



# Swimming in the Steno Pool: A Retro Guide to Making It in the Office

*Lynn Peril*

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**Swimming in the Steno Pool: A Retro Guide to Making It in the Office** Lynn Peril

**Feed your boss's ego. Dress for success. And don't let your heels trip you up on the corporate ladder.**

Millions of women have held the position of secretary, alternately lauded as a breakthrough opportunity and excoriated as dead-end busy work. From the female pioneers who infiltrated Capitol Hill offices during the Civil War to today's tech-savvy administrative assistants, secretaries have withstood criticism for abandoning their rightful sphere (the home), weathered the dubious advice of secretarial guide- books, taken hits from feminists and antifeminists alike, and demanded the right to resist making coffee?all while making their bosses look good.

In *Swimming in the Steno Pool*, author-secretary Lynn Peril profiles the various incarnations of the secretary, from pliable, sexy mate of the "office husband" to postfeminist executive-in-training, drawing inspiration from a wide range of "femorabilia" and secretarial guidebooks of yesteryear. Featuring an array of fabulous illus- trations promoting office equipment and office girls alike, Peril delivers a feisty, witty celebration of the women who've been running the show for decades. 42 black-and-white illustrations



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