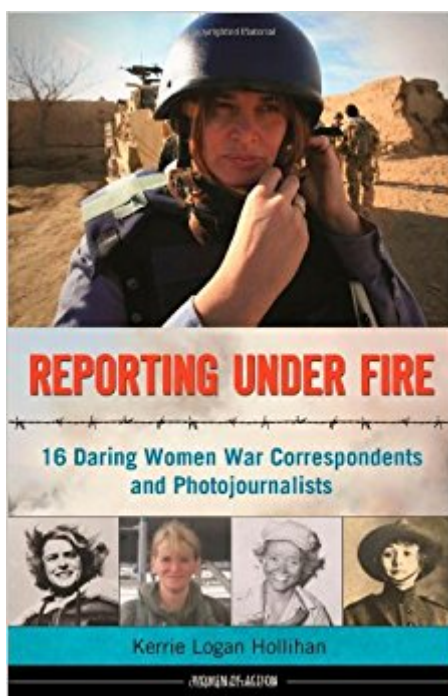


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Reporting Under Fire: 16 Daring Women War Correspondents And Photojournalists (Women Of Action)



Synopsis

An NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2015 Martha Gellhorn jumped at the chance to fly from Hong Kong to Lashio to report firsthand for *Collier's Weekly* on the conflict between China and Japan. When she boarded the "small tatty plane" she was handed "a rough brown blanket and a brown paper bag for throwing up." The flight took 16 hours, stopping to refuel twice, and was forced to dip and bob through Japanese occupied airspace. *Reporting Under Fire* tells readers about women who, like Gellhorn, risked their lives to bring back scoops from the front lines. Margaret Bourke-White rode with Patton's Third Army and brought back the first horrific photos of the Buchenwald concentration camp. Marguerite Higgins typed stories while riding in the front seat of an American jeep that was fleeing the North Korean Army. And during the Guatemalan civil war, Georgie Anne Geyer had to evade an assassin sent by the rightwing Mano Blanco, seeking revenge for her reports of their activities. These 16 remarkable profiles illuminate not only the inherent danger in these reporters' jobs, but also their struggle to have these jobs at all. Without exception, these war correspondents share a singular ambition: to answer an inner call driving them to witness war firsthand, and to share what they learn via words or images.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—Hollihan profiles the lives of 16 trailblazing war correspondents in this well-researched and riveting book. Pioneers in the field of journalism, these little-known women come to life as the author illuminates not only the professional dangers they faced but also the cultural assumptions made about their abilities based solely on their gender. Whether facing bias and discrimination in their assignments—early reporters were tasked with writing about war from a woman's angle—or denied credentials their male counterparts were easily granted, these women found ways to circumvent obstacles to provide readers around the world with gritty, eyewitness accounts from countless battle zones. They revolutionized a profession and paved the way for future women in the field. Filled with black-and-white photos, newspaper clippings, and personal anecdotes from the women themselves, the text is chock-full of their daring exploits—such as Sigrid Schultz cohosting an engagement party for top Nazi Hermann Göring—all in the name of landing their stories. Not only do readers gain a healthy respect for each reporter, but they also gain insight into global history. As such, the book reads like a narrative time line of world history, women's rights, and the field of journalism as a whole. The inclusion of notes and a bibliography provides additional resources for further reading.—Audrey Sumser, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Mayfield, OH

"A well-researched and riveting book...Not only do readers gain a healthy respect for each reporter, but they also gain insight into global history. As such, the book reads like a narrative time line of world history, women's rights, and the field of journalism as a whole." —School Library Journal—
"Kerrie Logan Hollihan chronicles the lives of women reporters from World War I to the present day in a storytelling mode that illuminates how these women laid the groundwork for feminist movements in the decades succeeding them." —Bitch magazine
"Hollihan's narrative is exciting and sheds light on not only the dangers these women faced, but their struggles to be accepted in a field historically dominated by men." —The Nonfiction Detectives
"With an informative and engaging style, Kerrie Logan Hollihan makes this nonfiction biography read like an exciting adventure." —TeenReads.com
"Add this highly readable book to your collection even if students read only one story." —Library Media Connection

I very much enjoyed Kerrie Logan Hollihan's book on women correspondents over the past 100 years. This isn't just a great book on women's history, it's a great book on history. Hollihan delves into subjects about Hitler, Vietnam, and more contemporary events such as the 2003 Iraqi invasion

through the eyewitness accounts of the reporters on the battlefield. One thing that struck me about the book was how independent all these women were; many of them did not stay confined in marriage, and many of them (such as Georgie Ann Geyer) have carried their work throughout their lives, well beyond what many of us would consider a reasonable age for retirement. This is an inspiring and thoughtful look into the lives of so many who brought nobility to the art of journalism.

I bought *Reporting Under Fire* because I had been a sorority sister of the author in college many years ago, and I was curious to see what she had written...WOW! What a fascinating and delightful read! Though her target audience is teens, I believe, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and certainly feel it deserves a broader audience. I will be encouraging my grandchildren to read it as they get older, but also my adult children and friends. The 16 profiles of independent and courageous women who reported on wars over the past 100 years are inspiring tales of risk-taking, initiative, perseverance and action in the face of danger and tragic death on battlefields all over the world. A common thread among the profiles is that the women often focused their reports on the human factors--the lives of the soldiers and the civilians, the children and villagers whose lives were torn apart or, in too many cases, ended by the wars. The author brings these women to life by sharing not only their work but their lives as women, as daughters, wives and mothers. Photos throughout the book help give immediacy to the descriptions of these journalists and their stories. Finally, I found the historical overviews of each war to be very helpful. The author provides an excellent, concise description of how and why war in Vietnam, the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina...no easy task! Get this book if you are interested in women, history, profiles in courage, careers in journalism, great stories.

Kerrie Logan Hollihan takes readers behind enemy lines with gutsy female war correspondents. We are immersed into WWI, the Russian Revolution, and all the way up to 21st -century conflicts, getting mini biographies of the women as well as glimpses into their reports from the action. A well-written, thoroughly-researched book for anyone who loves history, strong women, or both.

I liked this book because it covered women journalists from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Bosnian War, the Middle East Conflict, up to present day Iraq and Afghanistan. I found it fascinating that the author was actually able to interview Martha Raddatz. Though the book is non-fiction, Hollihan writes creatively and tells a good story about each woman - her life, work as a journalist, and contributions. The book has interesting photographs, also. I highly recommend this book if you

are looking to be inspired by women who have followed their dreams and passions, and risked their lives or gone into dangerous areas doing it.

This is a book good for all ages. The author has captured the stories of 16 remarkable yet little known women who risked their lives as journalists to bring back the story from the front lines.

“Private” Peggy Hill received her promotion because she was tough. After four days of sleeping in a tent and marching with enlisted men in the Ohio National Guard, the promotion allowed her to eat with the officers, skip the meal lines and, more importantly, proved that a women journalist in 1916 could deal with a lot. Peggy Hill embedding with the Ohio National Guard with General Pershing’s troops as they fought Mexican bandit Pancho Villa is only the first of a collection of inspiring actions by women war correspondents beginning in the early 20th century, all showing that women like Peggy can be tough. **REPORTING UNDER FIRE** examines the lives and work of 16 extraordinary women war correspondents in a captivating narrative, interspersing important historical events with the stories of the women trying to report those events as they happened. Including photographs, fun anecdotes and actual samples of their work, this book allows the reader to experience the lives of important women journalists and photographers. Beginning in depth during World War One with Peggy Hill and continuing until the present with Robin Wright and Martha Raddatz, the book runs a continuous storyline through time, picking up the storyline of a new woman’s career as the previous woman bows out. With an informative and engaging style, Kerrie Logan Hollihan makes this nonfiction biography read like an exciting adventure, sharing everything from women dressing as men to get the scoop to risky life-threatening encounters for women living in a warzone. Whether it is Bessie Beatty and Louise Bryant witnessing the Bolshevik overthrow of the winter palace in Russia during 1917 or Marguerite Higgins hurriedly typing up a story on the back of a jeep in South Korea during the Cold War, this book is definitely worth the read. Reviewed by Emily P., Teen Board Member.

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