

Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai
In 2004, Wangari became the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for her fearless activism in the 70s when a corrupt Kenyan government had resulted in deforestation and joblessness. In response, Wangari founded the Green Belt Movement, which mobilized thousands of women to replant the indigenous forests and later became a platform for democratic change. Although her activism led to arrests, beatings and death threats, Wangari and her followers remained unbowed.

An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, Alias Private Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers, 1862-1864
edited by Lauren Cook Burgess

Over 400 women disguised themselves as soldiers to fight in the American Civil War. This book comprises the only known surviving set of letters from one of those women. Little is known about what prompted Sarah, a farmer's daughter and eldest of nine children, to enlist. But these collected letters offer a glimpse into the life of a strong-willed young woman determined to fight like a man.

The White Masai by Corinne Hofmann
A Swiss businesswoman on vacation in Kenya abandoned her former life to pursue a love affair with a Masai warrior. She married him and moved to the isolated African wilderness. There she struggled to come to terms with the immense cultural differences to forge a new life among the Masai.

A Woman Soldier's Own Story: The Autobiography of Xie Bingying by Xie Bingying
In a time when women were expected to be nothing more than obedient daughters and wives, Xie struggled to free herself from traditional Chinese society. She rebelled against having her feet bound, secured an education, escaped from an arranged marriage, and raised an infant as a single mother. She then went on to fight warlords in the 1920s and Japanese soldiers in the 30s as a soldier in the National Revolutionary Army.

The Woman Who Ran for President: The Many Lives of Victoria Woodhull by Lois Beachy Underhill
Victoria bucked tradition in nearly every field, racking up a list of firsts. She was the first woman Wall Street broker, the first woman to testify before Congress on suffrage, and the first woman to run for President of the United States. A controversial, dynamic figure, Victoria was a tireless crusader; yet she alienated many by advocating communism and sexual freedom.

Anthologies

American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country by Kay Bailey Hutchinson

Hearts of Fire: Great Women of American Lore and Legend
by Kemp Battle

Heroines: Remarkable and Inspiring Women: An Illustrated Anthology of Essays by Women Writers

Marching Forward: Northwest Women's Firsts: 1,444 Role Models by James Andrew Long

Nobel Prize Women in Science: Their Lives, Struggles, and Momentous Discoveries by Sharon Bertsch McGrayne

Walking with the Great Apes: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas by Sly Montgomery

The Warrior Queens by Antonia Fraser

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FEARLESS FEMALES



Activists, survivors, and advocates
for social change.

Amy Beach, Passionate Victorian: The Life and Work of an American Composer, 1867-1944
by Adrienne Fried Block

A prodigy born to a musical family, Amy began playing the piano by ear at age four. If given the opportunities her male counterparts received, she could have had a career as a brilliant concert pianist. Instead she married a much older man and confined her talents to once-yearly concerts and to composing. She was the most widely performed composer of her generation and the first major American woman composer.

Do They Hear You When You Cry

by Fauziya Kassindja and Layli Miller Bashir

Fauziya grew up in a small West African village where, although traditional and Muslim to the core, her father encouraged his daughters' individuality. Most importantly, he refused to allow his daughters to be ritually circumcised. His untimely death forced Fauziya to flee the country hours ahead of her own circumcision. Her hopes for asylum in the U.S. were complicated by the convoluted asylum process.

The Girl From Botany Bay by Carrolly Erickson

20-year-old Mary Broad (Bryant), convicted of highway robbery in 1786, was sentenced to the new penal colony in Botany Bay, Australia. She survived a torturous 15,000 mile journey, giving birth to a daughter en route and a son soon after arrival. Once in Australia, she and six fellow convicts, along with her two small children, successfully escaped in a daring 4,000 mile trek in a tiny boat.

Harriet Jacobs: A Life by Jean Fagan Yellin

Harriet published an account of her early life spent hiding in her grandmother's attic from her slave owner in the acclaimed *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. As a freed woman during the Civil War, she strove to establish schools and asylums for black refugees, as well as becoming a strong abolitionist voice.

Ice Bound: A Doctor's Incredible Battle for Survival at the South Pole

by Jerri Nielsen with Maryanne Vollers

While "wintering over" at the South Pole as physician for a research team, Jerri found a lump in her breast which a self-administered biopsy revealed to be an aggressive fast-growing cancer. With flights in or out impossible, she was forced to administer her own chemotherapy while waiting for evacuation.

Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope

by Shirin Ebadi with Azadeh Moaveni

The first female judge in Iran, Shirin fought back against the religious authorities who declared women unfit to be judges. She became a human rights attorney, defending women and

children in cases most lawyers were afraid to represent. Her efforts in the face of theocratic restriction, imprisonment, and death threats earned her the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.

A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII

by Sarah Helm

As a member of the British Intelligence Service, Vera recruited and trained over four hundred agents, including thirty-nine women, to infiltrate Nazi-occupied France during WWII. Nearly a hundred of them, including twelve of the women, did not return and were presumed dead. Fiercely loyal to them, after the war Vera made it her mission to track down their fates.

Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist by Brooke Kroeger

The most famous female journalist of her day, Nellie began her reporting career in 1885 at the age of 21. She produced more than 600 newspaper and magazine articles during her 37-year career. A dedicated investigator, she had herself committed to an insane asylum, circled the globe in 72 days, and worked as an elephant trainer- all for a good story.

Not Even My Name: From a Death March in Turkey to a New Home in America: A Young Girl's True Story of Genocide and Survival

by Thea Halo

Sano Halo's idyllic childhood in a remote village near the Black Sea was cut short when the entire community was uprooted in a forced emigration that turned into a year-long death march; the beginnings of a genocide of millions of Armenians and Pontic Greeks. Separated from her family, Sano lost even her name when she was sold by her surrogate family to a man three times her age. They married, emigrated to America, and raised ten children together, including the daughter who authored this biography.

Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie

by Barbara Goldsmith

Marie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person awarded Nobels in two separate sciences (chemistry and physics). She triumphed over an impoverished childhood in Russian-occupied Poland, lifelong depression, and rampant

sexism to become a pioneer in the field of radioactivity. A humanist committed to scientific inquiry, Marie hoped that her discoveries would be used for good. Along with her husband Pierre, and later their daughter Irene, Marie conducted grueling experiments with radioactive materials that would form the foundation for atomic science, but would tragically make all of them fatally ill.

"The Sex Side of Life": Mary Ware Dennett's Pioneering Battle for Birth Control and Sex Education

by Constance Chen

A suffragist, pacifist, and mother, Mary launched the nation's first birth control organization in 1915, and fought tirelessly to make contraceptives and sex education materials available to everyone. Her controversial work exposed her to widespread criticism. In 1929 her sex education pamphlet, endorsed by the YWCA was judged obscene, and Mary was convicted of sending indecent materials through the mail.

She's Tricky Like Coyote: Annie Miner Peterson, an Oregon Coast Indian Woman

by Lionel Youst

Annie, whose Indian name translates to "She's Tricky Like Coyote," grew up in a time of upheaval for her tribe. During the later part of the 1800s, increasing numbers of settlers forced the Coos to move repeatedly. Annie learned the traditions, languages, and myths of her people and worked steadfastly to preserve them. In her seventies, when she worked with an anthropologist to preserve her people's myths, she was the sole remaining speaker of the Miluk language.

Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail by Malika Oufkir

The daughter of a favored Moroccan general, Malika grew up in the palace alongside the princess. But when her father led an unsuccessful military coup in 1972, he was executed and his family arrested. Malika, her five siblings, and her mother were imprisoned for twenty years in a squalid, sunless prison before escaping.