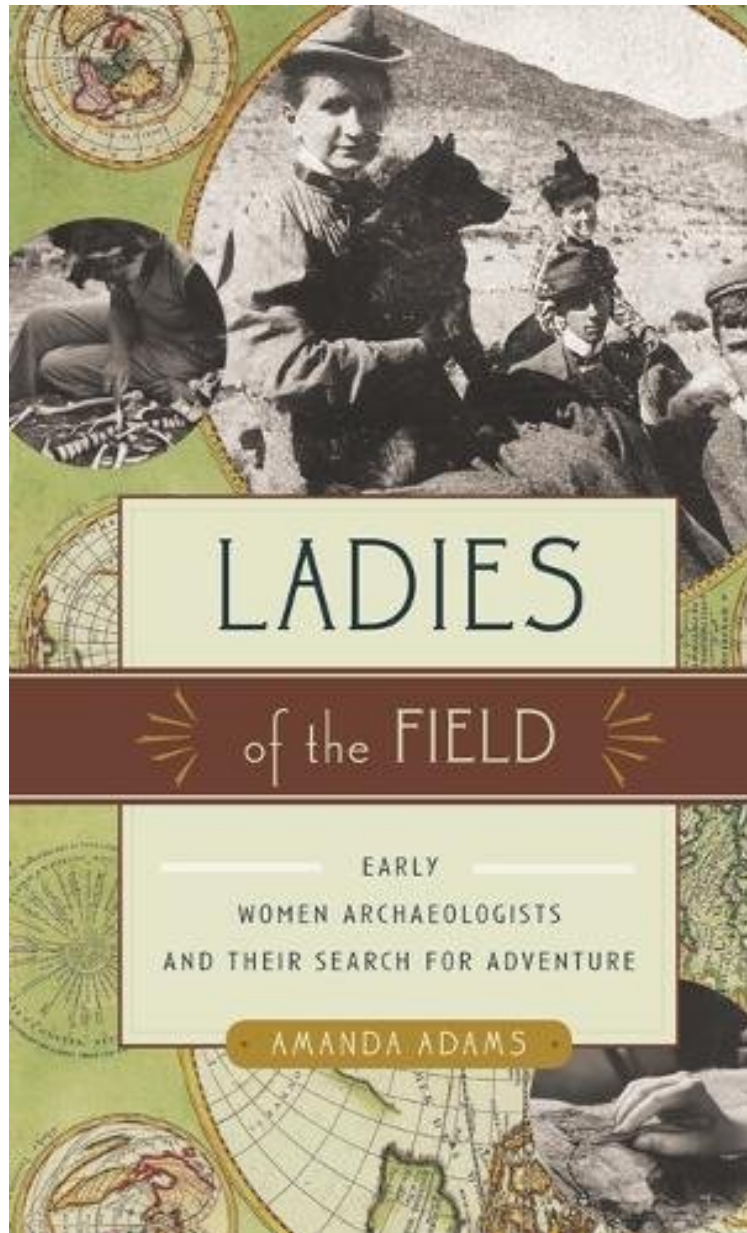


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Ladies of the Field: Early Women Archaeologists and Their Search for Adventure

Amanda Adams

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Amanda Adams : Ladies of the Field: Early Women Archaeologists and Their Search for Adventure before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ladies of the Field: Early Women Archaeologists and Their Search for Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Once over lightlyBy lisa marieThis book devotes a chapter each to 7 female archeologists. Leaving out the preachy and dated beginning and end chapters and spending more time on the archeologists would have made a better book. This was a pretty good read0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not well written, but great women, great accomplishments. The subject matters are so exciting it is a shame the author could noBy K. WeingartenToo bad the author could not capture the extraordinary excitement of these lives! I will read more about each of them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved This BookBy E. S.I devoured this book. I bought it mainly for reading about Harriet Howes and then read the rest. Well written and so interesting.

The first women archaeologists were Victorian era adventurers who felt most at home when farthest from it. Canvas tents were their domains, hot Middle Eastern deserts their gardens of inquiry and labor. Thanks to them, prevailing ideas about feminine nature soft, nurturing, submissive were upended. *Ladies of the Field* tells the story of seven remarkable women, each a pioneering archaeologist, each headstrong, smart, and courageous, who burst into what was then a very young science. Amanda Adams takes us with them as they hack away at underbrush under a blazing sun, battle swarms of biting bugs, travel on camelback for weeks on end, and feel the excitement of unearthing history at an archaeological site. Adams also reveals the dreams of these extraordinary women, their love of the field, their passion for holding the past in their hands, their fascination with human origins, and their utter disregard for convention.

From Publishers WeeklyAgatha Christie is perhaps the most well-known of the captivating women in this collection; her novels gained an exoticism from her postdivorce Middle Eastern archeological work. Adams (*A Mermaid's Tale: A Personal Search for Love and Lore*) traipses through archeology's early days to find seven significant pioneers who balanced their passions for potsherds, early culture, and humanity's origins with the more conventional Victorian and early 20th-century expectations of upper-class American and European women. Jane Dieulafoy, by contrast, who had dressed as a man to fight alongside her husband in the Franco-Prussian War, continued her cross-dressing for comfort's sake as the couple traveled in Persia. Family-financed, these adventurous women advanced archeology in sites as diverse as Mexico, Iraq, and Egypt, and Adams recounts their exploits in a cheerfully casual tone (Adams's descriptively good-humored prose ensures that each biographical chapter can be easily digested alone or taken as a whole in its chronological presentation). Full of well-researched facts, these tales of seven determined explorers will interest anyone looking for a good adventure. 60 bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistAdams pays long-overdue tribute to a truly remarkable group of women who defied societal norms and expectations in order to pursue their passion for archaeology. These Victorian- and Edwardian-era pioneers paved the way for future generations of women to fulfill their burning ambitions and gain acceptance in a male-dominated scientific arena. The seven women profiled include, among others, Amelia Edwards, the elder stateswoman affectionately known as the godmother of Egyptology; Gertrude Bell, the always fashionable Queen of the Desert; Jane Dieulafoy, a cross-dressing genius who enjoyed a astonishingly equal partnership with her archaeologist husband, Marcel Dieulafoy; and, surprisingly enough, Dame Agatha Christie, the mystery novelist whose digs provided plenty of background for her popular novels. The individual story of each of these women is fascinating enough to merit a full-length book; together, they represent a collective overview of an intelligent and courageous band of women who broke gender barriers and left a priceless archaeological legacy. --Margaret Flanagan "...descriptively good-humored prose... Full of well-researched facts, these tales of seven determined explorers will interest anyone looking for a good adventure."Publishers Weekly"Adams makes these inspirational women easily accessible"Library Journal"Adams pays long-overdue tribute to a truly remarkable group of women who defied societal norms and expectations in order to pursue their passion for archaeology"#8212Booklist