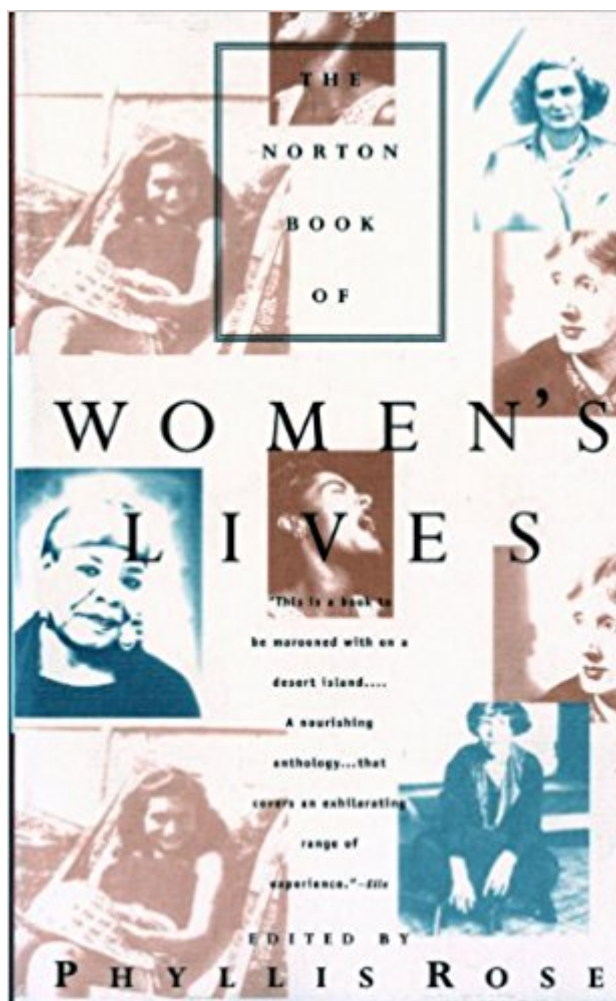


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The Norton Book Of Women's Lives



Synopsis

"This remarkable and wide-ranging collection, full of surprises, should encourage any woman who is trying to survive in a man's world, and enlighten any man who sincerely wants to understand contemporary women." —Alison Lurie "This magnificent, handsome, handful of an anthology . . ." includes sixty-one substantial selections from the twentieth-century literature of women's lives: autobiographies, journals, and memoirs. "As varied in humanity as in geography," the women whose life stories are collected here include the famous Maya Angelou, Maxine Hong Kingston, Anne Frank, Virginia Woolf and the surprising Emma Mashinini, a black South African labor organizer; Onnie Lee Logan, an Alabama "granny" midwife; Sara Suleri, an expatriate in America who reflects hilariously on the language of food in her native Pakistan. "Destined to become a classic," this treasury of women's lives, brimming with intelligence, passion, wit, and determination, is a celebration of life itself. *Hungry Mind Review **Washington Post Book World Library Journal

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This amazingly rich lode of memoirs, letters, and diaries jumbles together a great roster of 20th-century women, including Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Bernadette Devlin, Emily Mashinini, Sara Suleri, and Santha Rama Rau. Le Ly Hayslip, the sixth child in a Vietnamese peasant family, describes a life pinched between the violence of Viet Cong revolutionaries and South Vietnamese republicans. Poet and lesbian feminist Audre Lorde writes about being introduced to the wonders of reading as a stubborn, bright, legally blind youngster. "I lay

spreadeagled on the floor of the Children's Room like a furious brown toad, screaming bloody murder and embarrassing my mother to death," she recalls. Jill Ker Conway tells of her father's depression and death when a drought crushed their sheep farm in the Australian outback. The excerpts drop us smack into the middle of each life; inventive cross-referencing encourages the reader to fly back and forth, sampling other writings on "filial exasperation," for example, or child's-eye views of romance and war. --Francesca Coltrera

“This is a book to be marooned with on a desert island. . . . A nourishing anthology . . . that covers an exhilarating range of experience.” - Elle

Needed for school, got it in perfect timing for a great price. I STILL read this even though I'm done with Women's Literature Class.

This book has many excerpts from women's memoirs, an important look into how women lived, loved, and worked toward making their lives rich with purpose.

An excellent selection of pieces of autobiographies, which give you a chance to visit many different kinds of important moments and life experiences, in many different societies.

I was surprised to find the book in hard copy and old with yellowed pages. It also slipped into a sleeve. It's OK but surprising.

I love anthologies because they are so rich and various. This one, edited by a woman with a clear, strong ear for women's voices, has plenty to offer: 61 substantial selections from the twentieth-century literature of women's autobiographies, journals, and memoirs. "I didn't want to do my duty," Phyllis Rose says of herself growing up. (She wanted to be a cowgirl.) "Nor did I want models...of noble self-sacrifice and altruism. I wanted wild women, women who broke loose, women who lived life to the full, whatever that meant. What did it mean to live life to the full? How fully could a woman live?" In this collection, we hear a chorus of "wild women" who show us in many ways how fully we might live. What stories these are, what fascinating lives, lived on the edge of pain, perception, and truth. These are lives that liberate and enlarge the rest of us. Read them, retell them, and use them as models for telling your own story. by Susan Wittig Albert for Story Circle Book Reviews[...]reviewing books by, for, and about women

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