



Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future!

Kate Schatz , Miriam Klein Stahl (Illustrations)

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The *New York Times* Bestseller!

"This is The Most Inspiring Children's Book We've Ever Seen."--Refinery29.com

"The very first kids' book released by the iconic publishing house City Lights, *Rad American Women A-Z* navigates the alphabet from Angela Davis to Zora Neale Hurston with colorful illustrations and short, powerful narratives. The perfect gift for the junior riot grrl in your life."--*Bust Magazine*

"The History of Feminism--in an Awesome Picture Book. The ABCs just got a major girl-power upgrade."--Chantal Strasburger, *Teen Vogue*

Like all A-Z books, this one illustrates the alphabet—but instead of "A is for Apple", A is for Angela—as in Angela Davis, the iconic political activist. B is for Billie Jean King, who shattered the glass ceiling of sports; C is for Carol Burnett, who defied assumptions about women in comedy; D is for Dolores Huerta, who organized farmworkers; and E is for Ella Baker, who mentored Dr. Martin Luther King and helped shape the Civil Rights Movement.

And the list of great women continues, spanning several centuries, multiple professions, and 26 diverse individuals. There are artists and abolitionists, scientists and suffragettes, rock stars and rabble-rousers, and agents of change of all kinds.

The book includes an introduction that discusses what it means to be "rad" and "radical," an afterword with 26 suggestions for how you can be "rad," and a Resource Guide with ideas for further learning and reading.

American history was made by countless rad—and often radical—women. By offering a fresh and diverse array of female role models, we can remind readers that there are many places to find inspiration, and that being smart and strong and brave is rad.

Rad American Women will be appreciated by various age groups. It is Common Core aligned for students grades 3 - 8. Pre-school and young children will be captured by the bright visuals and easily modified texts, while the subject matter will stimulate and inspire high-schoolers and beyond.

"This is not a book. This is a guest list for a party of my heroes. Thank you for inviting us." —Lemony Snicket, author of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* books

"I feel honored to be included in this book. Women need to take radical steps to become feminists, and to be strong to fight for their rights and those of others facing oppression and discrimination. The world needs *rad* women to create a just society." —Dolores Huerta, Labor Leader, Civil Rights Activist

"It's almost always with a chuckle that I view a cartoon image of myself. But to see cartoon-me positioned (alphabetically) amongst so many of my women heroes and role models . . . well, I just broke down and

cried. Happy tears. I surely hope that this one-of-a-kind collection of radical American women reaches the hands of all children who want to grow up and become amazing women." —Kate Bornstein, author of *My New Gender Workbook*

"I was totally in rapture reading this book. Bold women, bold colors, and fierce black paper cutouts. I cheer these histories of women who fight not for war or country or corporation, but for EVERYONE! I can't wait for my son to read this." —Nikki McClure, Illustrator of *All in a Day*

Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future! Details

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From Reader Review Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future! for online ebook

Vicki says

This book was well-written and hit all the right notes. If I still taught middle school, I would read aloud a page from this every day during March for Women's History Month.

L.A. says

Attention subversive moms and dads: this is the children's book you give to your kids if you want them to start off on the socially conscious left foot, as it were. Each letter of the alphabet is attached to a woman who helped change the world. A one-page short essay, faced by a gorgeous illustration of the woman in question, explains who she is and why she's awesome. The letter X, which stands for all the unknown women who did great things, moved me to tears - I'm photocopying that two-page spread and hanging it up somewhere I can see it all the time. There's also a bibliography of kids' books for further reading, and a list of web resources I'll be photocopying as well. Solid stuff all around, highly recommended for all kids' collections.

Jazmyne says

What a great book!! I'm very glad my bf gave it to me for our anniversary :) I wish it weren't limited to 26 women, but the list of 26 they wrote about is so inclusive and amazing. There were diverse races, cultures, sexualities, and more on every page. Plus, the language of this book makes it super accessible to readers from ages 10-100, and the content is still thought provoking. Additionally, the resources at the back of this book make it easy to find more materials about rad women in and out of the book. Rad American Women A-Z definitely has a spot in my future classroom library.

Sanja_Sanjalica says

Just great, learned a lot.

Darcy says

Yesssssss this book was so rad, you guys! I learned so many things and the simple, bold illustrations were perfect for my infant eyesight. Only complaint: I have lots of questions after hearing about all of these women and I can't talk yet. Will have to reread again and again!

Ian says

Quite an interesting book about some great American women who have lived courageous and influential lives. I'd heard of some but most were new to me. It's the sort of book that every young boy and girl should be given.

It's written for young readers who are just moving from picture books to chapter books.

Courtney Hatch says

3.5 stars. There were some really great things about this book, and then there were some poorly-executed things. I think the thing that confused me the most was it's intended audience. It uses an ABC format and bright colors, so it feels like it's intended for children, but some of the vocabulary and inferred background knowledge seemed way too advanced for a child. It was weird to have some words explained in really simple terms stand in sentences next to other words or references that were just as out of reach for that age group. So I am rating it a little lower than I expected because it seemed a little rushed/disorganized/confused about what it's real purpose should be. The other thing that was a little off-putting was how preachy and even propaganda-like it felt sometimes. It was just a little too repetitive and in your face for my taste. BUT I did, of course, love reading about some amazing women and their accomplishments. There were a couple that I hadn't heard of, and I loved feeling inspired by them. A wonderful idea--a little sloppy in the execution.

Joshua says

A really fantastic book, written for I'd say 4-6th graders, this book looks at 25 amazing American women (both cis and trans). I have to admit I hadn't heard of a lot of them, which I guess is the point, so I definitely learned a lot from reading. Of particular importance was X which stands for "For the women who aren't in the history books or the Hall of Fame, or on postage stamps and coins. for the women who didn't get credit for their ideas and inventions, who couldn't own property or sign their own names. The women who weren't taught to read or write but managed to communicate anyway, who weren't allowed to work but still supported their families, or who worked every day but weren't paid as much as men"

I highly recommend this book regardless of if you have children of your own. Buy it, read it, educate yourself and become the rad Aunt (or Uncle) who gets to teach the lil ones in your life about these women who kicked ass

Elizabeth says

an alphabet that spans from Angela Davis to Zora Neale Hurston?

um, yeah.
this is rad.
RAD.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Covering 25+ American women who influenced a wide variety of public arenas, this book is a great choice for middle grade readers to introduce them to a diverse group of women they may not have heard of! From the somewhat well known (Billie Jean King, Bessie Coleman, Nellie Bly) to women of whom I had never heard, each entry gives a brief overview of the woman's life and how she influenced the world. Accompanied by brightly colored illustrations, this would be a fantastic book to use in the classroom for Women's History Month. Since the entries are short, teachers could read one a day. I wouldn't be at all surprised if teachers bought an extra copy to cut up and laminate for a bulletin board. In fact, I think City Lights should consider packaging the illustrations this way-- on one page with the text!

If my youngest daughter ever has children, this would be the sort of thing she would take to the hospital to read to a newborn, in much the same way I read her D'Aulaire's Greek Myths! In fact, I may have to go buy multiple copies for just such gift giving purposes!

What a great book for #WeNeedDiverseBooks. And I particularly appreciated how the title specified the descriptive "American", although "US" would have been even better.

Katie says

this is lovely, unique, so wonderful, and very much needed.

The "X is for the women whose names we don't know" page brought tears to my eyes and gave me goosebumps.

I want to give this to every young girl that I know.

Dov Zeller says

What is black and white and blue and red and yellow and green and fuschia and orange and starts with Angela Davis and ends with Zora Neale Hurston? This wonderful little book of mini-biographies. Wow. The writer speaks eloquently and intelligently about many revolutionary women and the contexts in which they lived and loved and fought and did a lot of great things. Queerness and transness are addressed in ways that are perhaps not perfect, but certainly thoughtful and it's wonderful that Kate Bornstein is in here (between Jovita Idar and Lucy Parsons.)

The main thing I'm struggling with in terms of choices of people for this book, is that Isadora Duncan is in here. It seems strange for a book like this to include someone who is known for saying seriously racist stuff. I mean, that's not all she's known for, but I kind of wish it could have been Ida B. Wells or Isabella Friedman

or...

Schatz's text is nicely complemented by Miriam Klein Stahl's papercut illustrations. This is not necessarily a picture book in the conventional sense, and the illustrations are not really "Story-book" illustrations. It's more of a mini reference book/tiny encyclopedia (if one can say such a thing).

In any case, I recommend this book to just about anyone. And I hope many adults share it with the kids in their lives (regardless of gender). And I look forward to checking out Kate Schatz's other work.

Shelly says

I previously read Rad Women Worldwide and liked it a lot. This one isn't written quite as well but it's still good and I would recommend it to middle grade kids. The variety of people chosen is excellent and I was especially happy to see Temple Grandin for the letter T.

Mateen Mahboubi says

What a wonderful book providing brief bios of various women who left their mark on the US. Was appreciative of the diversity represented but felt like it would have benefited from more Native american representation. I am greatly looking forward to reading Rad Women Worldwide.

Initially we got this to read with my eldest but it didn't really work out. At three and a half, there was just so much about the world that he didn't understand to make it a worthwhile read. While we had no issue answering his questions, we thought that it would be best to leave it for another few years and try again. I can't wait to share it with him then.

Edward Sullivan says

An excellent collection of brief profiles of great women, some well-known and some not. There were a few, like Jovita Idar, Lucy Parsons, and Virginia Apgar, that I'd never heard of, and most of the others have not been widely covered for children in singular biographies or other anthologies. The author also does an excellent job with the dreaded X.
