



Courageous Women of the Civil War: Soldiers, Spies, Medics, and More (Women of Action)

M. R. Cordell

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With the outbreak of the Civil War, nearly everybody was caught up in patriotic fervor—men and women, Union and Confederate. Many women supported soldiers on the front lines through knitting and sewing needed items, growing food, making bandages, gathering hospital supplies, and more. But others wished they could be closer to the fight. These women defied society's expectations and bravely chose to enter a new, challenging way of life. *Courageous Women of the Civil War* reveals the exploits of sixteen of these remarkable women who served as medics, spies, battlefield helpers, and even soldiers on the front lines.

Meet fascinating figures such as Maria Lewis, a former slave who fled with the Union Army as it swept through Virginia. Disguised as white male soldier, she “put the fear of Hell” into Confederate enemies. Kady Brownell supported her husband's Rhode Island regiment as a vivandière, training with the soldiers, fighting in battle, and helping the injured. Mary Carroll, a Missouri Rebel, forged a copy of a jail cell key to break her brother out before his scheduled execution.

These and other little-known stories are told through gripping narrative, primary source documents, and contextualizing sidebars. Civil War history is woven throughout, offering readers a clear overview of the era and the war. Also including numerous historic photos, source notes, and a bibliography, *Courageous Women of the Civil War* is an invaluable resource for any student's or history buff's bookshelf.

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