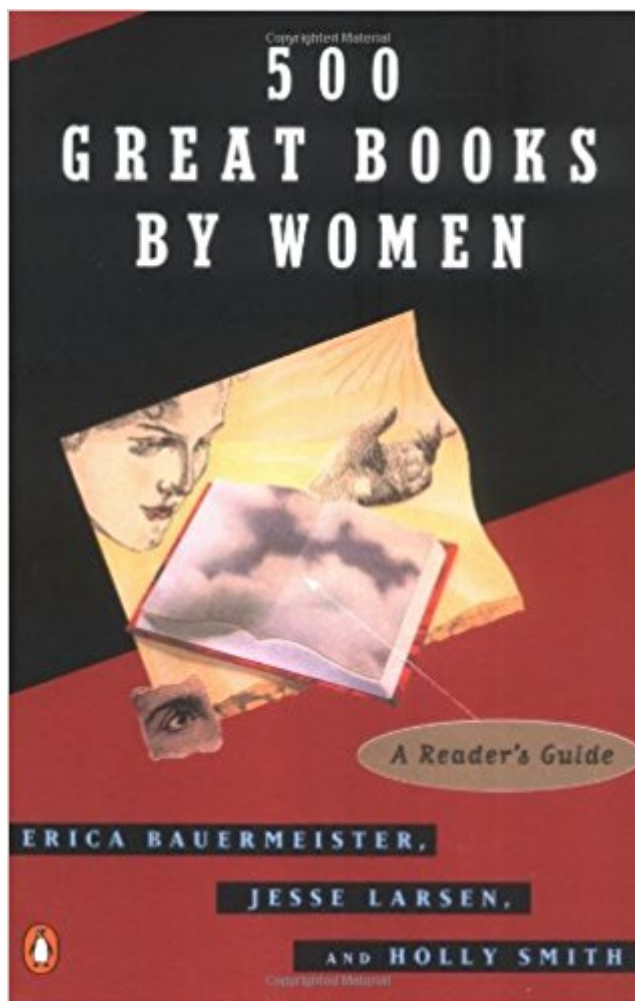


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# 500 Great Books By Women: A Reader's Guide



## Synopsis

A wealth of great women writers, from the likes of Charlotte Brontë to Toni Morrison, is clearly expressed with excerpts from their books to provide readers with a satisfying background on their views of art, growing old, growing up, and power.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An indispensable and extremely well-organized treasure map to literature by women. Contains brief reviews of 500 books by women, and seven cross-referenced indexes to identify books by author, title, genre, topic, and even country of book content. Highly recommended!

The editors of this work—one is a teacher, one a writer, and one a women's bookstore owner—clearly love to read, are committed to promoting women's writing, and want to provide a useful guide for readers of similar inclination. The editors, along with some 30 contributors, have written brief descriptions (about 200 words) of 500 selected books. To be included, books had to be written by a woman and be in prose, in print, and in English (or in translation). The editors selected books they personally loved that represent multicultural and international perspectives. The entries are arranged thematically, including sections for art, family, identity, work, and 15 additional themes. The selections are somewhat unexpected, but they do include at least one sampling of the most acclaimed women writers (e.g., Angelou, Morrison, Weldon, and Oates). Recommended for public

and academic libraries. Denise Johnson, Bradley Univ. Lib., Peoria, Ill. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I don't belong to a book club! I need some new ideas for reads that have been written in the past 20 years. This book offers choices with detailed explanations of the work, so I don't have to search the library every time I want to read. Erica Bauermeister is a new find, and I especially like her championing of women's literature and lives. Thank you to all three authors for this compilation of fiction and nonfiction by and about women. It's refreshing and inspiring that there are still women around who care to write about their lives.

Well written, but unfortunately more modern than I was hoping for which was more books before 1920. Most of the books are in the 1980's and 90's. Still a good reference.

A fun perusal of lists of books by women writers.

Would like to see an updated version.

this is a wonderful treasure chest of women writers. i found the best book i have ever read inside: "landscape for a good woman." i am sorry that it appears to be out of print. even so, new copies can be bought through with prime shipping. very good news! here is a review:ByC. robeon April 22, 2007As I was comprising a reading list for my graduate students, I was suddenly reminded of Steedman's slim historical-novella-theory book that towers over so many other creative and academic achievements. Steedman offers one of the most nuanced readings of marxism's link with psychoanalysis into an incredibly personal memoir. Beyond categorization, Steedman's work is absolutely essential reading. In particular, she brilliantly highlights the way in which class is effaced within the academy: "I read a woman's book, meet such a woman at a party (a woman now, like me) and think quite deliberately as we talk: we are divided: a hundred years ago I'd have been cleaning your shoes. I know this and you don't."

After reading some of the negative reviews posted on this book, I found myself compelled to respond. I am not sure how to define a great book. And clearly, anyone having the audacity to draw up an unconventional list of great books is asking for criticism. o Is Jane Austin as good as writer as Stendhal? o Are the Bronte sisters as important as Dickens? o Is Edith Wharton as interesting as

Thomas Mann? Some people see these as an important choices. As a reader, I find myself drawn to them all, and drawn to lists that expand on what I've already read. If you want a standard list of good reading there are plenty around. Try the "New Lifetime Reading Plan" compiled by Clifton Fadiman and John S. Major. For fun you could read "Great Books" by David Denby. (He's a baby boomer writing about revisiting the classics by re-taking 2 courses in humanities and literature at Columbia University.) I, however, prefer not to choose. The feminine voices in 500 GBBW are additions to, and not replacements for those other great books. Reading has always been a way to reach across time, and culture, to make us feel as, and for someone else, and to hear about something we have not or cannot experience. Excellent translations have given access to the words of Allende as well Homer. Some have made this an issue of political correctness. If listening to a different voice that happens to be feminine is political correctness, then three cheers for PC. If you want to stay out of political correctness, but want to find and revisit some truly wonderful books, try "500 Great Books by Women".

This is a must buy for all serious readers of women's works. Since PRINCESS was required reading in my high school class, it's been my favorite book, and I was pleased to see that the contributors recognized the "can't put it down" greatness of this modern day story about a Saudi Arabian princess. Then I saw LITTLE WOMEN, a favorite book from my childhood... This book not only introduced me to authors I was unaware of, but verified my own favorites, LOUISA MAY ALCOTT and JEAN SASSON and MARY SHELLY. I'm checking them off one by one. I hope these writers provide us with a sequel.

I disagree with the opinion that, in order to appreciate this book, you need to be female as has been asserted. In fact, if fewer people felt this way, books authored by women would probably circulate with greater force and efficiency. Now, although I found some titles listed in this book to be based more in personal preference, I do agree that many of them are, as stated, great. Not, in all cases, award-winning or critically acclaimed. But that wasn't the point of the book. I found it helpful to search for a title by using the topic index. In general, the book is helpful and can be used as a guide or a springboard. It shouldn't become a bible of women's literature.

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