

Risky Women

BY AMY L. FORBES

What do (and what did) women have to do to be taken seriously- to be respected, to get equal rights, and to be (or to get) so many other things? When are women going to stop having to prove that we are just as capable as men are? Women have left their marks in history, some in their lifetimes, some after. Women also have accomplished a lot of amazing firsts.

Elizabeth Blackwell, as legend has it, was first admitted to medical school as a joke, but the tables turned. Any laughter turned to respect when she earned her medical degree in 1849, which made her the first woman in the United States to accomplish this. Her determination to become a doctor and to help people led her to open her own hospital, when she couldn't get any hands-on training after she graduated. Eventually she was allowed to attend General Medical College. She was an amazing woman with a lot of determination; she knew what she wanted and went for it.

No one can say that women don't pursue their passions. Amelia Earhart was led by her passion for flying, and that passion led her to many firsts. Amelia was the first woman to get a pilot's license, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, and the first person to fly from the Hawaiian Islands to the United States' mainland. But then, in 1937, her plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean, and she was never heard from again. Before taking off, this brave woman had written a letter to her husband saying, "Please know that I am aware of the hazards of this trip. I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail their failure must be a challenge to others."

So many women have changed the lives of women today in different ways and for different career paths, like Elizabeth Blackwell with medical careers, and Amelia Earhart with flying. If it weren't for all the women who stood up for womens' rights and took chances, the lives of women today would be more difficult and challenging. I am grateful for those women and everything they did for womens' rights.



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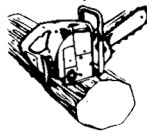

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A world of ██████ falling at her feet,
the pail that holds the homemade pb and j sandwich,
the small body sitting,
laughing,
smiling,
remembering the lost memories,
memories of years before,
one room,
unheated,
except the small wood stove sitting in the corner,
steaming, popping, and crackling in the corner,
frozen days,
the frozen ideas thawing slowly,
remembering the faded memories of the past days,
the small class silently memorizing their daily math,
the chanting of "2x2 is four, 4x4 is sixteen etc."
the moments unknown that need to be free,
and blowing freely in the walls and desks waiting to be known,
and be important.


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