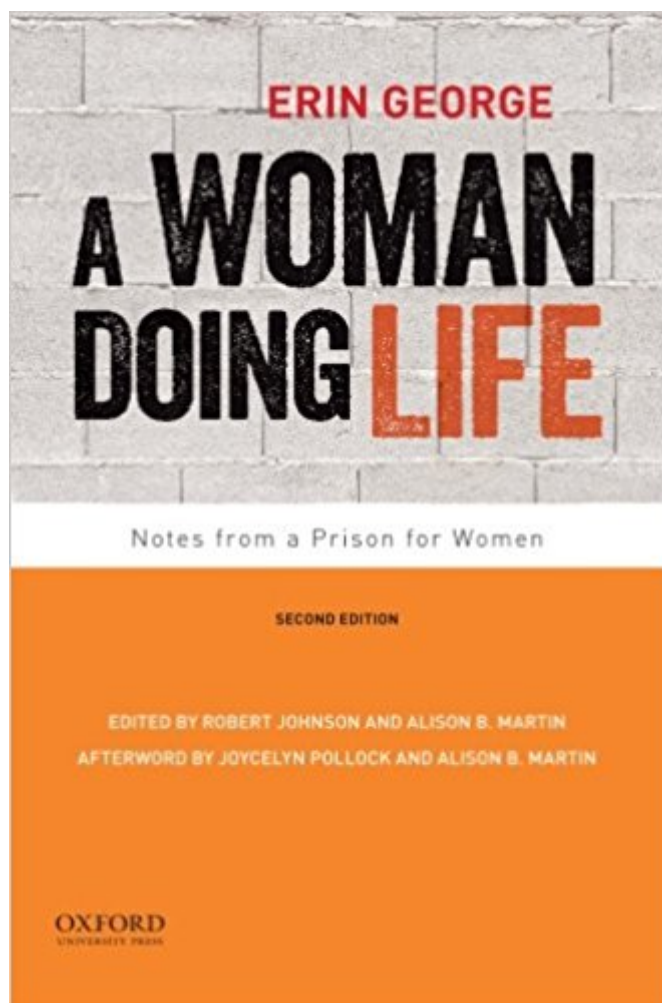


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# A Woman Doing Life: Notes From A Prison For Women



## Synopsis

In *A Woman Doing Life*, author and inmate Erin George draws a vivid and uniquely raw portrait of female life in prison. By detailing her own experiences and sharing poignant stories from other female inmates, George gives insight into prison relationships, death and sickness, reactions from friends and family, and even "cooking" in prison.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"George's narrative is a powerful, self-reflective, and elegantly written account of the unique experiences that women face in prison."--Rebecca Bordt, DePauw University "A Woman Doing Life is very well written and engaging. It gives readers, young and old, a new perspective on what it's like to be a female inmate serving a life sentence."--Ashley G. Blackburn, University of North Texas

About the Author Erin George is an inmate at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Virginia, where she is serving a life sentence for murder. About the Editors Robert Johnson is Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology in the School of Public Affairs at American University. Alison B. Martin is Postdoctoral Research Associate at the National Institute of Justice.

A revealing look at life in a women's prison by an exceedingly articulate writer. The book is curiously peppered with comments from her editor, as if she is not capable of telling her own story. She is more than capable, and most of the editorial comments are superfluous distractions. Ms. George

was convicted of murder based on circumstantial evidence and she contends she is innocent. Her editor says he believes her; this reader does not. Regardless, her book provides a valuable insight into prison life. Ms. George deals even handedly with the system, the corrections officers and her fellow inmates. I never suspected her of sensationalizing anything, yet every chapter was a compelling read.

Over the last several decades, there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of women incarcerated in the United States. In *A Woman Doing Life*, Erin George, a self-described "middle-class suburban mom," provides a detailed account of the lives of female inmates. Drawing on her own experiences as well as those of others, she not only documents the struggles female inmates experience (e.g., adjusting to prison life, navigating the inmate social system, and maintaining contact with family), but also the simple pleasures that pierce the monotony and grimness of everyday life (e.g., cooking tasty meals with commissary items). Moreover, this book makes an important contribution to the study of special populations of inmates; it provides insight into the particular issues faced by life-sentenced female inmates (e.g., growing old and dying in prison). I have used this book in my classes and it has been well-received by students. Given the increased interest in female prisons, the "Orange is the New Black effect," this is a must-read.

I liked this book. Erin George narrates her character in detail throughout the book.

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