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Women's Words, Women's Stories: An American Daybook

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Book by

.com From pantries to politics, from babies to buyouts, Women's Words, Women's Stories is a joyous celebration--366 days' worth --of womanhood's long tradition of intelligence, wit, and determination. Following the success of Give Her This Day, Lois Stiles Edgerly has compiled a second volume of writings by 19th-century women from every walk of life.From Library JournalEdgerly (Give Her This Day: A Daybook of Women's Words, Tilbury House, 1990) has compiled an interesting array of short personal vignettes written by women. Included in this devotional guide are passages from immigrants, reformers, pioneers, and literary figures. Each vignette contains a paragraph of autobiographical writing accompanied by a biographical note about its author. Sources of the writings are well documented and are from both manuscripts and published sources. Casual readers will find this a charming companion to such recent volumes as Anne Wilson Schaefer's Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much (HarperSanFrancisco, 1992). Those interested in a more in-depth and contextual look at women's lives should stay with Second to None: A

Documentary History of American Women (LJ 8/94). For public libraries only. Jenny Presnell, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, Ohio Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Editor Edgerly affords us an intimate view of the inner lives of nineteenth-century American women in this quietly provocative collection. She presents writings by a panoply of women in daybook format--that is, for each day of the year an excerpt from the writing of a different woman. Read consecutively, the entries, accompanied by brief biographies of their authors, paint a picture of both daily life and the big issues women then faced. They show the complexity of nineteenth-century life for women and the thought women gave to the texture of their lives, as well as the losses and achievements of those lives. Among the many noteworthy women featured are the first woman to support herself by writing, Detroit's first black teacher, the first woman elected to statewide office, the first woman to enter MIT, and the first "girl reporter" at the Chicago Tribune. This is another book filling in the cracks of feminist history, which, we discover, is the history of "ordinary" women like these. Mary Ellen Sullivan