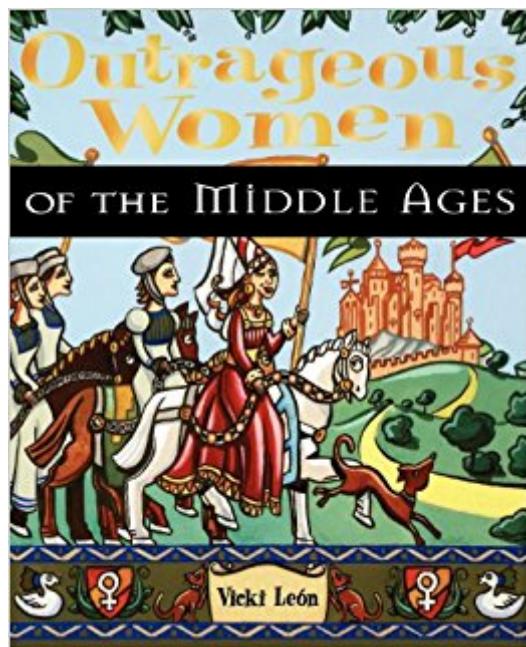


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Outrageous Women Of The Middle Ages



Synopsis

Some were feisty and fiery. Others were cool and dangerous. All were incredibly courageous. Outrageous Women of The Middle Ages took on the challenge of their world--and didn't worry about ruffling a few feathers. Among the outrageous women you'll meet are: * Eleanor of Aquitaine--queen of France and later England, she led a group of women on the Second Crusade and created her own financial system * Lady Murasaki Shikibu--besides being a wife and mother, she learned the "forbidden" language of Chinese and wrote the world's first novel * Aud the Deep-Minded--a Viking wise woman and explorer who led her clan, grandchildren and all, on a risky voyage from Scotland to Iceland * Hildegarde of Bingen--the German nun who, late in life, became a composer, a botanist, and founded convents * Damia al-Kahina--a nomadic freedom fighter, skilled at peacemaking and war, who kept her North African homeland free

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-10-As she did in *Outrageous Women of Ancient Times* (Wiley, 1997), Leon again uses lively prose and modern comparisons to make the past understandable to young people. "When religion was the only game in town," readers learn, Hildegard of Bingen lived "in a gloomy torch-lit room about the size of a breakfast nook." The author's characteristic blend of playful language and historical accuracy tells of a Viking killed by a severed head, a queen who knew the meaning of congregating frogs, and much more. The stories and sidebars provide a detailed picture of the times. It is rare to see a book about the Middle Ages that presents such diversity. The women profiled lived in the 6th through 14th centuries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Their spheres included

everything from astronomy to warfare. They were nomads and empresses. The list for further reading is impressive; the black-and-white drawings and reproductions are appropriate for the text. Patrons who found Karen Cushman's *Catherine Called Birdy* (1994) and *The Midwife's Apprentice* (1995, both Clarion) interesting will find this book fascinating. *Rebecca O'Connell, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA* Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The history of the Middle Ages generally presents the brave deeds of men, and Len, through painstaking and thorough research, presents the stories of 14 influential women of Europe, Africa, and the Far East, from 500 b.c. through a.d. 1500. Among them is Aud, a Viking woman from Norway, who, as a grandmother, moved her family to Iceland in a boat built of oak and pine; Matilda, of England, who fought ``to win over the majority of English vassals''; Eleanor of Aquitaine, ``the most celebrated queen of the Middle Ages''; Hildegard of Bingen, who possessed vast visions and spiritual gifts; Khadija bint Khuwaylid, the first wife of the prophet Mohammed; and Murasaki Shikibu, of Japan, who wrote *The Tale of Genji*. Detracting from the inherently fascinating material is the author's regular use of contemporary slang ``tough cookies,'' ``trotted the globe,'' ``grandkids,'' ``bum's rush,'' ``[marriage] on the rocks,'' ``whippersnapper,'' ``eggheads and nerds,'' etc. which may prevent the book from withstanding the test of time. (b&w illustrations, maps, chronology, further reading) (Nonfiction. 11-13) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Fun book geared towards younger folks but still fun reading. Unusual assortment of women that we don't hear much about and should. Quick delivery from vendor.

I would definitely recommend this book. My daughter is 8. It is a good match for her. Plus it is so interesting.

This series, books for kids on the Middle Ages, is great for introducing grade schoolers to a time that is so distant in one way and so magically close in another. This certainly presents the better dies of times, but it is a start and lots of fun - the kind of thing that may make them want to learn more. I write about this period and I keep these around to refresh my head when what I am doing getting too academic.

I did not pay attention to the full description. This is probably written on a junior high school or younger level. I ended up gifting it to someone's daughter. Not a bad book to introduce young

people to some of the charismatic characters that existed centuries ago!

Another good book of Outrageous Women! Quite a few in this series and not one has disappointed! It seems like only the men of the ages were written about and the women forgotten! Well these books correct that oversight!

Great!

An anthology of Medieval Women who accomplished great things during their lives. My favorite is Trotula Platearius, an Italian woman, (around 1050-1080). She studied at the University of Salerno (the Johns Hopkins of her day) and became a doctor. She specialized in women's health after realizing that many women would rather suffer than explain their problems to a man. She originated many techniques for surgeries, and she noticed that good hygiene kept patients alive longer. Trotula wrote many books which were hand-copied, translated, and used all over Europe. 2. Outrageous Women of the Middle Ages is very well done. The women are arranged by the area in which they lived, each unit has a map of the area. There are great information boxes to help explain points and places of importance. The back of the book has suggested reading, with a note about the primary resources for the book. There is also a timeline on the very last page placing the women in chronological order. If I were to use this book in an upper elementary or lower middle school classroom, I would let students read about one or two women and research her more in depth. I would also use this book to get children interested in biographies.

This book is about women in the middle ages who were under twenty and had significant recognition in the outside world. It is appropriate for readers of all ages. Its content being educational and yet fun. Its subjects vary in greatness and culture, having everyone from infamous to famous characters who left written records. Their achievements have helped to modernize the role of women.

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