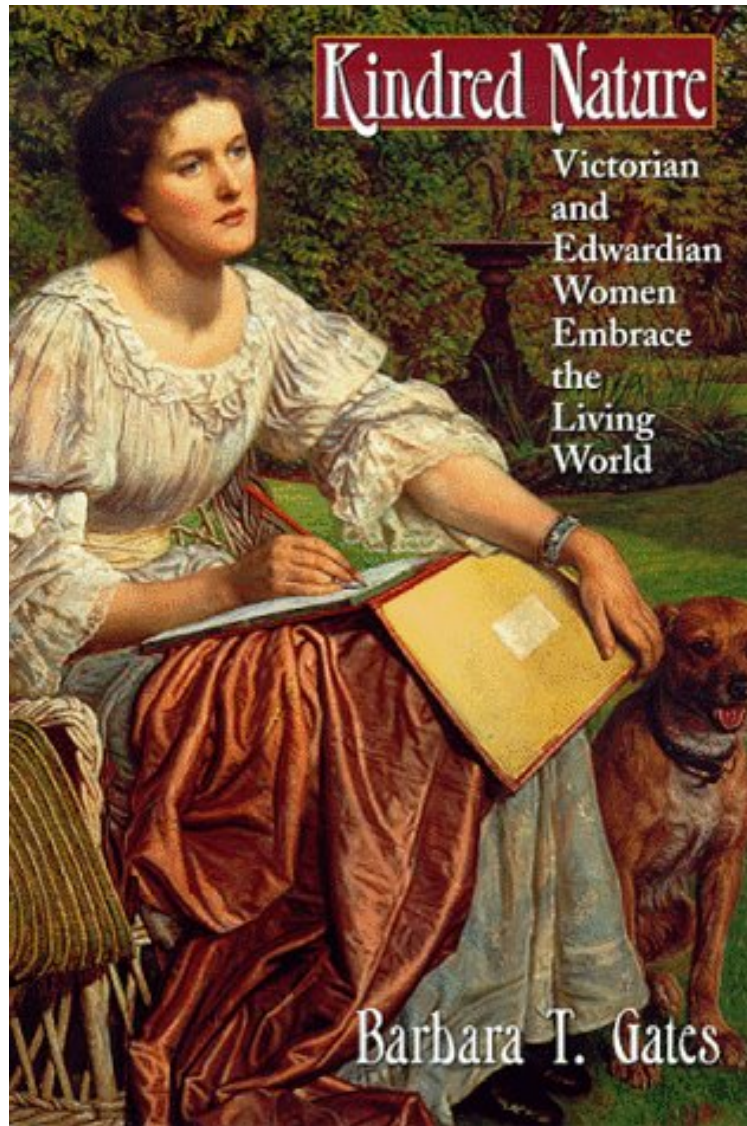


[Ebook free] Kindred Nature: Victorian and Edwardian Women Embrace the Living World

Kindred Nature: Victorian and Edwardian Women Embrace the Living World

Barbara T. Gates

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Barbara T. Gates : Kindred Nature: Victorian and Edwardian Women Embrace the Living World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kindred Nature: Victorian and Edwardian Women Embrace the Living World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Randall Laue Wonderful, have her other book. Really covers all the time frame of botanical illustration.

In *Kindred Nature*, Barbara T. Gates highlights the contributions of Victorian and Edwardian women to the study, protection, and writing of nature. Recovering their works from the misrepresentation they often faced at the time of their composition, Gates discusses not just well-known women like Beatrix Potter but also others—scientists, writers, gardeners, and illustrators—who are little known today. Some of these women discovered previously unknown species, others wrote and illustrated natural histories or animal stories, and still others educated women, the working classes, and children about recent scientific advances. A number of women also played pivotal roles in the defense of animal rights by protesting overhunting, vivisection, and habitat destruction, even as they demanded their own rights to vote, work, and enter universities. *Kindred Nature* shows the enormous impact Victorian and Edwardian women had on the natural sciences and the environmental movement, and on our own attitudes toward nature and human nature.

.com Scholars in the age of Charles Darwin, writes feminist scholar Barbara Gates, were of two minds about women: on one hand, they embodied "the restful responsiveness of nature" and were somehow closer to living in a state of nature than were men; on the other hand, by the very virtue of this naturalness, they were less capable of being truly civilized and educated. Despite this, generations of women labored to speak on nature's behalf and to study its ways; "denied formal higher education," Gates writes, "they also constituted large portions of the audience at public lectures on science and read whatever was available to them on the subject," including a large literature in popular science written by women. Gates recounts the lives of many important naturalists of the age, among them traveler and Africanist Mary Kingsley, independent scholar Arabella Buckley (who served as secretary to the eminent English geologist Sir Charles Lyell and was acquainted with many of the leading scientists of her time), eminent illustrator Jemima Blackburn, and antivivisectionist Frances Power Cobbe. Although these women are not well represented in standard histories of science, Gates demonstrates that their contributions to their contemporaries' understanding of the natural world were estimable indeed. --Gregory McNamee