

Synopsis

A bestselling sensation when it was first published by Viking in 1978, *A Woman of Independent Means* has delighted millions of readers and was the inspiration for the television miniseries starring Sally Field. At the turn of the century, a time when women had few choices, Bess Steed Garner inherits a legacy—not only of wealth but of determination and desire, making her truly a woman of independent means. From the early 1900s through the 1960s, we accompany Bess as she endures life's trials and triumphs with unflinching courage and indomitable spirit: the sacrifices love sometimes requires of the heart, the flaws and rewards of marriage, the often-tested bond between mother and child, and the will to defy a society that demands conformity. Now, with this beautiful trade paperback edition, Penguin will introduce a new generation of readers to this richly woven story. . .and to Bess Steed Garner, a woman for all ages.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (May 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140274367

ISBN-13: 978-0140274363

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (98 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #82,525 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Epistolary](#) #569 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies](#) #688 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies](#)

Customer Reviews

I just finished this book, of which I could not put down for a moment. It is an excellent read! I cried several times throughout the book. I was amazed by this woman, Bess. She was the obvious life-force behind her marriage and family. She always asked questions and made comments about life that were ahead of its time...classic...timeless! She was such a progressive thinker for her time. The letters spanned from the beginning of the 20th century to the 1940s. Time and time again she surprised me with her observations and decisions: *We should just do, instead of waiting for something to happen, since the future is unknown.* She commented about philosophical concepts that many of us ponder today. Her thoughts on children-rearing were so refreshing too; that we

shouldn't lose ourselves in our children; that raising children doesn't necessarily mean one has to make it her sole occupation. Her perception of life was so positive, even in the face of so many unbelievable tragedies. She treated death like an enemy, which forced her to live her life to the fullest. A very interesting, positive, way to look at things, especially in an age where a lot of us have become complacent about death. Her question about why society expects us to spend our lifetime of experiences with one person, is one that I'm sure many of us ask ourselves today! She sees the complexities of people and of life in general, which makes her so understanding, and so tolerant. Even her subtle way of introducing social change is brilliant, leaving a lasting impression. It was inspiring to read those letters, and reminded me of how important writing is...so much more thought goes into words when one writes them down. The written word can often be so much more powerful than words which are spoken.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Woman of Independent Means Means Residential Detailed Costs (Means Contractor's Pricing Guide: Residential & Remodeling Costs) This Means This, This Means That: A User's Guide to Semiotics The Real Goods Independent Builder: Designing & Building a House Your Own Way (Real Goods Independent Living Books) Working With Independent Contractors (Working with Independent Contractors: The Employer's Legal Guide) Woman of Means (Daughters of Faith) Without Reservations: The Travels of an Independent Woman True Woman 201: Interior Design - Ten Elements of Biblical Womanhood (True Woman) Wonder Woman Classic: I Am Wonder Woman (I Can Read Level 2) Breast Cancer? Breast Health!: The Wise Woman Way (Wise Woman Herbal) The Multi-Orgasmic Woman: Sexual Secrets Every Woman Should Know A Short Residence in Sweden & Memoirs of the Author of 'The Rights of Woman': AND Memoirs of the Author of 'The Rights of Woman' (Classics) Woman of Strength: Learning from the Proverbs 31 Woman RSMMeans Contractor's Pricing Guide: Residential Repair & Remodeling 2016 (Means Residential Repair & Remodeling Costs) RSMMeans Contractor's Pricing Guide Residential Repair & Remodeling Costs 2015 (Means Residential Repair & Remodeling Costs) The Most Human Human: What Talking with Computers Teaches Us About What It Means to Be Alive Lucky Planet: Why Earth Is Exceptional - and What That Means for Life in the Universe Spooky Action at a Distance: The Phenomenon That Reimagines Space and Time-and What It Means for Black Holes, the Big Bang, and Theories of Everything Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary Beatitudes From the Back Side: A Different Take on What It Means to be Blessed

[Dmca](#)