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*Women & Money: Owning the Power to Control Your Destiny*, Suze Orman

Reviewed by Donna K. Fisher

**Biography:** Donna K. Fisher, PhD, is assistant professor of economics in Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration. She teaches principles of economics and regional economic development in the School of Economic Development. Dr. Fisher may be reached by email at [dkfisher@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dkfisher@georgiasouthern.edu).

Forty percent of U.S. businesses are women owned. In fact, women's incomes have risen by more than 60 percent over the last 30 years; however, women still fail to maximize the money they have. Suze Orman, renowned financial planning guru attempts to assist women on the path to financial health in *Women & Money*. While the book targets women, Suze's no-nonsense advice applies to all.

Ms. Orman learned financial planning at the school of hard knocks. She transitioned from no end, minimum wage jobs to a sassy financial planner, author of numerous best selling financial planning self-help books, with her own website and an award winning talk show on MSNBC.

In *Women & Money*, Suze lays out a 5 month "Save Yourself Plan" to put women on the road to financial security. The first month of the plan discusses how to get control of your savings and checking accounts. She advises that you stop paying for your checking account, shop around for the best deal on your accounts in terms of fees and interest, use online banking, and get automatic deposits and withdrawals. Ultimately, gaining control of your finances means getting organized.

In the second month you learn to manage your credit cards and learn about your FICO score. The plan for this month leads you through the development of a plan to pay off any credit card debt, shows you how to check your statements every month, to get your FREE credit report from [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), and outlines some of the steps to boost your FICO score.

Month three directs the reader to tackle their retirement investing. We all know the advantages of saving at an early age to maximize the benefits of compound interest. However, if you have not already started planning and saving for retirement...START NOW. "Focus on what is in your control,"



### The Cover Story

Title and author: *Women & Money: Owning the Power to Control Your Destiny*, Suze Orman, 2007, Spiegel & Grau

Number of pages: 255

pg. 121. Figure out your budget and try to save as much as you can each month. Suze's website, [www.suzeorman.com](http://www.suzeorman.com), offers tools to help calculate the growth of your monthly investing. After taking advantage of any employer matching program, she touts the benefits of the Roth IRA.

Getting control over all the must-have documents is addressed in month four. Are your beneficiaries up to date? Do you have a will and/or living trust? Where is the title to your home, your car? This part of the plan involves updating your important papers and putting them in one place.

In the fifth month you learn how to protect your assets. This includes selecting the right life insurance (you are your best asset), making sure your homeowners insurance covers you in the event of a variety of disasters.

Area of Business: financial planning

Readability: Light

Time needed to read: 1 day

Why should I read this book?  
The book provides a quick, easy plan to get your financial house in order.

Overall Rating: 4 bulbs