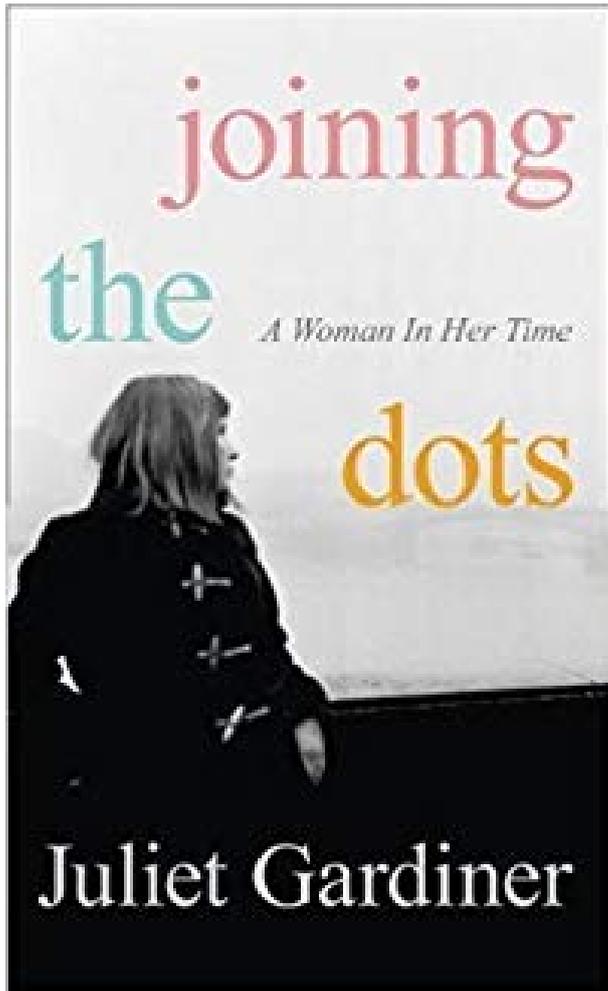


Joining the Dots: A Woman In Her Time



Language	English
Pages:	208
Author:	Juliet Gardiner
ISBN13:	9780007489169
ISBN10:	0007489161
Published:	August 10th 2017 by William Collins
Goodreads Rating:	4.05
Genre:	History

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From Britain's leading social historian, a lyrical look at the changes to women's lives since 1940, told with examples from her own life. The book provides an intimate, brilliant account of feminism over the last 6 decades. "A young woman wearing a navy-blue duffle coat stood shivering in the vaulted Victorian booking hall of Temple Meads station in Bristol looking uncertainly around her. It was 1st January 1960 and the woman was me. I was sixteen years old, and I had run away from home." Over the next ten years, the world changed around young Juliet Gardiner – as it did for most women in Britain. It was the start of a decade that was to be momentous for Britain's history – politically, economically, socially and culturally. As one of Britain's best-known social historians, Juliet Gardiner writes here about the span of women's lives from her birth during the Second World War to the election of Margaret Thatcher as prime minister. Using episodes from her own life as starting points to illuminate the broader history in society at large, she explores changing ideas towards birth and adoption, the importance of education for girls, The opportunities offered by university, to expectations of work and motherhood, not to mention her generation's yearning for freedom. Everyone has his or her history and at the same time is part of history as this book so perceptively and beautifully demonstrates. As a work of living history, both lyrical and personal, *Joining the Dots* is an

accessible and empowering story of how one mid-twentieth-century woman grew into a world so different from the one into which she was born. It is a story of bed-sits, sexual choice, motherhood and marriage, feminism, family planning and professional ambition.