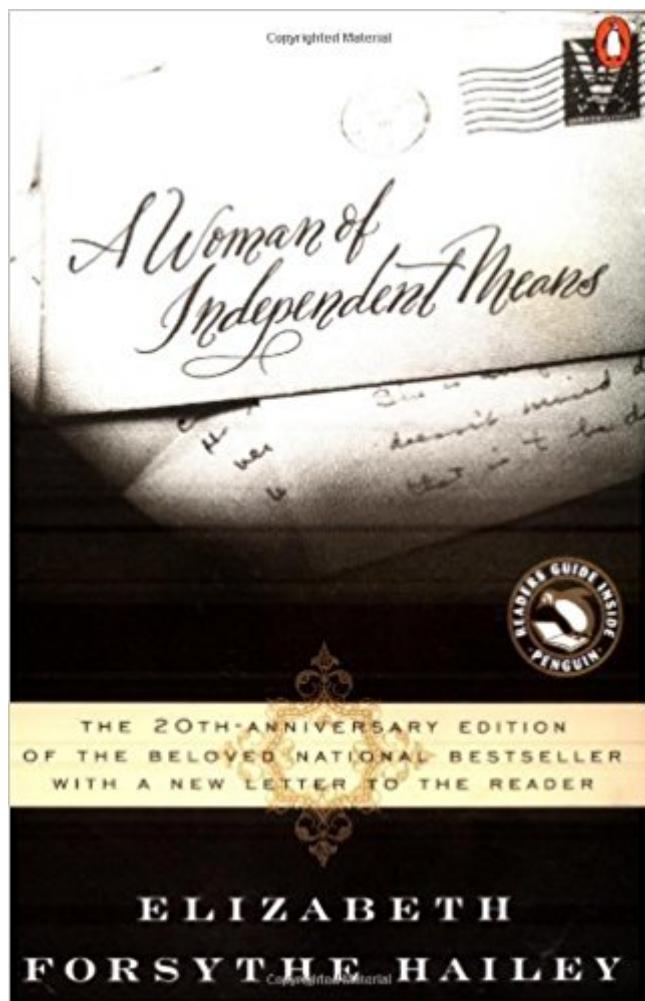


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# A Woman Of Independent Means



## 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 unfailing 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

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## Customer Reviews

Thanks to Hailey's splendid mastery of plain English, Bess illuminates the life of others as well as her own in deft, articulate, cursive strokes that any love of language will find irresistible \* LOS ANGELES TIMES \* Bess is so remarkable a character that I seem here to be reviewing not *A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS* but the woman herself \* NEW YORK TIMES \* A delightful reading of large, splashy doings in the small pond of an endearingly lively, bossy, responsible, and much-loving lady \* KIRKUS REVIEWS \* Irrestistible ... nothing about it is ordinary \* LOS ANGELES TIMES \* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A woman coming of age early in the century had few choices... unless she had independent means. Bess Steed Garner inherits a legacy -- of wealth, determination, and desire. She loves one man with all her heart only to discover the price of such devotion. She struggles with the flaws of marriage and its irresistible rewards. She sets out to conquer high society and forces oil-rich Dallas to its knees. But her own daughter may break her heart... and the man she chooses may rob her of the one thing she prizes the most -- her manipulating, delightful, bossy, and believable independence. For Bess is a woman of independent means. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I appreciated a very readable immersion into the life, mentality, way of thinking and feeling of the protagonist. I wasn't sure we could be friends at the beginning, but when reading more and more, I became interested, "involved", amused, started to comprehend and admire her in many ways. Also, I'm a great fan of epistolary novels - and this is a fine example of this genre.

So lost was I in the story, it's period setting and the lives and characters that I carried around the pain of loss and moments of triumph for days after I'd experienced them during the course of the story. The Book is an epistolary: letters by the protagonist, Bess, to her family, friends and business associates Throughout from 9 yrs old to her eventual demise. The language of Bess a joy I carried around, yearning to share this new friend with othersRecommended for those who enjoy period drama, feminist portraits family epic genre, studies. you will experience the full gambit of human emotion and experience.

I loved this book. I literally could not put it down. It is the story of a strong, independent woman born about the turn of the twentieth century. It is the story of women's lib before the days of women's lib. The story is told through her letters to the important people in her life. She leaves college to marry her true love, raises a family, encounters tragedies, survives and adapts. The story is so realistic that you truly begin to believe she is a real woman. She lives to a ripe old age, through the nineteen sixties, so she sees a lot of change in her life. She reminded me of my own grandmother. I can't wait to give this book to my mother for Christmas. I think she will love it as much as I did.

As if a friend just died, I finished AWOIM, knowing that it would have brought Elizabeth joy to have her life become an inspiration for new generations.

Interesting tale told through letters written by the main character, Bess. Bess was quite a headstrong woman at a time when headstrong women were few and far between. I live in the Dallas area, and toured the neighborhood where Bess lived just before reading the book. Glad I read it!

I wanted to read the returned letters as well. I felt that the perspective was too one sided. What happened during the Great Depression? There was so much death in her life. It makes me thankful to be living in a era of much more advanced medical knowledge.

Love the epistolary style of this novel- I feel like a voyeur! My feelings towards the protagonist veer between admiration of her fearlessness and frustration- frustrated by her hard headed opinions and treatment of others. Bess Steed is a fully fleshed out character, one the reader can imagine coming across in reality. I've reread this novel every decade or two, which is something I can't do with many, or even envy, books...

Written in the form of letters makes the story warmly personal. Yes, it's old, but it is historical so that's just fine.

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