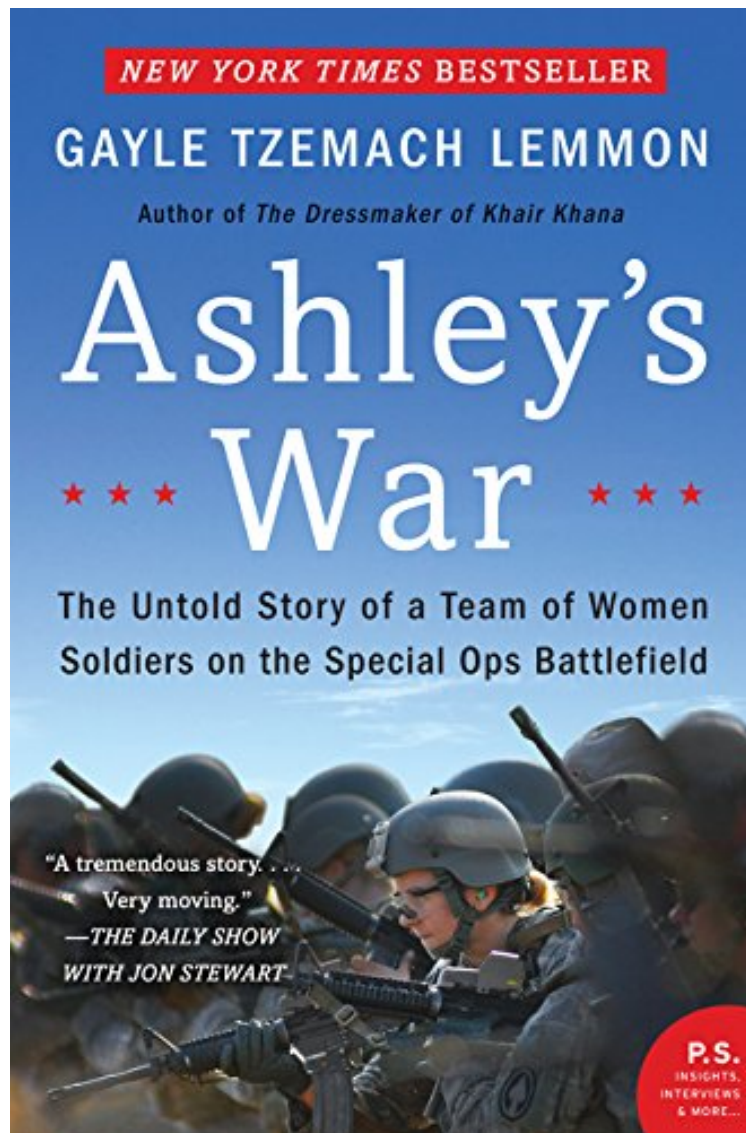


(Read now) Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield

## Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

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#25213 in Books Lemmon Gayle Tzemach 2016-04-12 2016-04-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .76 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062333828336 pagesAshley s War The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield | File size: 59.Mb

**Gayle Tzemach Lemmon : Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Opened my eyes to an important and inspiring worldBy sonya34This

book is simply excellent. The language is accessible; the story is a page-turner. But don't be fooled - it is anything but a "simple" book. I knew nothing about the military, and even less about women in the military (except that lately they've been characterized as victims). A friend with similar tastes as mine encouraged me to read this so I did. Ms. Lemmon's book opened my eyes in a skilled and powerful way. She uses the story of a women's special ops program - and the stories of several women participants - to take the reader through the complexities of military structure, politics, culture, and everyday life. She even shines a light on the experience of one woman's husband and family in the immediate aftermath of her loss. And yet, with all the texture and background, the story thread remains clear and unbroken throughout. Somehow, despite all the military lingo and profiles of strong, self-disciplined women, the book moved me to tears by the end. I also read *Dressmaker of Khair Khana* - with these powerful and inspiring stories, Ms. Lemmon is clearly on a mission to change the world through heroic - and true! - portrayals of women. I look forward to whatever she writes next.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Little known use of women serving in the armed forces  
By Red Wolf  
Some women are tough enough and skilled enough and brave enough to do any job a man can do and do it better than most men. These women are a valuable resource that the armed forces should be permitted to use. In some situations, a woman can be more useful than any man just because she is not a man, and can talk with other women without violating customs. Ashley was a woman who was attached to and trained with an elite army unit and went on missions with them. According to the author, she did an excellent job. However the author is not unbiased. I enjoyed reading the book, and I do believe that it is important to have women serving in more roles in the armed forces as soon as it is practical to do so. But I take some part of the book with a grain of salt. Let the armed forces have a major role in deciding how and where to deploy women.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A truly inspirational story  
By Tanya W.  
This is the amazing story of a woman, a soldier, her team, both CST and Special Forces, and the groundbreaking start of the Cultural Support Team - CST. Ashley was one of a special group of women who led the way onto the battlefield. This is her story, this is their story. Gayle Lemmon did a wonderful job describing the experience these women went through preparing and competing for the honor of being chosen for this very new, very special opportunity, as well as their experience in Afghanistan. She captured so well the essence of these extraordinary women. Their sense of duty, drive, motivations, fears, doubts, desires, loyalty, honor, commitment and resolve. It is an eloquent argument for allowing those women, who are warriors at heart, to have the chance to serve their country on the battlefield. And this is Ashley's story. A heartwarming and inspiring tribute to an amazing woman who gave her life for her country. How she was a trailblazer, how she was loved, and respected by her peers, both men and woman. And the difference she made, the impact she had, and the mark she left on the world. Ashley is an American hero by any standard, and I thank Gayle Lemmon for writing this book and making us aware of this remarkable woman, group of women, and their story.

In 2010, the Army created Cultural Support Teams, a secret pilot program to insert women alongside Special Operations soldiers battling in Afghanistan. The Army reasoned that women could play a unique role on Special Ops teams: accompanying their male colleagues on raids and, while those soldiers were searching for insurgents, questioning the mothers, sisters, daughters and wives living at the compound. Their presence had a calming effect on enemy households, but more importantly, the CSTs were able to search adult women for weapons and gather crucial intelligence. They could build relationships woman to woman in ways that male soldiers in an Islamic country never could. In *Ashley's War*, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon uses on-the-ground reporting and a finely tuned understanding of the complexities of war to tell the story of CST-2, a unit of women hand-picked from the Army to serve in this highly specialized and challenging role. The pioneers of CST-2 proved for the first time, at least to some grizzled Special Operations soldiers, that women might be physically and mentally tough enough to become one of them. The price of this professional acceptance came in personal loss and social isolation: the only people who really understand the women of CST-2 are each other. At the center of this story is a friendship cemented by "Glee," video games, and the shared perils and seductive powers of up-close combat. At the heart of the team is the tale of a beloved and effective soldier, Ashley White. Much as she did in her bestselling *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, Lemmon transports readers to a world they previously had no idea existed: a community of women called to fulfill the military's mission to "win hearts and minds" and bound together by danger, valor, and determination. *Ashley's War* is a gripping combat narrative and a moving story of friendship a book that will change the way readers think about war and the meaning of service.

An unforgettable story of female soldiers breaking the brass ceiling. The women who answered America's call to serve show that our military is stronger when it engages both halves of the population. This book will inspire you and remind you of the power that comes with defying limits. (Sheryl Sandberg, author of *Lean In*) Gayle Tzemach Lemmon expertly gives readers an inside look at what it takes to work alongside America's elite forces. The book is a gripping, moving, and well-told war story, but more importantly it offers the first glimpse into a historic program. (Kevin Maurer, author of *Gentlemen Bastards*) Lemmon has done her homework. . . . She is a strong and capable guide. . . . With a fine eye for detail, she shows us what set this program apart. (Foreign Policy) A tremendous story. . .

. Very moving. (The Daily Show with Jon Stewart)Ashleys War shares the remarkable stories of one of the first teams of women serving in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. This team forged the path for American women who serve in harms way all over the world and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice. (Senator John McCain)Ashleys War quietly grips the reader with the untold story of a small group of women selected to serve in combat alongside the USs best soldiers. . . . Rich storytelling. . . . Compelling. . . . In battle as in life, these women refuse to quit. (Christian Science Monitor)Fascinating and often moving, Ashleys War follows one of the early groups of women who volunteered to serve alongside special operations soldiers, vividly portraying their training, their early missions as they learn their jobs, their bonds of friendship, and their reckoning with the toll of war. Remarkable. (Phil Klay, author of Redeployment)From the Back CoverRich storytelling. . . . Compelling. . . . In battle as in life, these women refuse to quit.Christian Science MonitorIn 2010 the U.S. Army Special Operations Command created Cultural Support Teams, a pilot program to put women on the battlefield alongside Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, and other special operations teams on sensitive missions in Afghanistan. The idea was that women could access places and people that had remained out of reach and could build relationships in ways that male soldiers in a conservative, traditional country could not. Though officially banned from combat, female soldiers could be attached to different teams, and special ops recruiting posters urged them to join the mission and become part of history.In Ashleys War, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon uses exhaustive firsthand reporting and finely tuned understanding of the complexities of war to tell the story of a team of women handpicked from across the Army, Guard, and Reserve. At the center of this story is a friendship cemented by Glee, CrossFit, and the shared perils of up close combat. At the heart of the team is the tale of a dedicated and beloved soldier, First Lieutenant Ashley White.Much as she did in her bestselling The Dressmaker of Khair Khana, Lemmon transports readers to a world they previously had no idea existed: a community of women called to serve a cause greater than themselves and bound together by danger, valor, and determination. Ashleys War is a gripping combat narrative and a moving story of friendship a book that will change the way readers think about war and the meaning of service. Indeed, in the wake of Ashleys War, all combat roles have been opened to women. This story is one part of the march toward equality in the armed forces.An unforgettable story . . . will inspire you and remind you of the power that comes with defying limits.Sheryl Sandberg, author of Lean InAbout the AuthorGayle Tzemach Lemmon is a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a contributor to Atlantic Medias Defense One, writing on national security and foreign policy issues. She is the bestselling author of The Dressmaker of Khair Khana and has written for Newsweek, the Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, CNN.com, and the Daily Beast, as well as for the World Bank and Harvard Business School.