

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Shirley
Pam -

I committed the
mortal sin of giving
HRC a letter & not
copying it first. Hopefully
the letter to me will
be sufficient for you
to draft a nice TY.
Do not address the request
for HRC to offer quotes for

her new book - she
will decide how to handle
to hand write her
decision.

I wanted her to see the
books & letter before this
weekend in case the woman
is at Wellesley reunion
activities.

Ms. J

BOTH Books simply signed to
HRC & CVC - then the author's
signature with best wishes.

WHITE HOUSE GIFT REGISTER

MDH

GIFT INTENDED FOR

President ☐

Both/All ☐

First Lady ☒

Chelsea ☐

DONOR INFORMATION

Name: Alexandra Johnson

Address: Wellesley College

106 Central Street Phone: _____

Wellesley, MA

PRESENTATION

Date: _____ Event: 02181

Handed to President ☐ Other Method ☐

Gift Description: Hardback & soft back copies of donor's book

The Hidden Writer. Pam Cicotti will do Ty. Mrs. Clinton kept

books. \$12.00 & \$22.95

Called 11/11
to see
how many
books



Wellesley College

106 Central Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181-8252
~~617~~ 283-2576

781

called
10/27 mag

May 25, 1999

Ms. Missy Kincaid
The White House
East Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear Ms. Kincaid,

I was given your name by a mutual friend of Mrs. Clinton's and mine, Saul Benjamin, who I knew while studying at Oxford. I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to pass on my letter to Mrs. Clinton about a book I am writing for Little, Brown on journals and commonplace books called *Leaving a Trace*. I am enclosing copies of my first book, *The Hidden Writer* (Doubleday), seven narrative portraits of creative women and diaries.

I am a huge fan of Mrs. Clinton's. From interviews I know she has kept a commonplace book over the years. Many of the many women mentioned in my new book-- from writers such as Alice Hoffman, Perri Klass, Elizabeth Berg, to doctors and lawyers-- also keep commonplace books. I would be honored if Mrs. Clinton could suggest one or two of her favorite quotations.

As you can see from the letterhead, I teach at Wellesley. It would be a great pleasure to include Mrs. Clinton's words in this new book.

Thank you for passing on my letter and inscribed copies of *The Hidden Writer*. I have included a separate letter for Mrs. Clinton in an unsealed envelope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexandra Johnson".

Alexandra Johnson
Founder's Hall 124
Wellesley College

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE HIDDEN WRITER

"*The Hidden Writer* marks the emergence of a strong independent critical voice. Unlike so many recent books which simply reduce the writing to the writer, Alexandra Johnson's book deploys a biographical approach to complicate our sense of what the literary vocation can be—as lived; particularly as lived by women—and to exhibit (and affirm) the powers and authority of the literary use of language. She writes out of love and respect for literature." —SUSAN SONTAG

"A stimulating, wonderful book...Singular in its interpretations and the interweaving of the diaries with the lives. Johnson is eloquent with the joys and yields for the diary reader. I loved it." —TILLIE OLSEN

"In this exquisitely written book, Alexandra Johnson traces the journey seven women take bringing their voice into the world. To every woman who dreams of writing, she offers a map charting the psychological terrain that other women have crossed in moving from silence into voice and from diary into novel." —CAROL GILLIGAN

"Alexandra Johnson has the biographer's twin gifts of distillation and recreation. These chapters are a diverse set of emblems of the forms a writer's struggle can assume. Stories we thought we knew have yielded new secrets. The 'hidden' has been made manifest and compelling." —SVEN BIRKERTS

"I doubt that anyone can read *The Hidden Writer* without feeling, as I did, great emotion on behalf of these brave, spirited diarists. Their love of the written word, of human connection of every sort, asserts itself against such odds. Alexandra Johnson reports on these lives so lucidly and with such openness that the result is hugely exhilarating." —ROSELLEN BROWN

THE HIDDEN WRITER

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON

US \$22.95 / \$31.95 CAN.

ISBN 0-385-47829-1



9 780385 478298

52295



DOUBLEDAY

THE
HIDDEN
WRITER

DIARIES
AND THE
CREATIVE
LIFE

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON

"What Alexandra Johnson has done in this most beautifully written of books is to provide a service of the highest order. Here are fine distillations of seven writer/diarists, aspects of their work and their lives, presented with such care and respect they are brought nearly alive and standing before us."

—ELIZABETH BERG

In October 1928, Virginia Woolf sat at her trestle writing table, a notebook open before her, and wrote, "Whom do I tell when I tell a blank page?" It's a question that generations of readers and writers searching to map a creative life have asked of their own diaries. No other document quite compares with the intimacies and yearnings, the confessions and desires, revealed in the pages of a diary. Presenting seven portraits of literary and creative lives, Alexandra Johnson illuminates the secret world of writers and their diaries, and shows how over generations these writers have used the diary to solve a common set of creative and life questions.

In the childhood diary of Marjory Fleming we witness a young writer finding her voice, while Sonya Tolstoy's diary describes the conflict between love and vocation; in Katherine Mansfield and Virginia Woolf's friendship the nettle of rivalry among writing equals is revealed; and in Alice James's diary, started at age forty, the feelings of competition within a

(continued on back flap)

(continued from front flap)

creative family are explored. In Anais Nin, we see the popular explosion of the diary as confessional; and finally in May Sarton the pursuit of solitude becomes a national obsession.

A time-lapse study of confidence, *The Hidden Writer* shows how each writer used the diary to negotiate the obstacle course of silence, ambition, envy, and fame. Destined to become a classic on writing and the diary as literary form, this is an essential book for anyone interested in the evolution of creative life.



SUSAN WILSON

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON's *The Hidden Writer* won the PEN/Jerard Fund Award Special Citation for a nonfiction work in progress. Her writing has appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, and the *New York Times Book Review*, among numerous national publications. Johnson teaches memoir at Harvard and Wellesley.

VISIT DOUBLEDAY ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.bdd.com>

JACKET PHOTOGRAPH © BILL BINZEN
JACKET DESIGN BY MARIO J. PULICE

Printed in the U.S.A.
0597