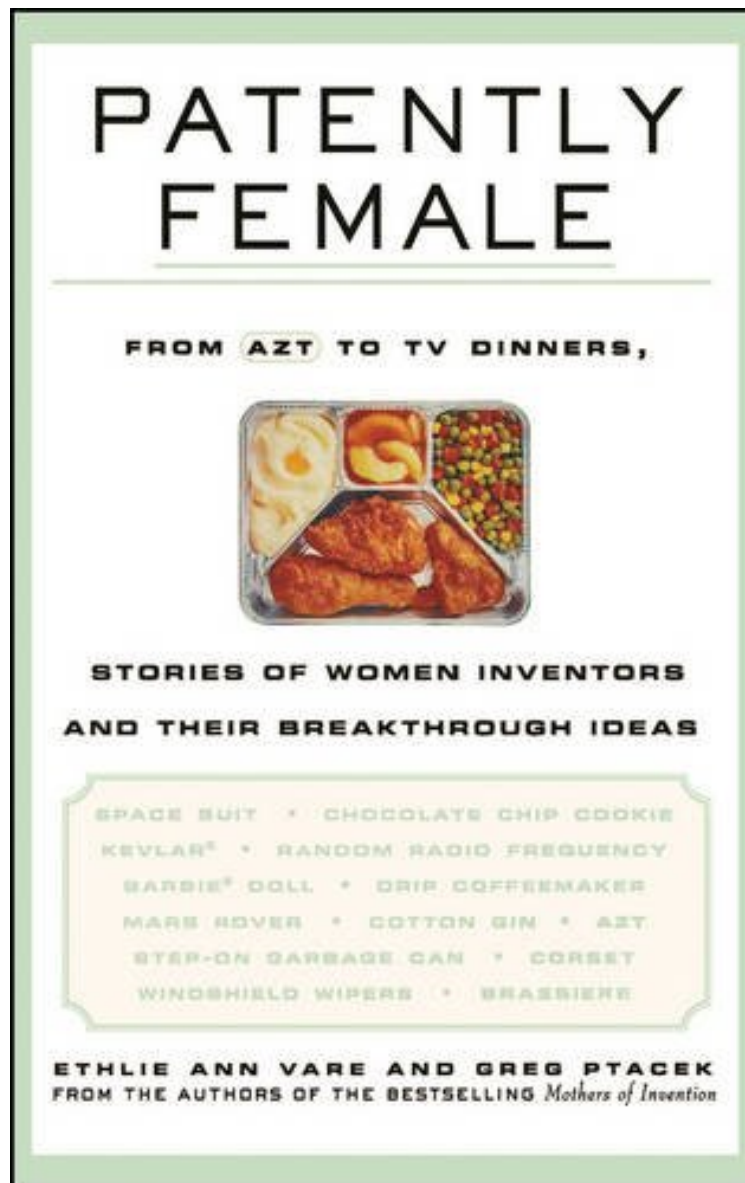


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Patently Female: From AZT to TV Dinners, Stories of Women Inventors and Their Breakthrough Ideas

Ethlie Ann Vare, Greg Ptacek

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Ethlie Ann Vare, Greg Ptacek : Patently Female: From AZT to TV Dinners, Stories of Women Inventors and Their Breakthrough Ideas

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Patently Female: From AZT to TV Dinners, Stories of Women Inventors and Their Breakthrough Ideas*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good, Enlightening Read
By Aaron I liked 'Patently Female,' overall. It is, first, well-written and easy to read, with a clear, functional format that is appropriate to the content. The author writes with a personable, human voice that avoids the flat, robotic tone often encountered in such books. Also, the text is, I felt, complete and substantial despite its brevity; the list-like subsections, though condensed for reasons of length and focus, remain factual enough to be informative. Reading through, I didn't feel to be deprived of vital information by the sections' shortened length, again unlike some "collection"-type books (which can, in my experience, often come off as distorted, and distanced from the actuality of what's being described, due to an overly brief treatment). Likewise, I simply enjoyed the book's subject matter, finding the listings of various female-originating inventions to be equally informative, educational, and entertaining. I also liked the secondary, offshoot stories presented by those of the inventions, which added a pleasing compliment of historical and human substance. Thus, from a literary perspective, 'Patently' is, in my opinion, a success. However, what I liked most was a deeper, subtler dimension to the book, constructed from the collective tapestry knit by the many individual stories contained within. Namely, the book, when seen in whole, offers the reader a rather valuable lesson: as a study of the inventive process and its often-random and unplanned nature, from our inventions' unlikely origins to their similarly unforeseen effects, and all the obscure and fantastic logistics in between -- much to be learned, here. In the end, 'Patently' outlines the essence of creation and evolution in general, demonstrated through the microcosm of our gadgets and novelties yet applicable on a universal scale. In this sense, I found the book to be unexpectedly enlightening (delightfully so). If I had to list a complaint about 'Patently Female,' it would be that the book contains some bias. At times, I sensed the narration to depart from mere female emphasis to female favor, thus lapsing into a subtle-yet-present anti-male prejudice (ironically, not unlike the pro-male prejudice that the author often accuses the historical establishment of exhibiting, such that the text works to perpetuate that very same dysfunction and inequality, albeit with reversed poles). Though, this was a minor flaw, and had little to no effect on the greater text. I am sincerely grateful to this book's author, subjects, and publisher. I have benefited from your work and service.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nonsense book
By Customer This book is feminist propaganda made up of lies and half truths. Cotton gin, mars rover and space suits were all invented by men those men being eli whitney, Adam steltzner and Siegfried Hansen respectively.
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and little known contributions by women
By A Customer The book can be read as an entity or read randomly as time allows because each inventor has a brief self-contained section in the larger chapters. The book is well-written and it is not an academic punishment to read. There is enough detail to set the reader into further research but it is light enough to provide information in an enjoyable way. The inventors often have insightful quotes. It should be required reading in schools to encourage more participation in science, math, computers and intellectual curiosity in general. Not just about science, the book also mentions patenting the brassiere, computer technologies and some weird ideas (skeletons shocking criminals into confessions, anyone?). A nice mix of fun and facts.

Discover the trials triumphs of great female inventors
Astrolabe Automatic Dishwasher Barbie Doll Buffered Aspirin COBOL Cotton Gin Disposable Phone Drip Coffeemaker Fabric Softener Sheets Hang Glider IV Fluids Jell-O Kevlar Mars Rover Nystatin PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) Protease Inhibitors Roling Smallpox Variolation Space Suit Spic Span Tract Housing Vacuum Canning Windshield Wipers Zig-Zag Sewing Machine Zovirax and many, many more! Reviews for *Mothers of Invention* by Ethlie Ann Vare and Greg Ptacek "It's a fascinating and gratifying book..It gives us a positive view of women's inventiveness, from the frivolous to the noble." -The New York Times Book Review "It is the wide spectrum of female humanity and ability in this book that makes it an especially valuable addition to the growing popular library on the accomplishments and work lives of women." -Los Angeles Times "An informative collection of talent, trivia, and history, *Mothers of Invention* will interest most anyone. More importantly, though, it will serve to inspire girls and women of all ages. For that reason, it belongs on the shelves of schools and public libraries everywhere." -Tampa Tribune "Wonderful..A book to be dipped into and sampled at one's leisure." -The Chicago Biweekly "This fascinating volume will find a place in the browsing sections of both adult and YA collections.recommended." -Library Journal One of the "Best Books for Young Adults," American Library Association, 1988

From Publishers Weekly
In their sequel to *Mothers of Invention*, Vare and Ptacek explore female innovators a role history has often failed to record, let alone reward. The first U.S. patent was awarded to a woman, Hannah Slater, in 1793, for perfecting cotton sewing thread. But the authors quickly demonstrate that women's inventions aren't limited to the home. Both the brassiere and the jockstrap were invented by women. Can't do without that cordless phone? Thank Terri Pall. Interested in voting reforms? Susan Huhn invented the most reliable and mobile voting machine. The brilliance of physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking is transmitted through computer technology invented by Martine Kempf,

Leslie Dolman and Carrie Heeter. And Hawking studies the universe in good company: Jocelyn Bell discovered the pulsar, and women invented the Mars rover and the space suit. Dr. Gertrude Elion's immunosuppressants make lifesaving transplants possible, including bone marrow transplants, which were Dr. Suzanne Ilstaad's revolutionary treatment for end-stage cancers and anemias. The major AIDS-fighting drugs, AZT and protease inhibitors, were also invented by women. Of course, not all women's inventions are so dramatic witness the TV dinner, Jell-O, tract housing and Barbie. Vare and Ptacek detail how women's ideas like the cotton gin, automatic sewing machine and even the Brooklyn Bridge have often been attributed to men and how history books and museums like the Smithsonian and the National Inventors Hall of Fame have ignored women's achievements. The book's lighthearted, colloquial style makes it ideal for classrooms, but the lack of specific years for many of the inventions is irksome. Photos. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Vare and coauthor Greg Ptacek are enamored of inventors and their amazing stories of perseverance. An informal sequel to *Mothers of Invention* (1988), *Patently Female* records some improvement in the recognition of women innovators, a development they're determined to encourage, and their conviction infuses their book with energy and pride. Women have always been inventors by necessity, as evident in the tales of secretary and single mom Bessie Nesmith, who gave the world liquid paper (and a rock star), and Mary Anderson, the inventor of the windshield wiper. And onward they march, the clever and resilient women inventors of Scotchguard, Lactaid, the first computer language, the first library database, chemotherapy, AZT, the Mars rover (named the Sojourner Truth), the bra, Barbie, and many more. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "In their sequel to *Mothers of Invention*, Vare and Ptacek explore female innovators--a role history has often failed to record, let alone reward. The first U.S. patent was awarded to a woman, Hannah Slater, in 1793, for perfecting cotton sewing thread. But the authors quickly demonstrate that women's inventions aren't limited to the home. Both the brassiere and the jockstrap were invented by women. Can't do without that cordless phone? Thank Terri Pall. Interested in voting reforms? Susan Huhn invented the most reliable and mobile voting machine. The brilliance of physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking is transmitted through computer technology invented by Martine Kempf, Leslie Dolman and Carrie Heeter. And Hawking studies the universe in good company: Jocelyn Bell discovered the pulsar, and women invented the Mars rover and the space suit. Dr. Gertrude Elion's immunosuppressants make lifesaving transplants possible, including bone marrow transplants, which were Dr. Suzanne Ilstaad's revolutionary treatment for end-stage cancers and anemias. The major AIDS-fighting drugs, AZT and protease inhibitors, were also invented by women. Of course, not all women's are so dramatic--witness the TV dinner, Jell-O, tract housing and Barbie. Vare and Ptacek detail how women's ideas--like the cotton gin, automatic sewing machine and even the Brooklyn Bridge--have often been attributed to men and how history books and musums like the Smithsonian and the National Inventors Hall of Fame have ignored women's achievements. The book's lighthearted, colloquial style makes it ideal for classrooms, but the lack of specific years for many of the inventions is irksome." (Publishers Weekly, 10/29/01) "...Vare and Ptacek have a knack for choosing acencdotes that bring the inventor's trials and triumphs to life..." (Associated Press, 15 April 2002) "...this is rather a fascinating little book...conclusion: interesting, fascinating and a general good companion and conversation piece..." (M2 Communications, 26 April 2002) "The authors show how the products of female ingenuity are often those we can't imagine doing without... Each woman's story is inspiring in and of itself, but Vare ad Ptacek have a knack for choosing anecdotes that bring the inventor's trials and triumphs to life for the reader."(Associated Press) " the book insightfully and entertainingly portrays the history of women inventors and their inventions "(Chemistry Industry, 15 October 2002)