



## The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars

By Dava Sobel

Large Print Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 509 pages. New from 1 New York Times bestselling author Dava Sobel, the inspiring (People), little-known true story of womens landmark contributions to astronomyA joy to read. --The Wall Street Journal Named one of the best books of the year by NPR, The Economist, Smithsonian, Nature, and NPRs Science FridayNominated for the PENE. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award In the mid-nineteenth century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as calculators, or human computers, to interpret the observations their male counterparts made via telescope each night. At the outset this group included the wives, sisters, and daughters of the resident astronomers, but soon the female corps included graduates of the new womens colleges--Vassar, Wellesley, and Smith. As photography transformed the practice of astronomy, the ladies turned from computation to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates. The glass universe of half a million plates that Harvard amassed over the ensuing decades--through the generous support of Mrs. Anna Palmer Draper, the widow of a pioneer in stellar photography--enabled the women to make extraordinary discoveries that attracted worldwide acclaim. They helped discern what stars were made of, divided the stars into meaningful categories...



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