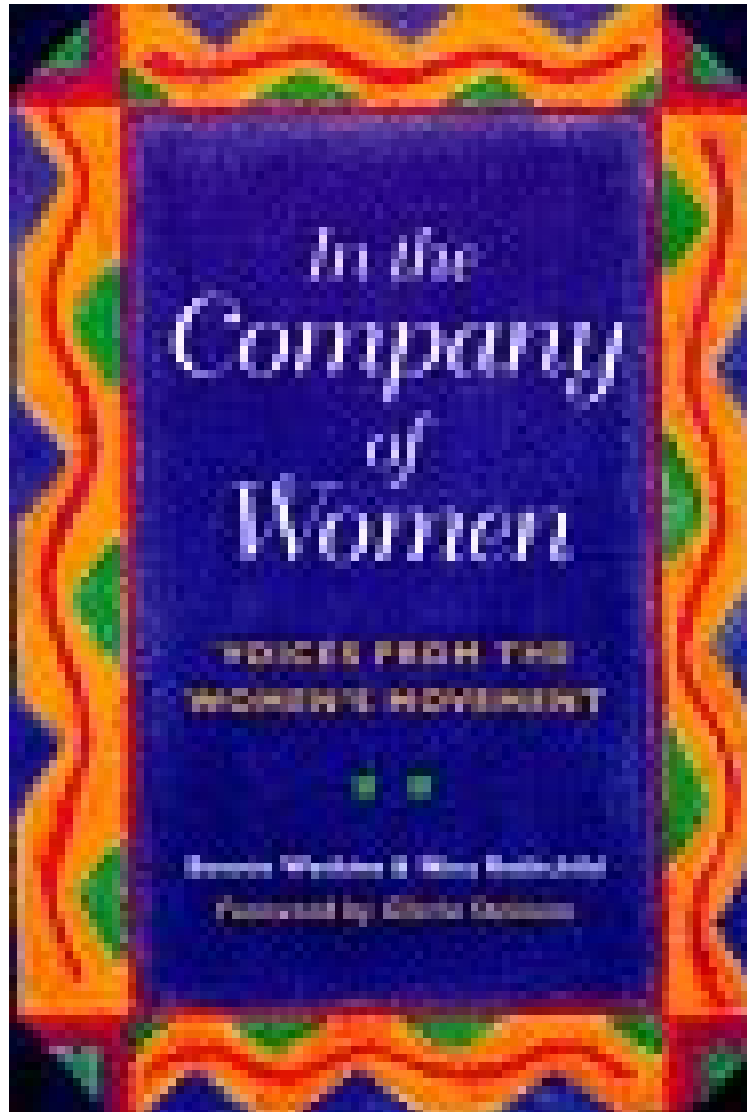


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## In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement

*Bonnie Watkins, Nina Rothchild*

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**Bonnie Watkins, Nina Rothchild : In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By Bruce WolfThese personal stories of local women in Minnesota helped me to truly connect with the women's movement for the first time

An oral history of the contemporary women's movement, these compelling personal stories describe the movement

that has transformed American life from the 1960s to the present. In addition to reflections by political activists are accounts by homemakers, businesswomen, artists, factory workers, scientists, policewomen, an ex-prostitute, an Arctic explorer, and many others. Encountering this company of women will change the way readers understand the women's movement. "The best history of feminism so far."-Carolyn Heilbrun

From Publishers Weekly The editors present 83 first-person accounts from a variety of women currently living in Minnesota who describe their involvement in feminism. The material becomes repetitive when read straight through, making this most valuable as an oral history of feminism. In a competent if unsurprising foreword, Gloria Steinem recalls how hearing women tell their stories of illegal abortion sparked her consciousness and rejects the portrayal of feminists as "white, middle class, and privileged." Many of these women report the same events in slightly different form, mainly a realization that something was wrong and the discovery that feminism (in the form of consciousness-raising groups, women's studies classes, etc.) helped set it right. The most interesting information here lies in the details: Meridel Le Sueur, a writer born in 1900, recalls when her own mother was arrested for giving out birth-control information; Sara M. Evans, history chair at the University of Minnesota, tells how an early feminist group planned to distribute a flyer by sticking it in copies of Ladies Home Journal; Vivian Jenkins Nelson, now director of the International Institute for Interracial Interaction reports that her schoolteacher mother darkened Dick and Jane illustrations when teaching in the rural South; Evelina Giobbe describes leaving prostitution to found WHISPER, a group for refugees from the sex industries; and Judith Niemi recalls the liberation she experienced on female-only canoeing trips. While their contributions to the movement are definitely valuable, many of the young feminists included here add only a few obvious observations ("I get angry at the way women have been treated"), and the editors' footnotes on everything from George Jessel to pay equity are haphazard. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal Watkins and Rothchild, both active in women's issues since the early 1970s as volunteers, administrators, speakers, and writers, present well-written interviews with women of like achievement. The women all currently reside in Minnesota, but many have lived and worked elsewhere. Women of color are represented, as are women from various economic levels and careers, including sportswomen, professors, doctors, lawyers, prostitutes, abortion-rights activists, social workers, and religious practitioners. All of the women, however, reached a point where they were unwilling to settle into the traditional roles society ordained for them. Many were single mothers who struggled for their children as well as for themselves and overcame substantial obstacles. This work provides a good cross-section of women's efforts in the last 20 years. Recommended for public libraries. ?Sharon Firestone, Arizona State Univ., Tempe Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. Personal and humorous stories contributed by over eighty women document how they became feminists and how the women's movement changed their perceptions and beliefs. These are varied accounts of homemakers, scientists, policewomen, and many others who lived through a movement which transformed this country in the 1960s: their experiences bring alive the sentiments and changes of the times. -- Midwest Book