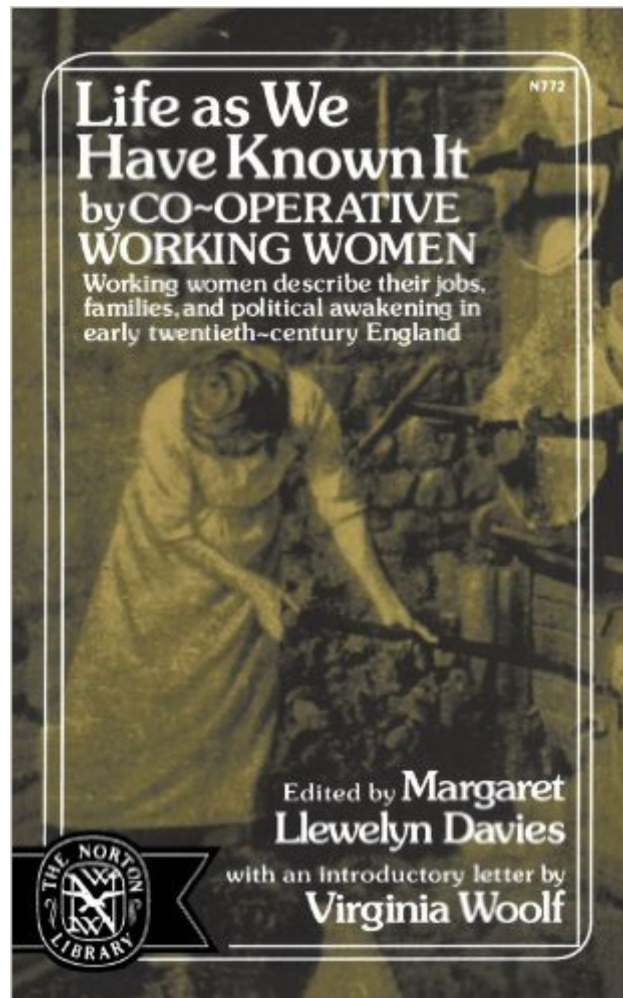


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Life As We Have Known It



Synopsis

“You unlocked a drawer and took out a packet of papers. . . . Sometimes, you said, you got a letter which you could not bring yourself to burn; once or twice a Guildswoman had at your suggestion written a few pages about her life . . .”

• Virginia Woolf to Margaret Llewelyn Davies, describing the circumstances leading to the publication of *Life as We Have Known It*

A first-hand record of working class women’s experiences in early twentieth-century England, *Life as We Have Known It* is a unique view of lives Virginia Woolf described as “still half hidden in profound obscurity.”

The women write about growing up in poverty, going into domestic service, being a hat factory worker, or a miner’s wife concerned about the colliery baths, and how they became politically active through the Women’s Co-operative Guild movement. Virginia Woolf’s essay contains her candid and searching reflections on the Guild’s 1913 Congress, the women who spoke there, and the differences between their lives and hers.

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