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The Company of Women Today

Pat Sturm

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The Company of Women Today

by Pat Sturm

...differs from the days of Jane Austen, who wrote of ladies in ruffled bonnets and fringed shawls leaving calling cards on silver trays, drinking tea from bone china cups, and giggling over the handsome new landowner checking his fences on a willful white steed.

...differs from Willa Cather's descriptions of strong prairie women setting up tables in the yard, wiping their rough hands on cotton aprons, fretting over grass fires, and serving their men platters of heavy, roasted meat, potatoes, and whatever vegetables they picked from the garden.

...differs with each self-authored story. We work inside and outside the home, with or without husbands. In designer dresses or t-shirts and jeans, we sip wine or throw back a beer, argue over Big Ideas and form nests for new babies, dying parents, troubled families. Now, as then, we need and enjoy
the company of women.

