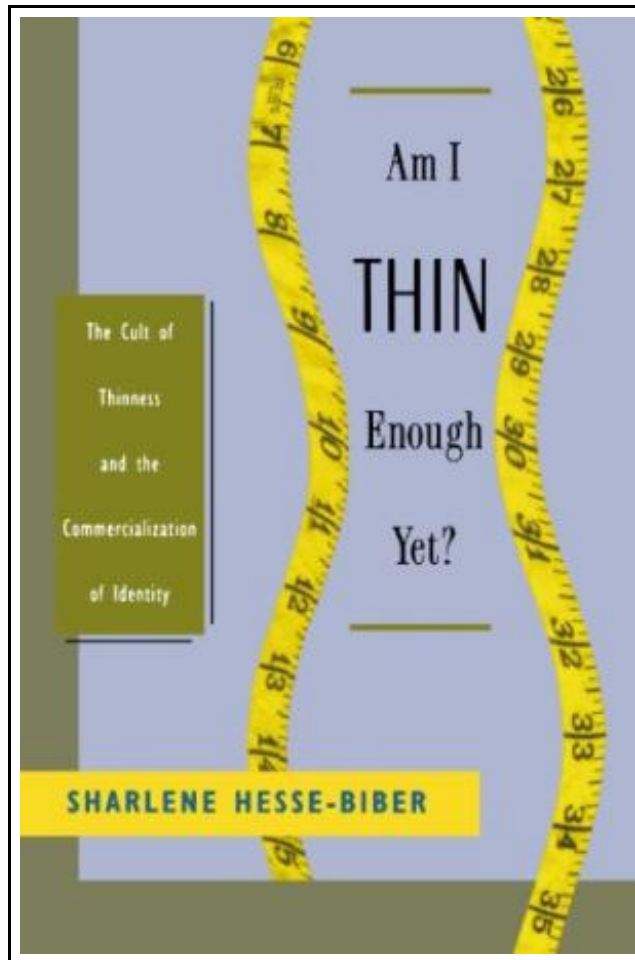


## Am I Thin Enough Yet?: The Cult of Thinness and the Commercialization of Identity



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Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 208 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.3in. x 0.5in. Whether they are rich or poor, tall or short, liberal or conservative, most young American women have one thing in common--they want to be thin. And they are willing to go to extraordinary lengths to get that way, even to the point of starving themselves. Why are Americas women so preoccupied with weight What has caused record numbers of young women--even before they reach their teenage years--to suffer from anorexia and bulimia In *Am I Thin Enough Yet*, Sharlene Hesse-Biber answers these questions and more, as she goes beyond traditional psychological explanations of eating disorders to level a powerful indictment against the social, political, and economic pressures women face in a weight-obsessed society. Packed with first-hand, intimate portraits of young women from a wide variety of backgrounds, and drawing on historical accounts and current material culled from both popular and scholarly sources, *Am I Thin Enough Yet* offers a provocative new way of understanding why women feel the way they do about their minds and bodies. Specifically, Hesse-Biber highlights the various ways in which American families, schools, popular culture, and the health and fitness industry all undermine young womens self-confidence as they inculcate the notions that thinness is beauty and that a womans body is more important than her mind. The author builds her case in part by letting her subjects tell their own story, revealing in their own words how current standards of femininity lead many women to engage in eating habits that are not only self-destructive, but often akin to the obsessions and ritualistic behaviors found among members of cults. For instance, we meet Delia, a bulimic college senior who makes the startling admission that my final affirmation of myself is how many...

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