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# ELLE®

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**HOW WOMEN  
WILL SAVE  
THE WORLD**

**MIA FARROW  
ON LIFE WITH  
WOODY**

**ANDREW VACHSS:  
CRIME CRUSADER**

**CONFESSIONS OF  
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## REPORT PART 1

**O**n a barren patch of ground in southern Kenya, women bend under the hot sun, planting trees – for firewood, for feeding their children, for saving native forests.

What men have cut down, women will make grow again, they say.

At the same time in Britain, a scientist appears before a government committee to make a stand against what she sees as a misuse of reproductive technologies. She is worried about embryos being used for experimentation.

On a hilltop in southern California, beneath a pale full moon, 13 women join hands in a circle to sing to the earth goddess Gaia. Their voices, timid at first, slowly gather and rise on the still evening air. "Where I sit is holy, holy is the ground ..."

In eastern Australia, housewives gather in a suburban living room to protest against a proposed toxic waste dump. "Put it in the mayor's backyard," they shout. "Why should our kids die?"

And during the past few years, Aboriginal women, many of whom believe they have a special relation-

ship with the earth and a sacred responsibility to protect it, have campaigned vigorously against mining on Queensland's Stradbroke Island and at Coronation Hill in the Northern Territory, and against the proposed Cape York space base. As one female elder put it: "It's time for us women to take the lead, not only to protect our communities and our families but the earth, too."

Welcome to the surprising, controversial, multifaceted "third wave of the feminist revolution", the place where ecology and women, earth and her daughters, intersect. Welcome to ecofeminism.

"Eco-what?" asks the woman at a barbecue in Brisbane. "Don't think much of that," she says.

"Why?" I ask.

"All that bra burning and stuff."

"But it isn't about bra burning. It's about saving the earth."

"Oh well, I'm all for that."

"And also about making life better for women."

"Mmm."

In the early part of this century, Western women fought for the right to vote, to divorce and have custody of their children. In the Sixties and

ECOFEMINISM IS THE THIRD WAVE OF THE FEMINIST REVOLUTION. IT SAYS THAT THE FEMININE VALUES OF NON-VIOLENCE, COOPERATION AND NURTURING WILL HELP TO CONNECT US WITH NATURE AND PREVENT "ECOTASTROPHE". VIRGINIA WESTBURY PRESENTS PART ONE OF A TWO-PART REPORT.



