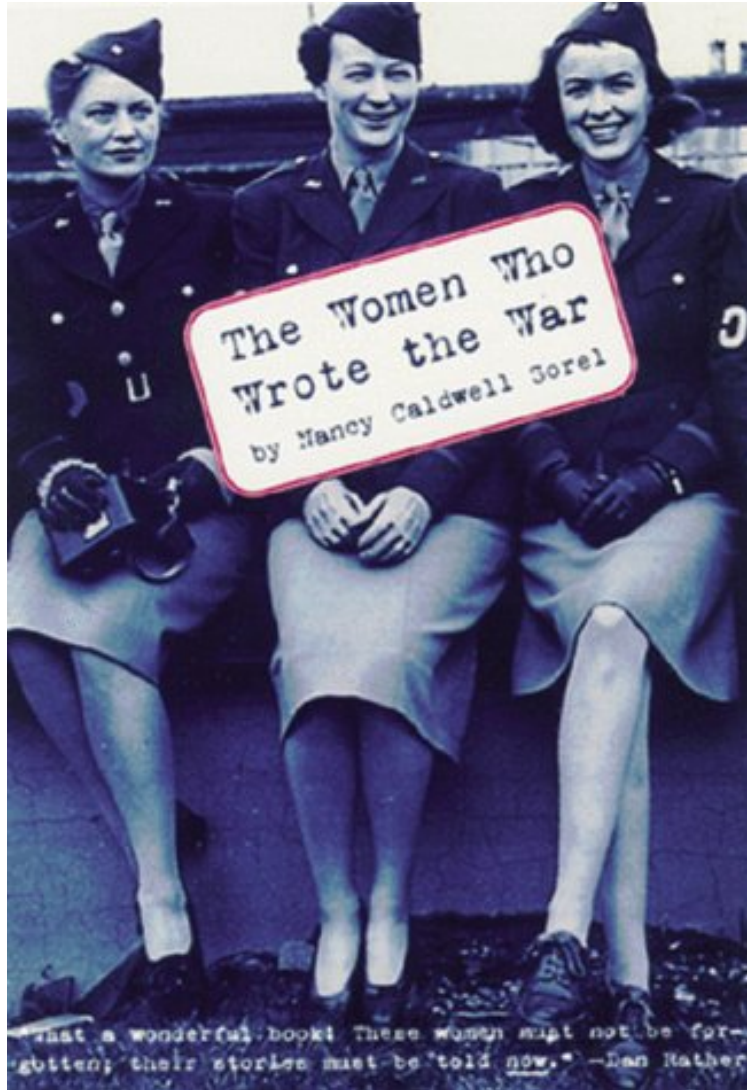


[Library ebook] The Women Who Wrote the War

The Women Who Wrote the War

Nancy Caldwell Sorel

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Nancy Caldwell Sorel : The Women Who Wrote the War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Women Who Wrote the War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EyeopeningBy Styra AvinsI could hardly put this book down. It's a story I knew nothing about -- intrepid women, mostly unknown to each other, who for one reason or other were determined to cover the Second World War and the run up to it, both on the European and Asian fronts. They reported mostly in spite of the obstacles the American press put in their way, and in at least two instances scooped all other reporters. Nancy Sorel has managed to weave together the stories of this varied group of women in a way that holds

one's interest throughout. I bought copies for several friends after reading it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read
By Eric V. Weil
Great read. A part of history unknown to most, and must be known by all. Not only an engrossing story but told not like a history but a novel. Exciting, informative, well-written and like Dan Rather says a story that must be told. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Jean Scott
Never thought of this aspect of WW11. Most interesting.

"World War II produced a huge cast of characters. War correspondents were a small but essential part of the picture, and women correspondents but a fraction of the whole. Yet the heroic role played by the women who volunteered for combat-zone duty has never been given its due. Their ranks included Margaret Bourke-White, Martha Gellhorn, Lee Miller, Janet Flanner, and hundreds of others. *The Women Who Wrote the War* relates not only what they reported but also the sides of their lives they did not report. In a riveting and seamless narrative, Nancy Sorel weaves together the lives and times of these women and gives them not only the dignity they deserve but their rightful place in this century's history. Their stories form a crucial link in the long chain of women's struggle for equality."

.com The women who served as combat correspondents in World War II were a capable, gutsy, and inquisitive bunch. Their bravery snapping photos from bomb-laden B-17s over North Africa or interviewing blood-soaked soldiers fresh from Iwo Jima was matched only by their pluck in overcoming sexist double standards and patronizing attitudes. To a one, they were determined to prove their mettle at a time when "few newspaperwomen had made it from the society desk into the newsroom," as author Nancy Caldwell Sorel points out. Sorel (whose witty *First Encounters* appeared in *The Atlantic* for years) tracked down dozens of these women, most well into or past their 70s, and has combined candid interviews with rigorous research to piece together their amazing wartime stories. *The Women Who Wrote the War* follows the chronology of the conflict through the reporters' eyes, beginning as early as a 1931 interview of Hitler by Dorothy Thompson Lewis (wife of Sinclair), in which she called the future Führer "inconsequent ... voluble, ill-poised, insecure." (Shortly after her "Little Man" rose to power, she would be expelled.) Tough and opinionated Collier's correspondent Martha Gellhorn, another reporter married to a famous writer, frustrated her new husband, Ernest Hemingway, shortly after D-Day--defying military orders, she sneaked onto the beaches of Normandy just ahead of him, pitching in as a stretcher-bearer to get her story. Gripping and well documented, Sorel's work ably captures the excitement of both the war and the exploits of the women who reported on it. --Paul Hughes
From *Library Journal*
Sorel, a freelance journalist who writes regularly for *Esquire* and the *Atlantic*, has assembled an impressive amount of biographical information about the women reporters who covered World War II. Though numbering fewer than 100, these women were extremely dedicated to overcoming the bias of their employers, who often felt that the front was no place for a woman, and of the military itself. The stories of these women reporters--e.g., Lee Miller, Martha Gellhorn--are at once inspiring, frustrating, and sad, and most are certainly worth knowing. The book, however, is more anecdotal than analytical. Important questions, such as whether these women reported the war differently from their male counterparts, is not treated systematically. In addition, the place of women in the history of news needs greater context. Still, as a journalistic account of an often neglected story, it is recommended for public libraries.
A
Frederic Krome, Jacob Rader Marcus Ctr. of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati
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From *Booklist*
World War II is a story without end that can be told from countless perspectives, and Sorel, a contributor to *Esquire* and the *Atlantic*, has chosen one that is as fascinating as it is overlooked: the unique vantage point of women war correspondents. Their battle began at home, where they had to convince skeptical male editors of their mettle, and it continued on the battlefield. Treated either dismissively or overprotectively, they were also the objects of much sexual and romantic desire, but these unconventional and courageous women persevered, suffering all the hardships and horrors of war in Europe and the Pacific, and striving to tell the truth about what they witnessed. Sorel, who never fails to relish a telling anecdote, deftly weaves together more than a dozen profiles of such trailblazers as Sigrid Schultz, Berlin bureau chief for the *Chicago Tribune*; photographer Margaret Bourke-White; Martha Gellhorn; Virginia Cowles; Sonia Tomara; Lee Miller; and Dickey Chapelle, who was later killed in combat in Vietnam. By insightfully presenting both the private and professional sides of her subjects' lives, Sorel has written a many-faceted and refulgent chapter in the history of women, war, and journalism.
Donna Seaman