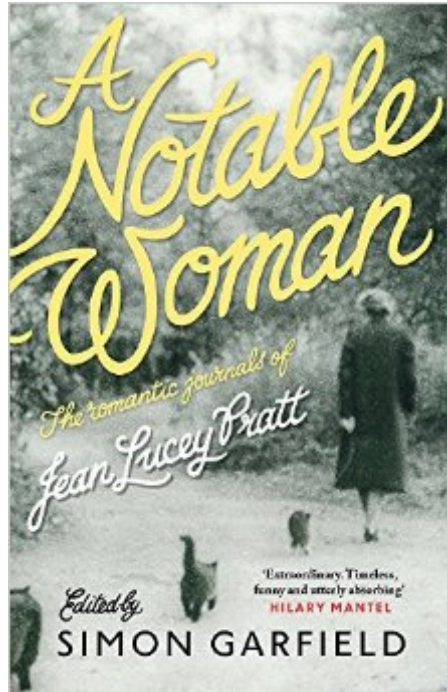


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A Notable Woman: The Romantic Journals Of Jean Lucey Pratt



Synopsis

In April 1925, at the age of 15, Jean Lucey Pratt started a journal that she kept until just a few days before her death in 1986, producing over a million words in 45 exercise books. What emerges is a portrait of a truly unique, spirited woman and writer. Never before has an account so fully, so honestly and so vividly captured a single woman's journey through the 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Simon Garfield first came across Jean Lucey Pratt when he was looking for war diaries, from the Mass Observation archive, for a previous book. He renamed her â ^Maggie Joy Bluntâ ™ for that project, but now has edited the diaries of her whole life, from when she first began her diary in 1925 at the age of just 15, until her death in 1986. I have to admit to a feeling of discomfort if reading the private diaries of an individual, but if you have the same feelings then you can safely put them aside. For her entire life, Jean was an aspiring writer and often remarks that she hopes her diaries will be preserved, and even published. As such, I felt great pleasure in reading the words she wrote not just for herself, but for posterity. Jean was born in 1909 and began writing the journal which would continue for sixty years in 1925. This book incorporates about one sixth of the written material and much of it, but not all, does centre on the war years, when she was in her early thirties. We begin with childhood crushes and the remarriage of her widowed father, as Jean considers becoming an architect like her father and worries about her performances at the tennis club. These early years really give us a sense of Jeanâ ™s personality and, although obviously she changes, there are some traits that stay with her. She has a fear of being suburbanised and narrow minded,

she yearns for love and encouragement and she dreams of romance and writing. Without doubt, Jean longed always to learn and experience the most from life. She enjoyed travel and always embraced the most from every holiday, friendship and romance. However, she was also often crippled by self doubt, shyness and insecurity. Despite her personal worries though, she did her best to enjoy every experience.

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