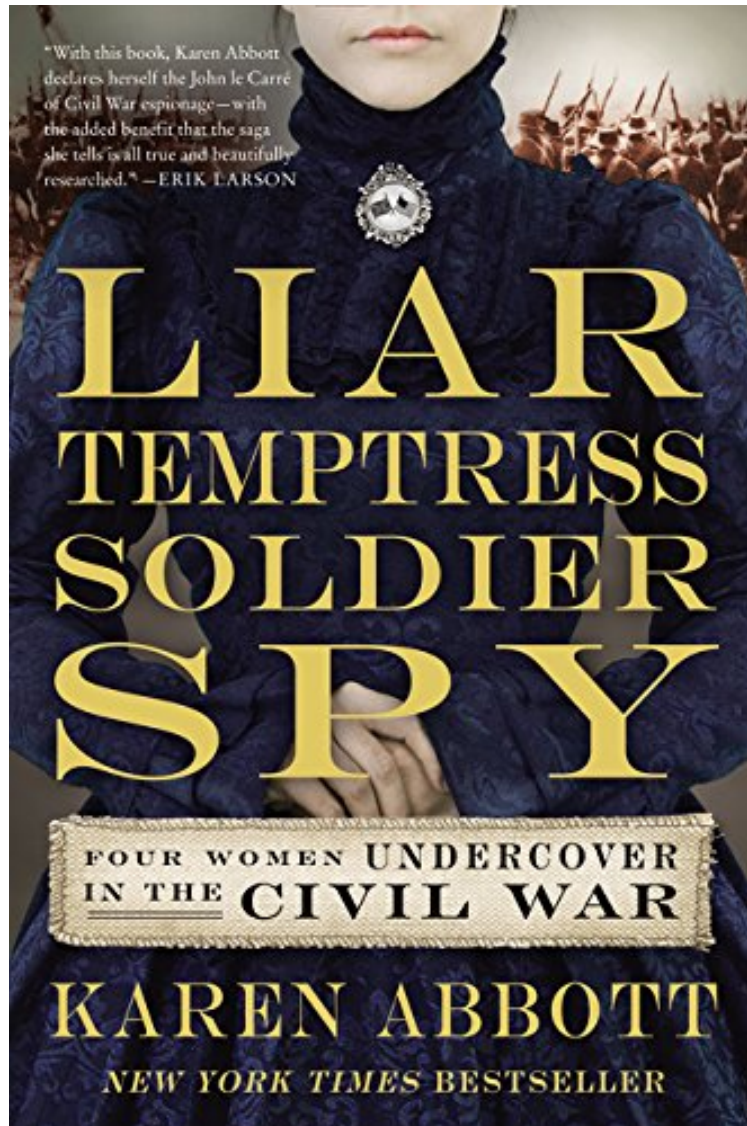


(Download) Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War

Karen Abbott

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#8810 in Books Abbott Karen 2015-09-08 2015-09-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.23 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062092901544 pagesLiar Temptress Soldier Spy Four Women Undercover in the Civil War | File size: 19.Mb

Karen Abbott : Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Four amazing women in the Civil WarBy SassyPantsThis is a

thorough and well researched book about four passionate women, each committed to winning the war. The book spans the years of the Civil War from 1861-65, with an epilogue explaining the fates of the women after the war. The book takes place predominately in Virginia. I grew up there, so I especially enjoyed reading about places I had visited many times as part of Virginia History, taught in schools. Guess what was not taught in school in the 1970's? The role of women in our state's early history! Four very different women are profiled. Belle Boyd is 17 years old when the war starts. She is a force of nature and has no fear. She also has quite an ego and has big aspirations to be the most valued and famous spy. Rose O'Neal Greenhow was head of a spy ring and a notorious flirt who had "relations" with many men. She was about 36 years old when the war started. Rose and Belle were fighting for the Confederacy. Fighting for the Union were Emma Edmondson and Elizabeth Van Lew. Elizabeth was a 43 year old spinster who passed important messages through the Richmond Underground and gained permission from a Confederate general to visit Union prisoners. Emma is my favorite. She joined the Union army as Frank Thompson. She worked in the hospital, fought, and also passed messages. She left the war on her own terms and became Emma again. I was blown away by the bravery and conviction of these women. I learned so much about spy tactics and the dangers involved. Sadly, all of these women came to an unhappy end. One died in service to her country, a couple lost children or married unhappily. All of them ended up nearly destitute. The book is well written, detailed, and contains some nice photos. I also read one of Ms. Abbott's other books, *Sin in the Second City*. I enjoyed this one more. My only negative comments are that I had some difficulty keeping track of the characters and I thought the book bogged down and moved slowly at times. I would still recommend it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *On Often Untold Aspect of the Civil War* By Andy Glass All in all this was an excellent collection of history/biography covering a rarely told element of the Civil War - or any conflict for that matter. The book shares the stories of four women from both sides of the war, and their efforts to aid their cause. As I read this book, my thought was, "well, yeah, of course women who were away from the front lines did things that were courageous and compassionate." Thing is, there's not much depth in terms of reading material on that aspect of things. I was very impressed with two of the women, Emma Edmonds and Elizabeth Van Lew. Don't want to put a spoiler in here, so I'll just say that these two had some steel in them. The others did as well, for other reasons, but Edmonds and Van Lew struck me more than the others. This should be required reading for all young people, regardless of gender, as it tells an important aspect of the Civil War that just isn't covered in many places. Excellent read!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ok but not outstanding By Jo in Northern MI Interesting but not one I would read again. It was a bit hard to follow as the book chapters kept going between the women through time. The book did not leave a big impression on me. The time periods of the women's lives were basically the same so there was some overlap in their experiences. The author did a good job of showing how different war loyalties separated families and friends and how local society treated those who did not follow the crowd in supporting "their" side.

Karen Abbott, the New York Times bestselling author of *Sin in the Second City* and pioneer of sizzle history (USA Today), tells the spellbinding true story of four women who risked everything to become spies during the Civil War. Karen Abbott illuminates one of the most fascinating yet little known aspects of the Civil War: the stories of four courageous women: a socialite, a farmgirl, an abolitionist, and a widow who were spies. After shooting a Union soldier in her front hall with a pocket pistol, Belle Boyd became a courier and spy for the Confederate army, using her charms to seduce men on both sides. Emma Edmonds cut off her hair and assumed the identity of a man to enlist as a Union private, witnessing the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The beautiful widow, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians to gather intelligence for the Confederacy, and used her young daughter to send information to Southern generals. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring, right under the noses of suspicious rebel detectives. Using a wealth of primary source material and interviews with the spies' descendants, Abbott seamlessly weaves the adventures of these four heroines throughout the tumultuous years of the war. With a cast of real-life characters including Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, General Stonewall Jackson, detective Allan Pinkerton, Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, and Emperor Napoleon III, *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* draws you into the war as these daring women lived it. *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* contains 39 black photos and 3 maps.

Not for nothing has Abbott been called a pioneer of sizzle history. Here she creates a gripping page-turner that moves at a breathtaking clip through the dramatic events of the Civil War. (Los Angeles Times) Engrossing *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* is conscientiously researched and smoothly written and structured. (Wall Street Journal) A revelation... Abbott profiles four [women], sometimes weaving, sometimes stacking their stories together into a compelling narrative. (USA Today (four stars)) Eloquent A riveting psychological inquiry and probing examination of the courage, incomparable patriotism, stamina, and agility of four women who repeatedly risked their lives to serve their citizenry... *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* [feels] like an operatic espionage novel, where deception, betrayal, love, and redemption are interspersed with gripping combat scenes and perilous rescues. (Los Angeles of Books) Karen Abbott's *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy*... is full of so many titillating dramas and details, you could be forgiven for periodically

checking the back of the book to make sure its nonfiction. (Christian Science Monitor)Gripping... a remarkable story of passion, strength, and resilience. (Publishers Weekly (Starred))Compelling... Karen Abbott stitches together a patchwork narrative as complex as a pieced quilt, combining the colorful, unrelated tales of four women who fought in the Civil War as surely as Lee and Grant [her] high achievement lies in her Augean compilation of published and archival material. (Washington Times)Abbotts prose is vivid, especially when she writes about battles and the terrible costs they exact. (Washington Post)Karen Abbotts powerful narrative is first rate American history about a fascinating, little-known chapter of the Civil War, as well as a compulsive, thrilling saga of espionage. Brilliant storytelling, highly accessible, and impossible to put down. (Gilbert King, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Devil in the Grove)Abbott[reveals] in such vivid detail the extraordinary lives of women who involved themselves so dangerously in the Civil War. This is that rare work of history that reads like a novel -- and a really good one at that -- and in which the truth is more thrilling than fiction. (Michael Korda, NY Times bestselling biographer of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ulysses S. Grant, and T. E. Lawrence)With this book, Karen Abbott declares herself the John le Carr of Civil War espionage--with the added benefit that the saga she tells is all true and beautifully researched. (Erik Larson, bestselling author of Devil in the White City)Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy by Karen Abbott is a masterpiece of narrative storytelling, backed by impeccable research and extraordinary material. I was gripped by every page. (Amanda Foreman, author of the award-winning best sellers Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire and A World on Fire: A Epic History of Two Nations Divided)Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy is a masterwork of suspenseful plots and unforgettable characters rendered in exacting, gorgeous detail--a brilliant new take on the heroines and villainesses of the Civil War. (Lydia Netzer, author of the New York Times notable book Shine Shine Shine)With Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy, Karen Abbott has taken history and written it with the eloquence of good fiction. Halfway through her book, I decided Ian Fleming could not have invented better spies nor have written about them with any more suspense. (Robert Hicks, New York Times bestselling author of The Widow of the South and A Separate Country)Thrilling, illuminating, heart-pounding. Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy reads like a crackling espionage novel...Karen Abbott brings to vivid life four of extraordinary and audacious women, and runs glorious roughshod over all our traditional notions of the role of women in the Civil War. (Megan Abbott, Edgar-award winning and New York Times bestselling author of Dare Me and The Fever)Beautifully written, meticulously researched, and paced like an edge-of-your-seat-novel---I love this big, ambitious, unstoppable book. (Joshilyn Jackson, New York Times bestselling author of Gods in Alabama and Someone Else's Love Story)The subjects of Karen Abbotts gripping story Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy leap up -- and almost off -- the page an irresistibly good tale of Civil War espionage and a reminder that the heroes of our history are often found in the most unexpected places. (Deborah Blum, New York Times bestselling author of The Poisoner's Handbook)Karen Abbotts Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy is the kind of page-turning book you can get so absorbed in that you keep forgetting its nonfiction. (Bustle.com)From the Back CoverA Library Journal Best Book of 2014A Christian Science Monitor Best Book of 2014New York Times bestselling author Karen Abbott tells the spellbinding true story of four women who risked everything during the Civil War.Seventeen-year-old Belle Boyd, an avowed rebel with a dangerous temper, shot a Union soldier in her home, and became a courier and spy for the Confederate army, using her considerable charms to seduce men on both sides. Emma Edmonds disguised herself as a man to enlist as a Union private named Frank Thompson, witnessing the bloodiest battles of the war and infiltrating enemy lines. The beautiful widow Rose O'Neal Greenhow engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians and used her young daughter to send information to Southern generals. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring even placing a former slave inside the Confederate White House right under the noses of increasingly suspicious rebel detectives.With a cast of real-life characters, including Nathaniel Hawthorne, General Stonewall Jackson, Detective Allan Pinkerton, Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, and Emperor Napoleon III, Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy shines a dramatic new light on these daring and, until now, unsung heroines.About the AuthorKaren Abbott is the New York Times bestselling author of Sin in the Second City, American Rose, and, most recently, Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy. She has written for the New York Times Book , Wall Street Journal, Smithsonian magazine, Salon, and other publications.