



Characteristics of Women's Lives

1. **PACING** – Pacing is generally unhurried. Fans talk of these as compelling reads, which pull readers in and involve them with the protagonist's story.
2. **STORY LINE** – Story lines reflect the issues affecting women's lives and portray women facing difficult situations. Universal female themes—family conflicts, family relationships, work versus family, friendships—and how the protagonists react to these issues focus the plot. Difficulties are generally resolved satisfactorily (or solutions are put in place), and endings are usually hopeful, if not happy.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – The protagonist is female, as is the author. Protagonists may have a support group composed of female, and sometimes male, family members and friends.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – The setting is usually contemporary; these are books about today's women and the problems they face. Interesting careers and hobbies add intriguing backgrounds to the novels.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – While the mood may be thoughtful or humorous, tragic or romantic, these novels offer a generally optimistic outlook. Stories provide an intimate glimpse into the lives of the protagonists and exert an emotional pull.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – The writing style may range from elegantly poetic to more prosaic, from conversational to humorous. Unusual formats—letters, e-mail, instant messages OMs), diaries—are often employed to tell these personal stories.

Emotion Genres



Women's Lives Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Jane Heller Susan Isaacs
FANTASY:	Sarah Addison Allen
GAY/LESBIAN:	Kris Radish
GENTLE:	Rosamunde Pilcher
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Sandra Dallas
HORROR:	Maryjanice Davidson
HUMOR:	Meg Cabot Sophie Kinsella Elinor Lipman
INSPIRATIONAL:	Judy Baer Robin Lee Hatcher Neta Jackson Beverly Lewis
LITERARY:	Gail Godwin Alice Hoffman
MULTICULTURAL:	C. C. Medina Marsha Mehran Francis Ray (Invincible Women series) Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez
MYSTERY:	Mary Kay Andrews Susan Isaacs
ROMANCE:	Kristin Hannah Barbara Samuel Deborah Smith
SAGA:	Amy Tan
WESTERN:	Jo-Ann Mapson



Authors BEYOND the Women's Lives Genre

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR:	Alison Bechdel Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delany Marjane Satrapi
FANTASY:	Rosalind Miles
GENTLE READS:	Debbie Macomber Adriana Trigiani
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Margaret George Jewel Parker Rhodes Lisa See
HISTORY:	Jung Chang (Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China) Ellen Hampton (Women of Valor) Elizabeth M. Norman (We Band of Angels)
LITERARY:	Diana Abu-Jaber Christopher Bohjalian Joanne Harris Anne Tyler
MYSTERY:	Gail Bowen Julia Spencer-Fleming
ROMANCE:	Katie Fforde
SCIENCE FICTION:	Marge Piercy Sheri S. Tepper
STYLE AND LIFESTYLE:	Jill Connor Browne
TRUE ADVENTURE:	Kira Salak