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Gold Rush Women



Synopsis

This book gathers the riveting stories of adventurous women-miners, madams, merchants, and mothers -- who went North during the gold rush era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up. When gold was discovered in Alaska's Klondike region, one in ten of the adventurers who stormed the territory was female. Although women were central to the commerce and social life of this rugged frontier, their pioneering roles have been downplayed or ignored for over a century. These 23 short biographies reveal the depth and variety of their experiences. Native women Kate Carmack (Tagish) and Jennie Alexander (Athabaskan) participated in the first discoveries of gold and taught vital survival skills to the white settlers. Sisters Belinda and Margaret Mulrooney established the Dome City Bank. Ethel Berry panned gold by lantern light to become one of the first Klondike millionaires. Lucille Hunter, the first African-American woman in the territory, gave birth to a daughter on the rugged trail to Dawson. These stories of triumph, tragedy, hard work, and hard luck create a vibrant and multilayered picture of early Alaskan and of American society in the 1890s. Lavish use of period pictures helps tell the story, as do boxed insets on subjects from sourdough cooking to Native life. The authors do not gloss over the realities of the time, including the effects of racism, gender roles, and sexual exploitation. Nonetheless, these portraits show what women of the era did accomplish, given the freedom of the frontier and their own abundant determination. ?Carolyn Lehman, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA Copyright 1997 Reed

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Gr. 7⁺-12. The women who joined the gold rushes in the Yukon and Alaska between the late 1880s and the early 1900s get scant attention in the history books. This collective biography draws on primary sources to tell their stories, with fascinating historical photographs and portraits on every page. Some women went with men, some went alone. They panned for gold, ran boardinghouses and grub tents, worked as dance-hall girls and prostitutes. Ethel Berry was one of the first Klondike millionaires. Klondike Kate, a Tagish native, never got any money from the gold she helped discover. One whole section is devoted to the important roles played by Native American women in the region. Martha Louise Block, a wealthy Chicago matron, said of her adventure: "What I wanted was not shelter and safety, but liberty and opportunity." Lots of sidebars provide general information, including one newspaper article telling women what to pack and what to leave behind. With its handsome, browsable design, this will be welcome for classroom reports and for personal reading. It's a great companion to Karen Cushman's gold rush novel, *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* (1996). Recommend it also to adult readers. Hazel Rochman

Great Product fast shipping

This book is a wonderful history of very strong women of the 1800's. My 2nd great grandmother is mentioned in this book. Kate McQuesten!Wonderful.

We purchased this book after our trip to Alaska. We've really enjoyed our trips to Alaska with all its beauty & history & this book supplements our wonderful experience with the Last Frontier.

Short book with great stories of courageous women in a rough, dangerous and many times uncomfortable environment. Lots of good photos which really adds to the book.

I purchased this book knowing that it was just going to be skimming the surface of the stories of the women of times. I was glad to read about the native women, loved the photography, and it was just a fun little read.

I enjoyed this book... Good history of women during this time.

excellent reading

This is a very good book. Very entertaining and enjoyable, especially after just visiting Alaska. I loved the pictures too. A great addition to history. A focus on strong & powerful women.

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