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The Glass Universe (Hardback)

By Dava Sobel

Thorndike Press Large Print, United States, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Large type / large print edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. #1 New York Times bestselling author Dava Sobel returns with the captivating, little-known true story of a group of women whose remarkable contributions to the burgeoning field of astronomy forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as calculators, or human computers, to interpret the observations made via telescope by their male counterparts each night. At the outset this group included the wives, sisters, and daughters of the resident astronomers, but by the 1880s 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 to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates. The glass universe of half a million plates that Harvard amassed in this period thanks in part to the early financial support of another woman, Mrs. Anna Draper, whose late husband pioneered the technique of stellar photography enabled the women to make extraordinary discoveries that attracted worldwide acclaim. They helped discern what stars...



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