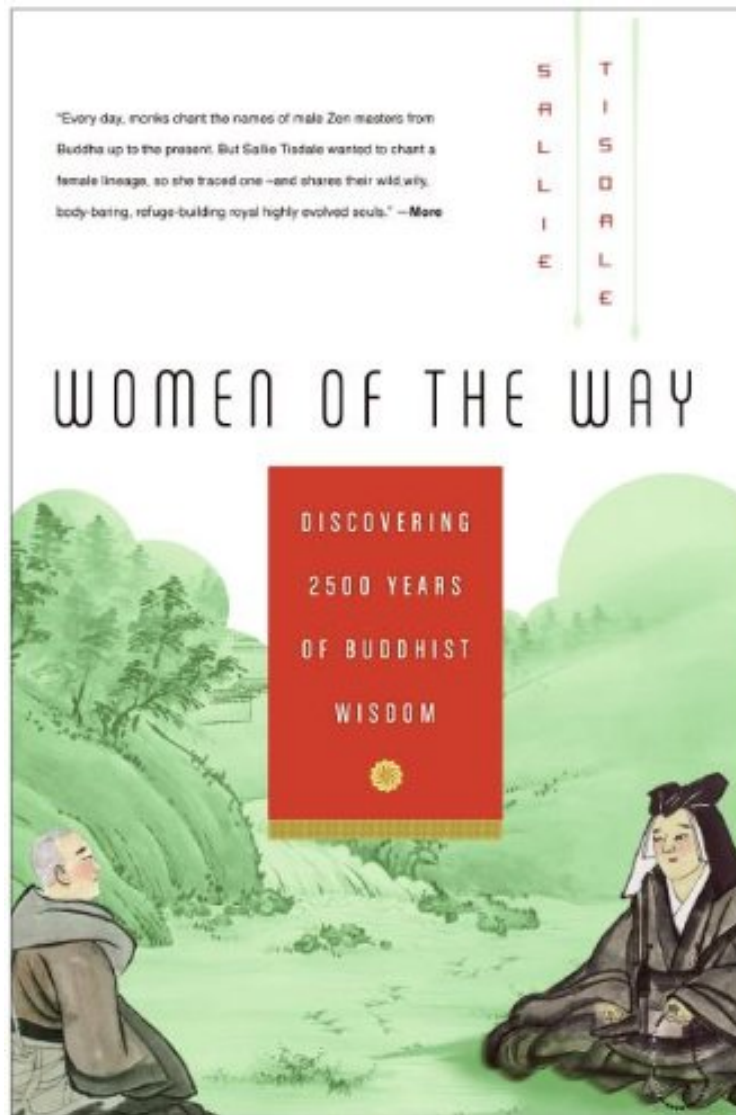


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Women of the Way: Discovering 2,500 Years of Buddhist Wisdom

Sallie Tisdale

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Sallie Tisdale : Women of the Way: Discovering 2,500 Years of Buddhist Wisdom before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women of the Way: Discovering 2,500 Years of Buddhist Wisdom:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow, they were just like us! By Catherine Alelyunas Loved Tisdale's touch at presenting these women's lives in a light hearted, poetic way that illumines the teaching of each without having to play the Old guard feminist card! Feel so proud of my zen grandmothers' wisdom, grace and humor- not to

mention their down to earth grit-after reading Women of the Way!16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Recovered History for Buddhist WomenBy CustomerWomen who practice Buddhism generally notice, sooner or later, that nearly every Buddhist historical figure they study and read about is...not a woman. For some women this is disillusioning, heart-breaking, completely discouraging. Until recently, if she asked her teacher about it, he/she would likely say, "I know dear, it's too bad. There must have been great women teachers, but we just don't know who they were. Records weren't kept about them." Now, with this book, no teacher can say that, and women can begin to feel that they have ancestors too. Sallie Tisdale did an immense amount of historical research - her biographies and stories are based on solid fact - and then she took the brave step of "re-imagining" these women's lives - some of them unspeakably hard - so we can feel them as living, breathing women. Her re-imagining is also based on solid historical knowledge. She brings the women alive. I found myself in tears as I read many of the stories.I'm only sorry she chose not to footnote her work - it would have helped the skeptics to realize the historical accuracy of her biographies, provided a great resource for others, and helped to separate the "re-imagining" from the more solid material. I've been doing research on many of these women myself, and I'm realizing that really only the emotional material, or the background, is imagined. There is a solid basis for every story or dialog in the book.A readable, entertaining, beautifully written, and important book.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. seeking inner peaceBy Dr. Wilson TrivioMen have had such a dominate place in the world and get all the recognition. However in Woman of the Way: Discovering 2500 Years of Buddhist Wisdom by Sallie Tisdale, the author has taken a look into writings attributed to women. She gives them the credit due in the tenets in Buddhism.The book covers a broad range of ideas that have a common thread and are often forgotten. It does not really matter the sex of who evoked these words but nice to learn that women have always been behind the scene leaving a mark on making the world a better place.

In this groundbreaking work, Sallie Tisdale traces women Buddhist masters and teachers across continents and centuries, drawing upon historical, cultural, and Buddhist records to bring to life these narratives of ancestral Buddhist women.

From Publishers WeeklyKnown for her books and essays but less well-known as a lay Buddhist teacher and consulting editor to the magazine Tricycle, Tisdale unites her spiritual and feminist concerns by breathing life into historical women of Buddhism. The book constructs a female lineage (line of teachers) for Zen Buddhism, including ancestors known through mythic tales and through Indian, Chinese and Japanese traditional writings. So much of women's history is unwritten that Tisdale "reimagines" the past in a series of stories about individual women who taught and practiced Buddhism. Some sketches are as beautifully done as brush paintings, apparently simple yet the result of skillful rendering of details selected to summon up an unknown and far removed life. Tisdale's descriptive writing is especially imaginative ("Their waters are endlessly broken by canoes and rough sailing boats, and endlessly renewed"). Occasionally, the book is confusing; the Western eye only slowly negotiates the Japanese names that can pile up in any given story of a woman and her family, teachers and temples. Although not a book for beginning students of Buddhism, this compilation of gracefully written stories helps American Buddhism put its egalitarian stamp on the evolving wisdom tradition that originated with the Indian prince Siddhartha 2,500 years ago. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistWhen Tisdale began practicing Zen Buddhism 25 years ago, she had no sense of sexism within the religion. Years later, however, she realized not only that women were excluded, particularly from monastic life, but also that the huge body of Buddhist literature was written about men, by men, and for men. Women's experience as Buddhists, therefore, needed to be recorded and their history reclaimed. Through extensive research, Tisdale discovered numerous influential female Buddhists who had been recognized in their time but excluded from the written record, so she made it her mission to restore a lineage of women Buddhists and developed this beautifully crafted volume. Tisdale's personal experience and thorough study of Buddhist literature enabled her to recast stories and historical accounts as engaging and accessible portraits. Although her intention initially was to highlight women's contributions to Buddhism, the universal wisdom and enlightened thinking preserved in this collection transcend gender. Janet St. JohnCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved An enlivening and indispensable volume. (Jane Hirshfield, author of Women in Praise of the Sacred: 43 Centuries of Spiritual Poetry by Women)Tisdale's descriptive writing is especially imaginative. (Publishers Weekly)A well-written, deeply moving collection of stories. Fanciful and eminently readable. (Buddhadharma)With her frank and thoughtful writing style, Tisdale takes the reader on a philosophical adventure. (East West Woman)[A] beautifully crafted volume. The universal wisdom and enlightened thinking preserved in this collection transcend gender. (Booklist)A much-needed account of feminine teachers and leaders in Buddhism. (Kansas City Star)