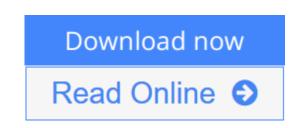




A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx

By Elaine Showalter



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An unprecedented literary landmark: the first comprehensive history of American women writers from 1650 to the present.

In a narrative of immense scope and fascination, here are more than 250 female writers, including the famous—Harriet Beecher Stowe, Dorothy Parker, Flannery O'Connor, and Toni Morrison, among others—and the little known, from the early American bestselling novelist Catherine Sedgwick to the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Susan Glaspell. Showalter integrates women's contributions into our nation's literary heritage with brilliance and flair, making the case for the unfairly overlooked and putting the overrated firmly in their place.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review **Book Description**

A Jury of Her Peers is an unprecedented literary landmark: the first comprehensive history of American women writers from 1650 to 2000.

In a narrative of immense scope and fascination--brimming with Elaine Showalter's characteristic wit and incisive opinions--we are introduced to more than 250 female writers. These include not only famous and expected names (Harriet Beecher Stowe, Willa Cather, Dorothy Parker, Flannery O'Connor, Gwendolyn Brooks, Grace Paley, Toni Morrison, and Jodi Picoult among them), but also many who were once successful and acclaimed yet now are little known, from the early American best-selling novelist Catherine Sedgwick to the Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright Susan Glaspell. Showalter shows how these writers--both the enduring stars and the ones left behind by the canon--were connected to one another and to their times. She believes it is high time to fully integrate the contributions of women into our American literary heritage, and she undertakes the task with brilliance and flair, making the case for the unfairly overlooked and putting the overrated firmly in their place.

Whether or not readers agree with the book's roster of writers, A Jury of Her Peers is an irresistible invitation to join the debate, to discover long-lost great writers, and to return to familiar titles with a deeper appreciation. It is a monumental work that will greatly enrich our understanding of American literary history and culture.

Amazon Exclusive: Elaine Showalter's Top Ten Books by American Women Writers You Haven't Read (But Should)

Everyone knows the handful of novels by American women writers, from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to *The House of Mirth* and *Beloved*, that make it onto standard reading lists. But there are hundreds of wonderful books by American women that have been underestimated, overlooked, or forgotten.

Here's my starting guide to ten extraordinary works of fiction--one from each decade of the twentieth century--that deserve to be much better known.



Mona in the Promised Land by Gish Jen (1996)

Gish Jen is one of the funniest and most free-wheeling novelists of the multicultural 90s. In Mona in the

Promised Land, whose title plays off a long tradition of Jewish-American immigrant writing, the adolescent Chinese-American heroine Mona Chang is at a new stage of ethnic identity, renaming and self-creation. In their own enclave, she and her high school friends exchange food, music, games, and politics. In the promised land, American girls can change their names, their religions, even re-invent their nationalities. From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. By covering the lives and careers of hundreds of American women writers of all backgrounds, this survey is ambitious and galvanizing, contributing to feminist theory without itself reading like theory. Diverse beyond easy description, these women, especially in earlier centuries, have two things in common. One is an almost universal break with patriarchal constructs. Second is gaining independence from European literary models, female as well as male. Although there have been multivolume, encyclopedic works of greater scope, like Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's *Norton Anthology of Literature by Woman*, this is the first guide and history ever attempted by one scholar working solo. With a generally chronological approach (including a handful of sensible deviations), Showalter's Baedeker showcases the rise and fall of styles and genres. Lives and careers of superstars such as Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein, Pearl S. Buck and Toni Morrison are put into high relief. In Showalter's book, the voices of several hundred other authors, ranging from Phillis Wheatley and Julia Ward Howe to Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton, Grace Metalious and James Tiptree Jr., sing out in a monumental choral orchestrated by Showalter (*A Literature of Their Own*), a groundbreaking feminist scholar at Princeton. (*Feb. 25*)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred Review* In spite of concerted efforts to reclaim lost and neglected works by women writers, we have failed to fully grasp the complexity and richness of women's writing in America or the degree to which women have shaped American literature. Eminent scholar-critic Showalter is rueful about writing the "first literary history of American women writers." How is it possible that this has never been undertaken before? The answer is part of the eve-opening story Showalter tells in this vigorously investigated consideration of the lives and work of professional American women writers. Masterfully blending succinct biographies with incisive history and peppery literary criticism, she links the evolution of women's creative writing to steady changes in women's social status. Showalter's analysis of such salient writers as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Toni Morrison, Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath is fresh and revelatory, while her resurrection of their forgotten peers is electrifying. For the first time, readers will see the many-limbed family tree of women writers working in all genres as Showalter traces branches of influence and extraordinary flowerings. Showalter astutely explores every aspect with wit and zeal. This superb, groundbreaking history will inspire readers to read each of these remarkable writers. -- Donna Seaman Users ReviewFrom reader reviews: Timothy Larios: Throughout other case, little folks like to read book A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important a new book A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx. You can add information and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can realize everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we can open a book as well as searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's go through. Joseph Thomas: A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx it is rather good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

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