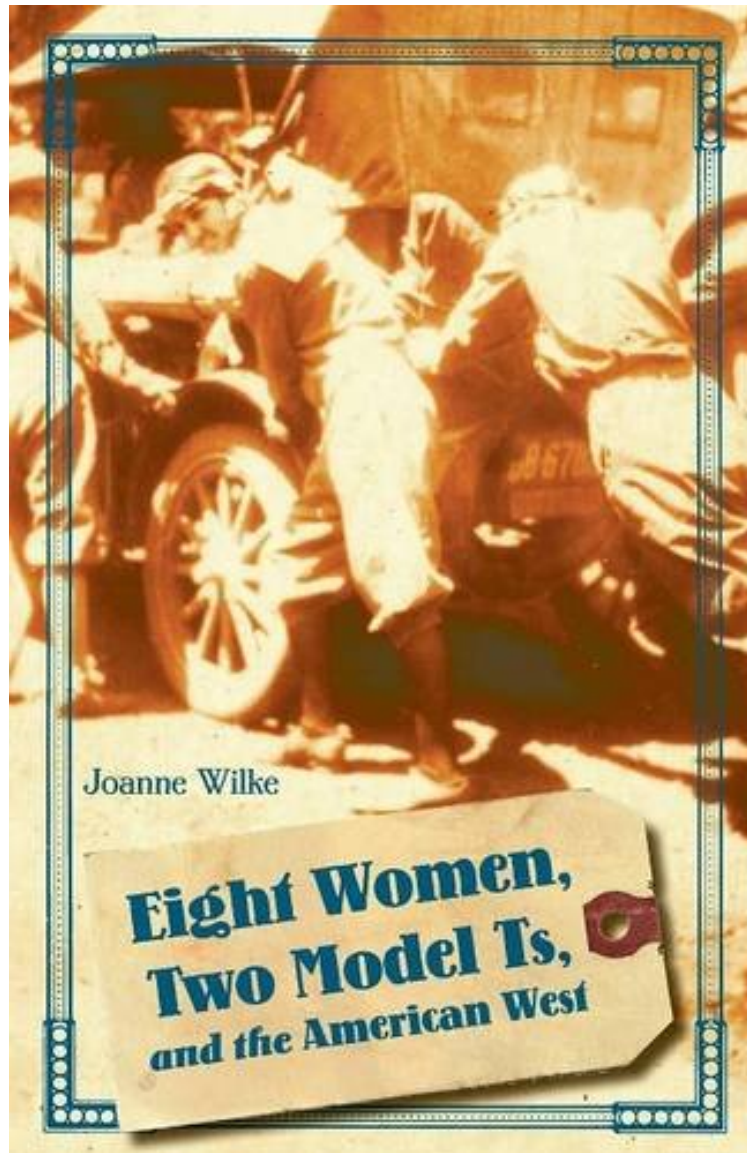


[Download pdf] Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West (Women in the West)

Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West (Women in the West)

Joanne Wilke

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Joanne Wilke : **Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West (Women in the West)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West (Women in the West):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For those who are amazed at the feats of people several generations

agoBy K. BlackThis is a very interesting book written by a woman about relatives and their college friends (eight young women, total) who took off on a bold adventure in 1924 to see the American West in two Model T Fords, one newly purchased and the other borrowed. Some of the women had never driven before and, as you can imagine, the vehicles weren't exactly state-of-the-art, nor were the roads (or lack thereof.) The author compiled information from interviews, diaries, and postcards that the women had sent. Each day was an adventure, as the young women patched tires, made care repairs, camped overnight at campgrounds, and collected their mail at State Parks that they visited. Particularly harrowing was their driving on barely-there switchback roads (with no guardrails) through the Colorado mountains. For those who are amazed at the feats of people several generations ago, the independence and bravery of young women, or enjoy adventures of now-antique cars, this is an interesting book. After my husband and I read my copy, I passed it along to a friend and bought another copy for other friends to read and pass along. Not a page-turner, from a novel point of view, but definitely interesting and worth reading.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Written CollageBy P. L. PetersenJoanne Wilke gives herself a difficult task writing *Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West*. She mixes genres and includes multiple narratives. Her finished product is a written collage held together by a strong theme--a found connection between the adventurous spirit of those in her book and herself. Wilke uses diverse genres to construct her piece. Her first form is family history. This allows her to tell the story of her Grandmother Marie and her sister Laura's road trip from their Iowa farm to the west coast with six other women, thus the name. Sources for this narrative are based on Wilke's interviews with some of the eight women. But this effort was lacking since the women were in their eighties and nineties and had forgotten many facts and details. Better sources were their journal accounts, their letters written back home to family, and photos which Wilke includes to fill out the story. Wilke's second genre is memoir. Here she tells the story of her childhood summertime visits to Grandma Marie and Aunt Laura in Iowa, and her adult life in Montana. Her memories include family myths shared during visits with Grandma Marie and Aunt Laura while they did the daily routines on the farm. The narrative then extends beyond Wilke's childhood and draws on her Montana experiences with her husband where she traces some of the same territory Marie and Laura covered on their trip west. Like all memoir the writer plays many roles: storyteller, protagonist, and philosopher. The summary at the end of the book gives insight into the writer's process: "Our lives weave together like pounding river water. I try to write about my grandmother only, but the connections are too strong. My own stories slip in, along with those of her sister, her mother, and my mother. I can't tease one free, or write about one of us without another. Memories, stories, people, and seasons dissolve, and I am surrounded by water. I stand on a point of dry land while the future boils past me, past Iowa, to where other women pull other children to safety, toward life." (pp. 167, 168) Wilke's collage collects life experience flowing from one generation into another. The past is the future, the present is the past. Sometimes text flows easily, but other times the reader is left confused. Like all memoir, the writer attempts to make sense of memory, hers and her families. Wilke's effort, though at times clumsy, often sparkles. She makes a solid connection between her life and the lives of her ancestors.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Slice of historyBy Susan K. Anyone who enjoys that first person intimate account of history will love this book. Mid western go get um spirit at its best, made me think of my grandmother and if she would have gone on this trip, yes; she would have. Descriptions of roads, before there really were roads and the care these cars needed were just two of the real events I had never thought about before. So much is taken for granted in the U.S. now; good roads, safe and nice places to stay, dependable transportation, instant communication; this real travel adventure of an earlier time really puts all that in perspective.

In 1924 eight young women drove across the American West in two Model T Fords. In nine weeks they traveled more than nine thousand unpaved miles on an extended car-camping trip through six national parks, without a man or a gun along. It was the era of the flapper, but this book tells the story of a group of farm girls who met while attending Iowas Teachers College and who shared a yen to see some things.

Entertaining and inspiring. Booklist