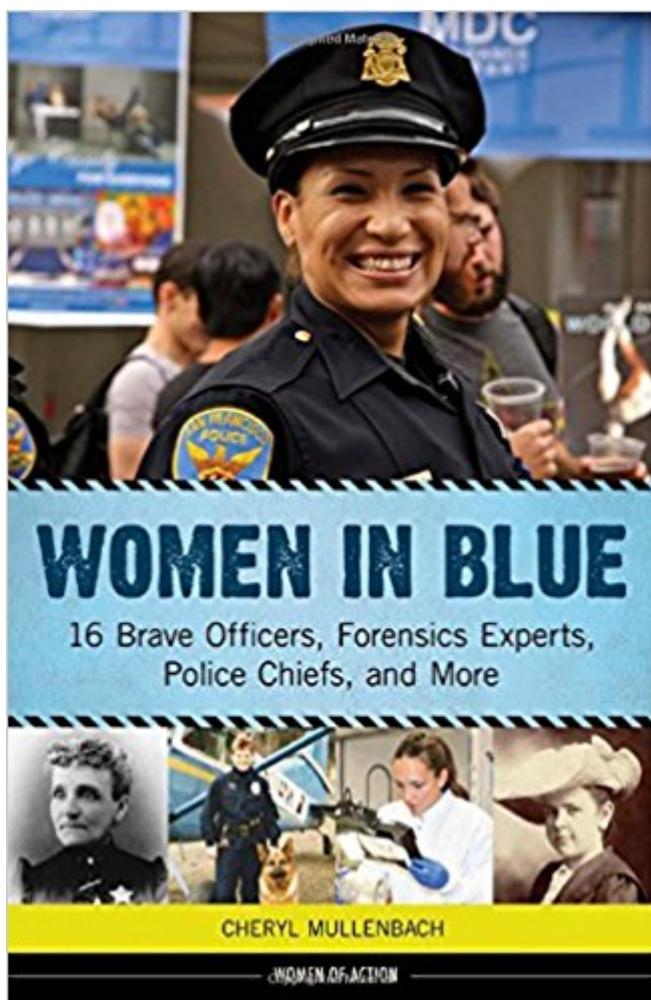


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# Women In Blue: 16 Brave Officers, Forensics Experts, Police Chiefs, And More (Women Of Action)



## Synopsis

They were called sleuths in skirts, guardian mothers, copettes, and police in petticoats. It would be a long time—well over 150 years—before women in law enforcement were known simply as police officers. Balancing the stories of trailblazers from the past with those of today’s dedicated officers, chiefs, FBI agents, and forensics experts, this collection of riveting biographies traces the evolution of women in policing. Women in Blue inspires readers to value those who broke through barriers—often enduring ridicule and discrimination as they fought for equality—while original interviews shed light on the daily challenges, rewards, and life on the job of various women currently in the trenches of law enforcement. The chronological progression puts hot-button issues like police brutality, race relations, and the treatment of suspects and prisoners into historic context and shows how many women in law enforcement are working to challenge and improve their field. This rich, authoritative history is packed with colorful anecdotes, excerpts from primary sources, and sidebars on related topics and includes photos, a bibliography, source notes, and a list of organizations interested teens can explore to learn more about the world of law enforcement, making it an indispensable resource for aspiring sleuths, officers, agents, crime scene investigators, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-This latest edition to the series celebrates 16 women who achieved some of the "firsts" in law enforcement, from Sadie Likens, Denver's first "jail matron," to Ethel and Marlo McGuire, the

FBI's first mother-daughter duo. Mullenbach offers frank and honest stories of the personal sacrifices made by these women as they achieved their professional goals. None of these individuals are familiar household names, but they were all well respected by their supervisors and colleagues, and some are still active in their respective jurisdictions. Through personal quotes and interviews, the subjects share their most notorious cases. The book is arranged in six parts (such as "Breaking into Jail: The Early Matrons" and "Copettes' No Longer: Policewomen"), and each one includes a short introduction to the topic and stories about the individual women. Informative sidebars discuss other female law enforcement pioneers but break the pages awkwardly, making it difficult for readers to follow the main entry. The author acknowledges that some material may not be appropriate for younger students and recommends adult guidance. Substantial notes, a bibliography, and additional resources will aid in future research. **VERDICT** Recommended for libraries that own other books in the series or where there is a demand for materials highlighting the accomplishments of women in professions that were previously open only to men.-Anne Jung-Mathews, Plymouth State University, NH © Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

“Mullenbach does a wonderful job of giving the big picture, while at the same time telling the stories of lesser-known individuals who younger readers will find especially relevant. She pulls no punches, revealing the hard times as well as the good things that came out of the era.”  
•Nonfiction Monday on The Industrial Revolution for Kids“Young women considering careers in law enforcement will be empowered by the women profiled here.”  
•Booklist“Cheryl Mullenbach reveals the stories our parents and grandparents were too humble to tell. Read this book and, no matter how much you think you know, you will learn something new.”  
•Sherri L. Smith, author, *Flygirl*, on Double Victory “Women in Blue demonstrates the value that women bring to the law enforcement profession and how they are changing the culture of policing through communication, collaboration, and treating people with dignity and respect. Even if you are not considering a law enforcement career, you should read *Women in Blue* to learn how women successfully navigate a male-dominated profession.”  
•Catherine Sanz, executive director, Women in Federal Law Enforcement Inc.“Mullenbach offers frank and honest stories of the personal sacrifices made by these women as they achieved their professional goals.”  
•School Library Journal“*A suitable introduction to the field of law enforcement with a salutary, rarely seen focus.*”  
•Kirkus Reviews“*An enlightening examination of a little-explored*

subject, offering both a historical resource and current insights into the profession. • Publishers Weekly • "This title would be useful for teens, educators, and librarians seeking to promote nonfiction, as well as possible career opportunities for young women. • VOYA

I thoroughly enjoyed Cheryl Mullenbach's engaging, thoughtful and respectful writing style. She artfully brought to life the stories of women in law enforcement who despite many challenges went on to achieve success in their fields. This book is a positive resource for young readers!

There are an impressive number of firsts as an African American woman to become a Police Commissioner, and Penny Harrington: Portland's first female Police Detective and first female Police Chief as the author traces the history of women in law enforcement. The accounts point out both the ridicule and discrimination women faced and the determination and successes they achieved, often under the most difficult of circumstances. Comprehensive interviews provide readers with thoughtful accounts of the professional and personal challenges inherent in their various fields such as FBI special agent, Forensic Artist, and Forensic Specialist and the individual stories behind their success. Julia Grimes' account of her life as an Alaska State Trooper Pilot begins on a whim by Julia's father when he agrees to let her take an introductory ride in a Cessna because he is sure she will become airsick and give up her interest in flying. But the 14-year-old discovers a passion that leads her to a career that includes aerial surveillance, working with a K-9 drug dog, and undercover work. The stories are both educational and entertaining, rich with anecdotes that run the gamut from horrendous to humorous. The content, which provides an historical perspective on topics ranging from prostitution to police brutality as well as discussions of modern-day drugs, and violent crime, is handled with honesty and sensitivity. Never-the-less, parents of younger teens might be advised to peruse the book and be prepared to discuss the contents. The book contains side bars to direct the reader's attention to related topics. Black and white photographs, a list of resources for learning more about career opportunities in law enforcement, source notes, and a bibliography complete the book.

"Women in Blue" is about the various jobs women have held in policing in the past to the present.

It's aimed at young adults and provided resources for those interested in a career in law enforcement. I'd recommend this book to teens and adults interested in this topic. The story of women in policing was told mainly through the biographies of sixteen women. We're told what life on the job was like for the early jail matrons and those who were among the first to patrol, be a detective, or police chief. We also learned about women in various forensic careers--like forensic artist and crime scene investigation--and in federal organizations like the FBI, US Secret Service, and customs inspections. We learned about the daily challenges these women faced, what jobs they did, and about some of their cases. The author did a good job of showing the women in their historical context. She showed how national events like wars or the Great Depression affected their jobs and the types of cases they dealt with. She also explained how women won equal opportunities for promotion, jobs, and pay. There were photos of the women, including some that show them during training or shooting competitions. I received an ebook review copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

This was an interesting book with short biographies of women in law enforcement; these are stories about women who defied the norm and social constraints of their time to work in a field that for too many years was restricted from women. I enjoyed the history shared in the book. Now, not all of the biographies were women from the past, there were some that were more recent. I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway, but the opinions are all my own.

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