



Strong: Nine Workout Programs for Women to Burn Fat, Boost Metabolism, and Build Strength for Life

By Lou Schuler, Alwyn Cosgrove

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A groundbreaking strength and conditioning plan for women, from the authors of *The New Rules of Lifting for Women*.

Forget the elliptical machine and the candy-colored Barbie weights. Female athletes are hungry for real fitness. They want to be *Strong*.

By now, it's common knowledge that women can and should train the way men do. Today's women want to be strong, with lean and athletic physiques. Fitness author Lou Schuler and renowned strength coach Alwyn Cosgrove present a comprehensive strength and conditioning plan to help women burn fat and build muscle by getting them off the machines and revolutionizing how they work out. Offering direct guidance and proven tools to help readers enhance their strength and get truly fit, *Strong* provides:

- A three-phase training program, including nine unique total-body workouts
- More than 100 exercises, with detailed instructions and step-by-step photographs
- Simple nutrition guidelines to cut through the barrage of trendy diets in magazines
- Inspiring success stories from women who have used this training program

Schuler and Cosgrove's *The New Rules of Lifting for Women* has empowered tens of thousands of women inside and outside the weight room. Filled with the latest research distilled in Lou and Alwyn's signature direct style, *Strong* will help women remake their physiques and reimagine their lives.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *The New Rules of Lifting for Women*:

“Cosgrove and Schuler’s groundbreaking program is based on the concept that a healthy, sculpted body is the result of your muscles working the way they were intended.”

—*Women's Health*

“Lou Schuler has finally written a training book for me, and for all women. His expert advice, no-nonsense plans, and sense of humor are reassuring, motivating, and entertaining. I’m starting the program tomorrow!”

– Susan Kleiner, Ph.D., author of *Power Eating* and *The Good Mood Diet*

“The workouts in this book are unique, challenging, and extremely effective...be prepared to get into the best shape of your life!”

—Valerie Waters, celebrity trainer

About the Author

Lou Schuler is a National Magazine Award–winning journalist, a certified strength and conditioning specialist, and the author or coauthor of several popular books about diet and strength training. He has worked as fitness editor at *Men’s Fitness* and fitness director at *Men’s Health*, and has contributed to a long list of magazines, including *Men’s Journal*, *Fit Pregnancy*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*. He lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with his wife and their three children.

Alwyn Cosgrove is co-owner, with his wife, Rachel, of Results Fitness in Newhall, California. He is a professional member of the National Academy of Sports Medicine and the American College of Sports Medicine, among other organizations, and is a frequent contributor to a variety of magazines, including *Men’s Health* and *Men’s Fitness*.

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Introduction: You Aren’t Who You Used to Be

Dana Smith remembers the first time. It was late summer 2009. “The arthritis in my knees was getting so bad my doctor was ready to put me on constant pain meds,” she told me recently. “I told him I’d think about it and get back to him.” Thinking about it meant research. Research convinced her that it was time to take action. Specifically, to strengthen her muscles with a serious training program. That led her to *The New Rules of Lifting for Women*, a book my coauthors and I had published the year before. We wrote it for a simple reason: Readers asked us for it. They asked because the guidance women received from the media, from their peers, and even from fitness professionals in health clubs was the opposite of what we provided for men.

This was despite the fact there was no reason to give different advice to men and women. Exercise science had concluded long before that the muscles of men and women are exactly the same. Your muscles and my muscles perform the same actions and produce the same movements. Pound for pound, they generate the same amount of force. When trained, they respond equally well. But here’s the worst part: This wasn’t secret information. Everyone who wrote about strength training or trained female athletes or worked with female

clients either knew or should have known.

The exercises in *NROL for Women* weren't the ones readers like Dana were used to seeing in books and magazines. She'd never done a push-up before, or a deadlift, or a squat with a barbell on her back. And the advice to focus on strength and muscle development, rather than "toning" and "shaping," was a paradigm shift for women who'd developed an irrational fear of "bulking up" if they lifted anything bigger than their forearms or heavier than a purse.

So on September 9, 2009, Dana tried it. Arthritic joints and all. She could barely bend her knees on the squat and had to do her push-ups against a kitchen counter. But by the end of the program, she could do eight push-ups. *Traditional* push-ups, with her hands and toes on the floor. She could lift a 135-pound barbell off the ground and squat with 100 pounds on her back. And those pain meds her doctor was about to prescribe? Turns out, she didn't need them. She just needed to get strong.

"Anyone who actually finishes the program comes out a changed person," she told me. "Most of us never knew how strong we could be. It opened doors we didn't even know were there."

OUR GREATEST MISTAKE

Here's the irony of Dana's transformation: We never thought readers like her would pick up the book. The original title, *Lift Like a Man, Look Like a Goddess*, signaled our goal of reaching women who were already working out but not getting the results they wanted. I saw countless women like that in the gym. They were healthy and appeared able and willing to work hard toward their goals, but did so with workouts that were unlikely to help them accomplish anything useful. Those are the readers who contacted Alwyn and me when we published *The New Rules of Lifting*, our first book together, in 2006.

To our delight, *NROL for Women* (the title we very wisely switched to after the book was already written and photographed) reached that target audience. We heard from readers who'd lost fat, improved their physiques in noticeable ways, and found they enjoyed doing the type of workouts we provided for guys in the original *NROL*.

But we also heard from readers like Dana, who was so excited by her progress that she started a Facebook group for her fellow lifters. Beyond their gender and the fact that they love lifting heavy things, they have little in common. In fact, these days I rarely hear from anyone who fits my original concept. Our universe of lifters includes women from their twenties to their seventies. From competitive athletes to complete beginners. From underweight to severely obese. From healthy to anything but.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jane Nelsen:

The publication untitled *Strong: Nine Workout Programs for Women to Burn Fat, Boost Metabolism, and Build Strength for Life* is the publication that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you actually. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of exploration when write the book, and so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of *Strong: Nine Workout Programs for Women to Burn Fat, Boost Metabolism, and Build Strength for Life* from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Susie Vadnais:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a book. The book Strong: Nine Workout Programs for Women to Burn Fat, Boost Metabolism, and Build Strength for Life it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

William Butcher:

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