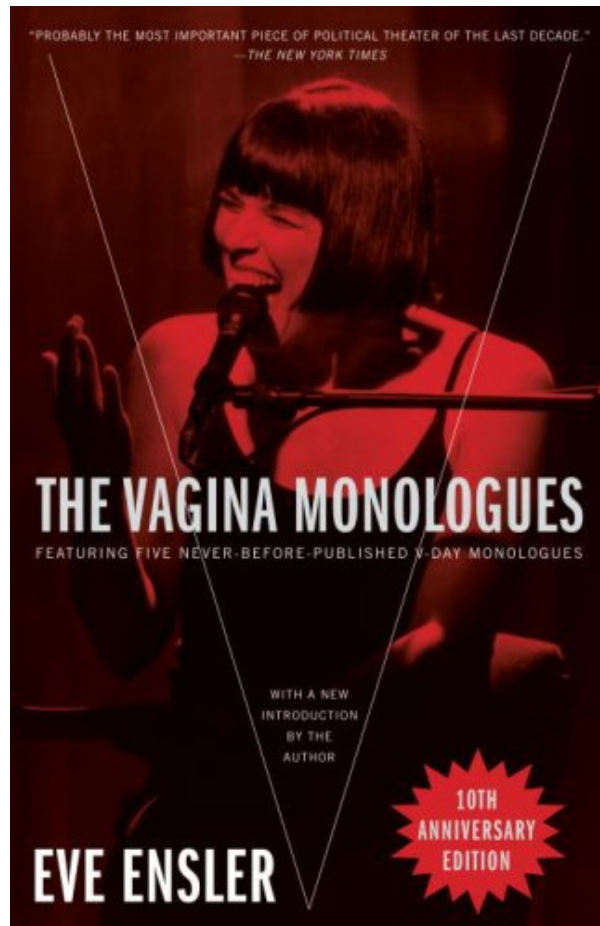
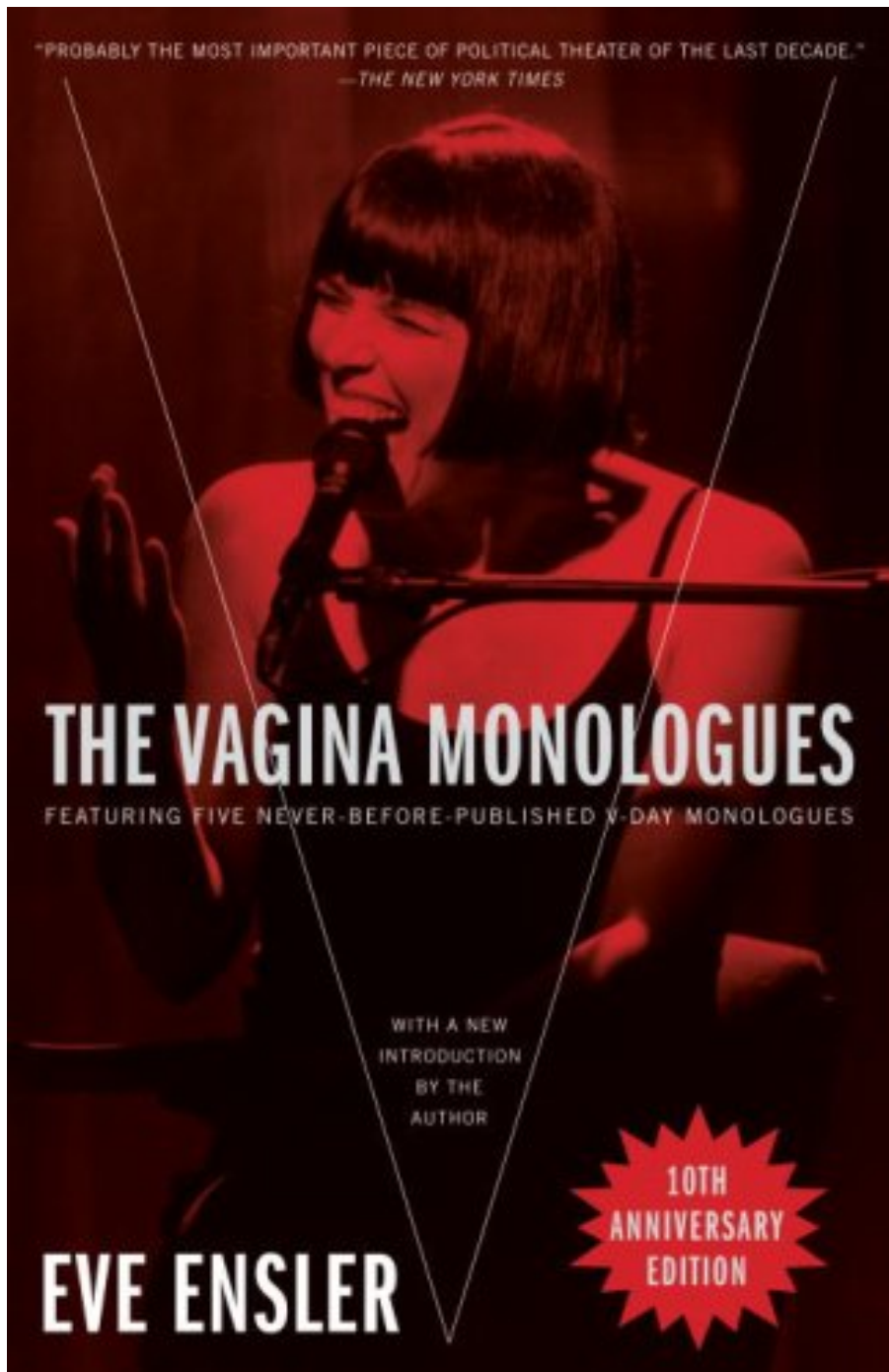


THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES BY EVE ENSLER



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"I was worried about vaginas. I was worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more worried that we don't think about them. . . . So I decided to talk to women about their vaginas, to do vagina interviews, which became vagina monologues. I talked with over two hundred women. I talked to old women, young women, married women, single women, lesbians, college professors, actors, corporate professionals, sex workers, African American women, Hispanic women, Asian American women, Native American women, Caucasian women, Jewish women. At first women were reluctant to talk. They were a little shy. But once they got going, you couldn't stop them."

So begins Eve Ensler's hilarious, eye-opening tour into the last frontier, the forbidden zone at the heart of every woman. Adapted from the award-winning one-woman show that's rocked audiences around the world, this groundbreaking book gives voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, and thoroughly human stories, transforming the question mark hovering over the female anatomy into a permanent victory sign. With laughter and compassion, Ensler transports her audiences to a world we've never dared to know, guaranteeing that no one who reads *The Vagina Monologues* will ever look at a woman's body the same way again.

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Most helpful customer reviews

90 of 98 people found the following review helpful.

One of the most liberating books I've ever read.

By Rachel Gibson (foxglove77@excite.com)

This book is a life changer. I read it six months ago and I cannot believe how much it has liberated me and my attitude towards my body. Like everyone says, you cannot put it down once you begin reading it. Ensler talks about the things I've kept hidden. I never knew just how central to my life my vagina is. A chapter about menstruation, my god, people talk about this? A chapter about orgasm and hair and the fear we have of our own body. The part we never like to talk about. The chapter on birth is amazing, and until then I never knew how complex the woman's vagina is. For a woman of 22, this is a very important read. If you ever get to see her read from *The Vagina Monologues*, go. She puts on an amazing show. Some people think it's simple but I feel it's life-changing. I would be a very different person without it and not many books can have that kind of impact.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

The foundation of a great show

By Marcy L. Thompson

The Vagina Monologues is a stage piece, and it works *much* better on stage than it does as a pure book. As a stage show, it is thought-provoking, funny and appalling. A good production of this piece picks you up and carries you along. It has something to say to almost everyone, regardless of whether you are comfortable saying the word "vagina" or not.

Somehow, when I read the play, I am less captivated, and more aware of the flimsiness of the words. But the point of the thing is its performance. It is clear, from the afterword to the book, and from people I know who have been involved in productions, and from lots of people who have seen the show, that involvement with a production of this piece can change someone's life. And it really is an engaging piece: funny and moving.

When I first heard about the project (an attempt to address a culture where people rarely say the word "vagina", but there are thousands of words for "penis"), I thought it would be interesting and useful to people who aren't comfortable saying "vagina" out loud. Since I have no problem saying it, I thought it would have

little relevance to me. When I saw the performance, I knew I had been wrong. But I don't know if I would have gotten that from the book alone.

I am giving this book five stars, because it works as it is intended to work: on stage. And I am glad I own it, because it is nice to dip into from time to time, when I want to recapture the effect of being in the audience. Plus, the afterword to the "V-Day" edition is extremely interesting and moving.

11 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

not quite what I had expected

By Tracy

I was somewhat dissapointed in this book. I had heard nothing but great reviews of both the book and the performances. But when I finished the book, I found myself very dissapointed. I didn't really laugh. I didn't really cry. It was decent, and perhaps there are women out there who **needed** to read it, but I just didn't find it as inspiring and wonderful as so many others have.

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