real stories
The lives, dramas and triumphs of women just like you

She Frees Innocent Prisoners
Haunted by the disappearance of her high school best friend, Alicia O'Neill has made it her mission to find justice for the wrongly convicted.
BY LYNN HARRIS

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But Green, 46, had always insisted he did not commit the crime. O'Neill was determined to find out the truth. She's part of a new vanguard of district attorneys across the country who are increasingly willing to open old cases in which the convicted still claim innocence.

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Dear Hollywood, Where’s Our Superhero Movie?

Coming soon to a theater near you: Captain America, Green Lantern and, next year, new Batman, Superman and Spider-Man flicks. Not coming soon to a theater near you? A superhero movie — any superhero movie—starring a woman. And while we do appreciate men in tights, we feel it’s time a leading lady got to use her own extraordinary powers to save humankind. The planet needs it!

Why the superhero disparity? The perception at movie studios, says Hollywood veteran Laeta Kalogridis, “is they won’t be profitable.” Kalogridis, executive producer of Avatar, wrote one of the numerous scripts for Wonder Woman — a project that’s been “in development” for at least 10 years. And while the Amazon queen will debut on TV, her big-screen moment is still stalled after all this time.

In fact, the only female superheroes to star in theaters in the past decade have been Aeon Flux, Catwoman and Elektra, who didn’t get to be total heroes unlike most of their male peers, who get to be hot and heroic. Not coincidentally, they sank at the box office. “People often point to [them] as examples of female-superhero films that weren’t breakout hits,” notes Kalogridis. “By that logic, the disappointing performance of The Punisher would mean that no male comic book movies should be made either.”

It doesn’t seem fair that schlubby boy nerds get to be reborn as sexy superheroes and we don’t (wouldn’t you love to see Tina Fey as Elasti-Girl?). We’ve certainly paid to watch women without superpowers kick ass: Sigourney Weaver’s Ripley grossed more than $550 million in the Alien movies, while Angelina Jolie’s Lara Croft made $274 million in just one film.

“It’s time to call out the people in Hollywood with power,” says Manohla Dargis, chief film critic for The New York Times. “Why isn’t James Cameron going after Wonder Woman?” And hey, female directors: What about Spider-Woman or an X-Girl? “Sometimes all it takes is one film,” says Kalogridis. “Before Star Wars, science-fiction movies weren’t thought of as the huge performers they are now.” Hollywood, just give a superhero a chance — in a good movie with a good script — and she’ll show you what her powers can do.