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TAKE THIS JOB... AND LOVE IT.

A new book of tell-all “day diaries” reveals what a day on the job is really like for women with glam careers to underlings with bosses from hell.

February 2008 — What’s it like to own the company. . . work from home. . . occupy cubicle-land? On March 27, 2007, over five-hundred women across the country and from all walks of life chronicled a single day on the job as part of a national book project. The result is *Water Cooler Diaries: Women across America Share Their Day at Work* (release date March 1, 2008 from Da Capo Lifelong Books), a collection of thirty-five featured “day diaries” and hundreds of excerpts of job highs and lows, water-cooler drama, and laugh-out-loud moments (There’s always that one coworker. . .)

Go behind the scenes with a hot new fashion designer trying to keep her business afloat; a McDonald’s manager who is also captain of her pro football team; a government worker buried in paperwork; a trauma surgeon who has to piece together the pelvis of a teenager who forgot to wear his seatbelt; and a university librarian with four scheduled meetings and a child with a 103.4 degree temperature.

The book makes a point to mix the mundane with fame, including day diaries from model and actor Angie Everhart, television chef Sara Moulton, race car driver Sarah Fisher, and “SnakeBabe,” a.k.a. Maria Gara, billed the world’s sexiest magician. *Publisher’s Weekly* calls the book, “. . . both fascinating and eye-opening.” *Booklist* writes, “Skimming through this collection is not a good idea. There are sentences that will make readers stop, laugh, tear up, nod, and otherwise savor common and out-of-the-ordinary experiences. Worth rereading.”

In soliciting hundreds of women to share a day in their lives, the book’s founding creator and editor Joni B. Cole and her partner in the project, B.K. Rakhra, advised contributors to simply write their activities, thoughts, and feelings throughout the day, without censure or second guessing. The result of this relatively simple exercise, Cole explains, “is a window into a woman’s head and heart, including all those fleeting insights, observations, and meaningful moments that are usually lost in the multi-tasking madness of an ‘ordinary’ day.”

Collectively, these day diaries also provide a freeze-frame of twenty-four hours in history, revealing everything from what is at the top of our national consciousness, to the day’s headlines, to the most popular brands of the moment.

While Cole uses the term “day diaries” to describe the book’s content, she emphasizes that—unlike traditional journals—these intimate, first-person accounts are meant to be

shared with the public. Part of the mission of the This Day book series is to allow readers to see women beyond their outward labels; to understand the individual behind the job title or stereotype. “Outward labels may be accurate,” Cole says, “but they are always inadequate. By sharing another woman’s perspective, even for just one day, you not only see where she’s coming from, but also how much we have in common.”

Water Cooler Diaries is the third volume in the This Day book series. Cole, an author, editor, and mom of two, says the idea for the book project came from a day in her own life six years ago—a very bad day when she was dealing with a family illness, job woes, and a four-year-old daughter who refused to wear socks, despite freezing temperatures. Sitting in her home office, still in her pajamas past noon, she wondered what other women were doing and feeling at that very same moment. And so a book—and then a series—was born, out of self pity, curiosity, and a need to connect.

In March, *Water Cooler Diaries* will share shelf space in the bookstores with the first two volumes of the series: *This Day in the Life, Diaries from Women across America* (2006); and *This Day: Diaries from American Women* (2004). In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* wrote about *This Day in the Life*, “There is not one piece in this compilation that is not captivating.” *People* magazine concurred, “The ensemble resonates with drama, humor and pathos. This is one unremarkable day you’ll wish could go on forever.”
