

# Four Women. One Revolution. Unstoppable Momentum.

Netflix's *Knock Down the House* is today's *Rocky* for women.

Sometimes, you just need an inspiring movie with a realistic female hero. And I've found one.

It's Netflix's new documentary, *Knock Down the House* by Director Rachel Lears.

Even if you don't consider yourself to be "political", you're an American woman. So Ladies, it's time to call your girlfriends, open some wine, and watch this movie.

Why? Because it's about women, just..like..you.

I must admit, I didn't know much about the US 2016 mid-term elections. I remember seeing a lot of women in white pant suits at the State of the Union address, but I wasn't sure how they got there.

I didn't know that those women were just like me. Women who wanted more for their families and communities.

I didn't know that these women worked as nurses, waitresses, and teachers.

I didn't know that they were single mothers – or part of a family struggling to make a life.

What I found astonished me. They were extraordinarily *ordinary*.

These female candidates had one thing in common – a burning desire for change, to buck the establishment and literally knock down the house where mostly men and corporate money reside.

I was so proud of these women who came from every region of America.

I wept. I cried. I beamed at their accomplishments and tenacity.

And I wanted to know more about them.

Like Cori Booker, and African American nurse and single mother of two who ran against not just a man, but a legacy of entrenched, two-generations of power of the Lacey family in Missouri.

**Cori also fought another battle – being shamed about the size of her hips. But she embraced it and said, "this is who I am" – and what voters *really* look like.**

Submission by Judy Ann Michael for Assignment #1 of 6 Figure Class

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Cori kept a clear focus: ***keep your mission and be fearless***. Her leadership inspired other candidates to step up and start knocking down walls.

Like the unforgettable Paula Jean Swearingen, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation West Virginian, standing proud in her oversized glasses, jeans, and t-shirt – despite every male in her family dying from Black Lung disease.

She gave her first election event in front of a vacant church that she and her family had clean and post handmade signs before the event.

**“I’m Paula Jean Swearingen, and I am *mad as hell!*” Her fury against large corporations who’ve decimated the Appalachian landscape is as deep as the coal quarries left vacant by billionaire corporations.**

“We’re coming out of the belly of the beast kicking and screaming,” Swearingen said – uniting people of all demographics to get moving again.

And in a moment of pure humility, she visits her Mama, who lives in a trailer and is worried about her baby girl running for Congress. Will she survive the fight with the Big Boys? (You’ll have to watch and find out.)

Then there’s Amy Vilela from Nevada. Her story will move you to tears.

Her passion came from the need to reform healthcare. Not because it’s a good idea – but because of a devastating personal experience. (Hint: have the Kleenex box nearby!)

**Amy is a woman who put *everything* on the line. No Hollywood-made movie will ever match her zeal.**

Lastly, is the candidate that made me feel --- guilty.

I’d seen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (aka AOC), who ran for Congress from New York City, primarily on late night talk shows.

I’d heard people put her down, criticize her because of her youth – and I’d mistakenly bought into it.

Her campaign used social media to share her ups, downs, fears, and commitments to the people she loved and represented.

She even got a famous and nasty tweet from Senator Ted Cruz - who called her “Snowflake”. (You’ll have to watch the movie to see how elegantly she handled the situation...)

The movie showed me that AOC isn’t a lawyer or a banker with a large bankroll against an entrenched opponent.

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She is a 29 year-old waitress - living in a small one bedroom apartment in NYC with her boyfriend, going door-to-door and standing on street corners to introduce herself to the district.

**You'll be amazed – and proud – at the moment you see this young Latina debate a tall, white, wealthy, middle-aged incumbent Congressman – and astound the crowd with her intelligence and passion.**

At that moment you'll realize one thing.

**You've just witnessed today's version of Rocky – a passionate group of women who are ready to *Knock Down the House*.**

But is watching women - like you - strive for greatness worth 90 minutes of your time?

***“These women are running for office — while driving, walking, talking and walking some more — to win hearts and minds and votes. Often, it feels as if they're running for their lives.” – New York Times***

*“...is as fresh and inspiring as the women it showcases.”* Renee Schoenfeld, Common Sense Media.

“Winner of two *Audience Awards*” Sundance Film Festival

“100%” - Rotten Tomatoes (PS - that means all the critics like it).

You're probably asking, did these women win their elections?

Well, you can Google it, or –

You can watch *Knock Down the House* on Netflix tonight – and get on board the next wave of inspiring women who are making a difference.

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