of women electricians, Francine Moccio gives us a universal human story, an exposeacute; of why women are still only two percent of the building trades despite thirty years of trying, and a key to the mystery of why Americans are still seventy percent more likely to end up old and poor if they are female. If President Obama wants to solve the problems of poverty and our crumbling bridges and highways at the same time, he should read this book and insist that women work side by side with men. And if anybody thinks for a moment the women's movement is over, he or she should go right out and buy *Live Wire*."—Gloria Steinem