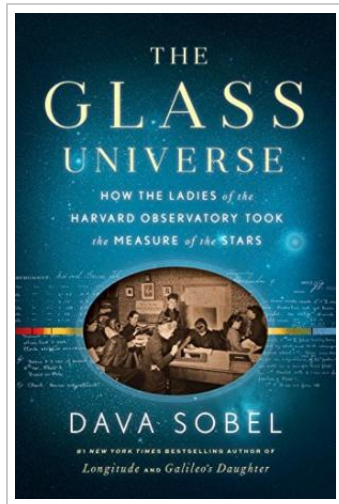




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The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars (Hardback)

By Dava Sobel

VIKING, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. From #1 New York Times bestselling author Dava Sobel, the "inspiring" (People), little-known true story of women's landmark contributions to astronomy. A New York Times Book Review Notable Book. Named one of the best books of the year by NPR, The Economist, Smithsonian, Nature, and NPR's Science Friday. Nominated for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. "A joy to read." -- The Wall Street Journal. 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 women's 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...



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