

**ECLECTIC READERS GROUP**  
**MARCH 20, 2010**  
**WOMEN'S HISTORY**

F

Grey, Zane

G8458

**BETTY ZANE**

“Self-published in 1903, this sweeping historical novel is the story of Grey's ancestors and their role in the siege of Fort Henry, the last battle of the American Revolution. Betty was the youngest of the Zanes and the only girl. She played a decisive role in the outcome of the siege when she ran from the blockhouse to her brother's cabin and back with much-needed gunpowder. High-spirited and impulsive, she may be the model for the 'feisty' historical heroine. The book tells of her courtship by young Alfred Clarke and the tale of Betty's brother Isaac who spent many years in Indian captivity and was beloved of a Huron princess. The language is outdated, but it's still a ripping good story with some very exciting scenes. Characterization is good and the countryside is described in loving detail. Reminiscent of *The Last of the Mohicans*, but with a happy ending. I enjoyed it” - Linda



646.78

Haltzman, Scott

HALT

**THE SECRETS OF HAPPILY MARRIED WOMEN: HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP BY DOING LESS**

“This professor of psychiatry at Brown University who has a private practice and a well traveled web site, takes his research and personal experience with thousands of men and women and comes up with some concrete ways to be happier in one's marriage. The premise is: men and women are different, communicate differently and want different things in a relationship. Instead of throwing up one's hands in disgust, he shares methods and attitudes adopted by women who are happy in their marriages. He covers basic physiological differences of the male and female brain. (why men can't verbalize their emotions; why women tend to be the childcare givers, etc.) He explains how these differences play out in universal behaviors of men and women. Knowing what your mate needs can allow him to get it and create the interest between the two of you... I think it's a good book, much to my surprise! He made me want to bite the bullet and change my anger and resentment to understanding and appreciation. That's a great start to improving any relationship!” - Karen M.



940.54497

Keil, Sally VanWagenen

KEIL

**THOSE WONDERFUL WOMEN IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES: THE UNKNOWN HEROINES OF WORLD WAR II**

“Our newspaper printed a story about President Obama honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), a gloriously valiant group of women who flew virtually every type of aircraft during World War II. So I chose to re-read this book. Keil is the niece of a WASP B-17 pilot, and her book (1979) is a comprehensive history of the WASP, starting with Jackie Cochran's 'bright Idea' and following the program and its sisterhood to the day that President Carter signed that bill. She started with the roster of WASP that her aunt left behind when she died, and went all over the country meeting WASP and researching their stories. Talk about the 'right stuff'--these women were amazing!



\*

Locoul, Laura

**MEMORIES OF THE OLD PLANTATION HOME & A CREOLE FAMILY ALBUM**

“I bought this at Laura Plantation, named for the author of this memoir. She was born in 1861 and died in 1963, so her life spanned the presidencies of Abraham Lincoln to John F. Kennedy. Laura's family were Creoles who were much less sexist than their American neighbors. Laura's grandmother ran the plantation for years, then it was Laura's turn. Interesting insight into life in the late 1900's and the differences between the Creole and Anglo cultures” - Linda

F

Shaffer, Mary Ann and Annie Barrows

**SHAFFER THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY**

“I really enjoyed this book. The Isle of Guernsey was occupied by the Germans during World War II. The descriptions of how the islanders survived the occupation are very good. Lots of details. The story is told through a series of letters rather than a straight narrative thus achieving multiple points of view. The main character is a writer who discovers that the book she is writing centers around a courageous woman who died in a concentration camp in Europe” - Robin

646.78 Slung, Michele

**SLUNG LIVING WITH CANNIBALS & OTHER WOMEN'S ADVENTURES**

“Very interesting. The book covers sixteen women. It's all written by the same person so the voice doesn't vary, but each woman's story is a reminder of how exciting 'living outside the box' can be” - Karen G.

\*

Sotheary, Mey Son

**"My Sister"**

“This story is about three young people who are orphaned and move from the rural countryside to the city to live with their aunt and uncle. The younger sister and the brother both go to school, while their older sister works at a seemingly lucrative job. The younger siblings do not pay much attention to where she works until the brother enters the university. His friends want him to hire prostitutes with them, and he rails against women who would do such a thing. Then he realizes that one of the prostitutes is his older sister. When she comes home next, he disowns her and refuses to take her money. She runs off, and his aunt asks him how he expected his sister to earn so much money without an education. The aunt and uncle explain that the older sister did it all for the younger siblings so that they could have the life their parents wanted for them. Then the brother feels guilty. He hires a prostitute, not for sex, but to learn her story. He finds that she, too, is supporting a widowed mother and younger siblings. He feels terrible and wanders the streets looking for his older sister to apologize. Mey Son Sotheary is a female author who began writing in 1997. She writes about women's issues in Cambodia. This story is in the anthology *Virtual Lotus: Modern Fiction of Southeast Asia*, edited by Teri Shaffer Yamada” - Teresa



\*

Williams, Vera S.

**WASPS: WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS OF  
WORLD WAR II**

“Williams' book (1994) is somewhat shorter than Keil's, but has more pictures and possibly more anecdotes. It has some of their songs, too, including one that Jackie Cochran banned from Avenger Field, which was where their training took place. (There is a memorial with a statue in their honor at Avenger Field, showing a trainee in her coveralls—it was dedicated in 1993.) It was not until 1977, after lots and lots of testimony and argument and legal quibbling, that President Carter signed veterans status for the women of the WASP into the law of the land. And on July 1, 2009, President Obama presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the WASP (about 300 of them are still alive), further validating their heroic service to their country. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that Congress can present to a civilian” - Ruth



-----

\* Not in APL system

Disclaimer: All books reviewed herein were checked out of the library or purchased by the reviewer. None were provided free of charge for the purpose of an endorsement.