## Turning Left to the Ladies



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出版者:

出版时间:2009-5

装帧:

isbn:9780978491703

In 1977 Kate Braid got her first job in construction as a labourer on a small island off the coast of British Columbia. Never in her wildest dreams did she plan to be a construction worker, much less a carpenter, but she was desperate to stay on the island and had run out of money, along with all the options a woman usually has for work secretary, waitress, receptionist. Turning Left to the Ladies is an autobiographical account of the fifteen years she worked as a labourer, apprentice and journey carpenter, building houses, high rises and bridges. She was the first female member of the Vancouver union local of the Carpenters and the first full-time woman teaching trades at the BC Institute of Technology. It is a wry, sometimes humorous, sometimes meditative look at one womans relationship to her craft, and the people she met along the way.

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作者介绍:				
目录:				
Turning Left to the Ladies_下载链接1_				
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 Turning Left to the Ladies_下载链接1_				
<b>书</b> 评				
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