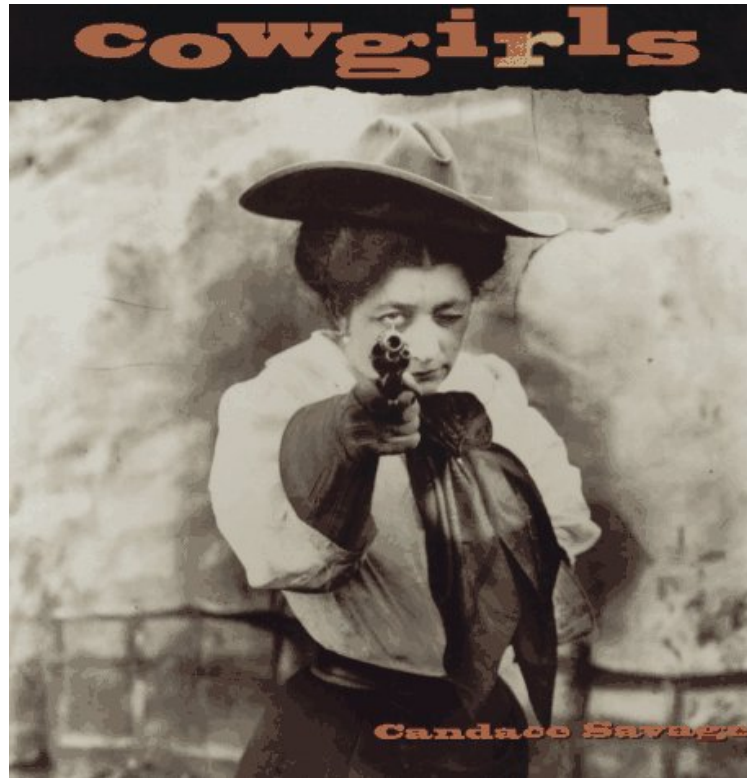


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## Cowgirls

*Candace Savage*

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#3092019 in Books Ten Speed Press 1996-09-01 1996-09-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .50 x 10.05 x 10.04l, #File Name: 0898158303134 pagesHistoryWestWomen in historyGender studies | File size: 34.Mb

**Candace Savage : Cowgirls** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cowgirls:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For all girls ...By RJKFor all the self confident girls out there who want to know of inspirational women who were willing to push the confines on womanhood and show men (and ourselves) what we can really do this book is a must read. You go girl!10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The cowgirl's contribution to the women of the modern west.By A CustomerChandace Savage's COWGIRLS will become a classic in Western Literature. In her three divisions: Real Cowboy Girls, Living Legends, and Rhinestone Cowgirls, Savage passes through the realities and myths of cowgirlhood. From the brutal work of the lonesome ranches and cattle trails through the grace of the rodeo arena, and the beauty of the silver screen she shows the contribution of the cowgirl to the women of the modern west. But it is a west far greater than even the western ranch community and its celluloid imitators, it is a west of the soul influencing the strength, courage and leadership of women today.

Although the Western frontier has been tirelessly represented as "Man's Country", women were there from the beginning. Candace Savage traces the cowgirl back to her origins among the cattle queens, lady bandits and ranchwomen of the mid-to-late 19th century. While proper Victorian ladies sat in their parlours, these female adventurers unlaced their corsets, exchanged their skirts for scandalous "divided" garments, and swung astride ponies.

Working as ranch wives, range daughters and ranch owners; they roped cattle, shot rustlers and broke colts. In their spare time they made clothes, boiled laundry, scrubbed floors, baked pies, gave birth and cared for their children. From the 1880s on, this tough life was exhibited to the rest of the world through Wild West shows and circuses. One of the "curious creatures of the west" was Annie Oakley, whose dainty build, pretty face - and the ability to blast a hole through a playing card from a distance of 90 feet - made her a star. The image continued to be projected in films, music, theatre, fashion and advertising. The changing depiction of the cowgirl provides a visual record, including: a rangewoman pitching hay in a Victorian full skirt and high collar; a comic strip showing a heroic Dale Evans single-handedly rescuing a runaway wagon; a mini-skirted cowgirl in a 1950s advert for potatoes; and Western Barbie, complete with silver glitter. Gathered from archives and private collections in North America and Europe, they highlight the text that celebrates this cultural phenomenon. Candace Savage is the author of "Aurora: The Mysterious Northern Lights", which was shortlisted for the Science in Society Book Award.

.com Poor Dale Evans. America's best-known cowgirl sweetheart didn't have much of a chance to spit, cuss, swagger, snap her neck bronco-busting, or even muss her hair. The gritty frontier cowgirls and athletic rodeo riders and performers lauded in this colorful melange of photos, posters, quotes, and snappy histories did all that and a great deal more. Clearly, the life agreed with many of them. "This is a deuced fast place," one reports approvingly. "Most independent women I've ever seen." Happily, that independence was rewarded by several Western states with the right to vote, hold property, divorce, and--just as important--the chance to ride astride. From Library Journal In spite of the growing interest in the role of women in the American and Canadian West, little has been written about those who best fit the stereotypical image?the cowgirls. Savage (Aurora: The Mysterious Northern Lights, Sierra Club Bks., 1995) provides a solid survey of the cowgirl phenomenon from both a historical and a social perspective. Cowgirls can be traced back to Marie del Carmen Calvillo, who inherited her father's Texas rancho in 1814. Many women made a name for themselves in the famous traveling Wild West shows, and their image was amplified and expanded by popular media ranging from comic books to television. Although today many cowgirls are part of husband-and-wife ranching operations, the cowgirl role continues. Savage pays particular attention to dichotomous media images, which range from the strong, effective manager such as the Barbara Stanwyck character in the series Big Valley to vapid cheesecake portrayals. Overall, this work is engaging and informative. Recommended for public and undergraduate libraries. Daniel D. Liestman, Seattle Pacific Univ. Lib. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Savage, a woman of the West and author of an impressive number of popular natural history books, including Wild Cats (1993), wanted to be a cowgirl in her youth but wondered whether cowgirls had as much fun as cowboys. The answer, obtained from extensive research, is an unequivocal yes. Savage doesn't minimize the hardships of life on the range, but for true cowgirls the benefits far outweighed the difficulties. Women traveled west to free themselves of the restrictions of nineteenth-century femininity, and the western territories welcomed them, granting women the right to vote early on and enacting liberal property and divorce laws. More than 100 photographs and other illustrations accompany Savage's peppy commentary as she profiles the precious few cowgirls we have heard of--Belle Starr, Calamity Jane, and Annie Oakley--and introduces a whole slew of new heroines, including Lizzie Johnson Williams, a schoolmarm, writer, and very successful cattle rancher. Enlightening and enjoyable from start to finish, this is the perfect complement to Pioneer Women. Donna Seaman