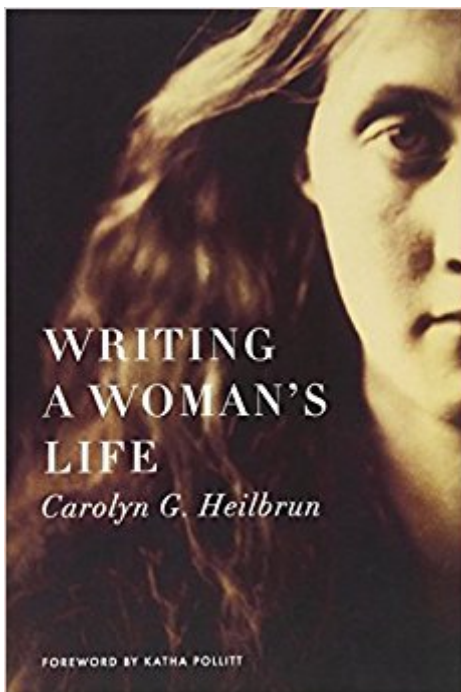


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# Writing A Woman's Life



## Synopsis

"A provocative study that should be in every writer's library." — Washington Post In this modern classic, Carolyn G. Heilbrun builds an eloquent argument demonstrating that writers conform all too often to society's expectations of what women should be like at the expense of the truth of the female experience. Drawing on the careers of celebrated authors including Virginia Woolf, George Sand, and Dorothy Sayers, Heilbrun illustrates the struggle these writers undertook in both work and life to break away from traditional "male" scripts for women's roles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With subtlety and great eloquence, Carolyn Heilbrun shows how, throughout the centuries, those who write about women's lives--biographers and autobiographers--have suppressed the truth of the female experience, in order to make the "written life" conform to the expectations of what that life should be. Heilbrun also examines literature's silence on such vital topics as friendship between women, the female physical experience, and the richness that often imbues a women's later years. Recommended reading for everyone, especially women and writers. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

According to Heilbrun ( *Reinventing Womanhood* , LJ 4/1/79), women's lives and the stories of those lives have been steeped in the language and power of men, making some stories unthinkable and others contrived. Not until the 1970s have there been stories freely and openly expressing the

achievements, ambitions, and experiences of women from all walks of life. By examining the traditional written accounts of women's lives and the facts omitted or underplayed, Heilbrun suggests new ways for women to write biography and autobiography. Though a clearer development and connection of some of the issues and topics would have made for an even more interesting presentation, this book is provocative. Jeris Cassel, Rutgers Univ. Libs., New Brunswick, N.J. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ground breaking, subtle, lots of food for thought.

I recommend this book to someone who has a curiosity for knowing some aspects on woman's biographies. Heilbrun has a assertive point of view to visualize the details which conforms the writing of women, but also has a great prose which makes me read the entire text in a couple of days.

I find Heilbrun's writing very stimulating. This is the second of her books I've read, the first being The Last Gift of Time. I highly recommend her work to women in their maturity, who are taking a look at where they've been, and where they are going in life. It is a very positive experience.

Still relevant. Important for younger women to read.

Just right for my research

Powerful and intimate. Honest and somewhat alarming in regards to her pending suicide. I learned a lot.

It is second hand and highlighted, but otherwise fine. For me, living in New Zealand the postage is 2-3x the cost of the book! What a pity you can't source stuff here! Jill

Heilbrun is a truth teller. This is as fresh and necessary as when it was first written. Brilliant woman, wonderful writing, acute insight into our patriarchal society and the frequently unconscious ways it limits girls and women in their lives. Should be required reading in early high school. The shame is that in 2014 to see women still slogging through the same territory in spite of the great hope Heilbrun

had for the generation coming of age in the 70s 'women's movement'.

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