

## *Book Reviews*

### **Thinking Out Loud: On the Personal, the Political, the Public and the Private**

by Anna Quindlen

Random House, 1993. 287 pp.

**O**ne afternoon in Denver a young reporter came to interview me about a novel I had written. But the talk soon turned to my opinion column in The New York Times... 'But is it really necessary,' he asked after some preliminaries, 'for you to wear your gender on your sleeve?' For a moment I thought about telling him where my gender really resided, but he seemed pleasant and earnest and I didn't want to embarrass him... (p.xvii)

So starts the introduction to one of the most captivating books of the year. The Pulitzer-Prizewinning columnist for The New York Times compels you along as she struggles with some of the most difficult issues of our time; from AIDS to abortion, politics, the right to die, rape, sexual harassment, gay-rights, and being female and a mother.

"There are issues about which I not only think but also feel," Quindlen writes, and the combination gives life, depth and vibrance to every issue she embraces.

Anna Quindlen's voice is her own, but her approach to writing and journalism are "Altogether Female." Quindlen states:

The irony of the role of women in my business, and in so many other places, too, was that while we began by demanding that we be allowed to mimic the ways of men, we would end up knowing we would have to change those ways. Not only because those ways were not like ours, but because they simply did not work (p.xxv).

The eloquence and insight she brings to the entire experience of life through her collection of articles is spell-binding. Quindlen's voice comes with humor, intelligence, compassion, perceptual acuity, experience, and uncommon wisdom.

—Betty Benson