



Soldier's Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson

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In the 1700s, women's responsibilities were primarily child rearing and household duties. But Deborah Sampson wanted more from life. She wanted to read, to travel—and to fight for her country's independence. When the colonies went to war with the British in 1775, Deborah was intent on being part of the action. Seeing no other option, she disguised herself in a man's uniform and served in the Continental army for more than a year, her identity hidden from her fellow soldiers.

Accomplished writer Sheila Solomon Klass creates a gripping firstperson account of an extraordinary woman who lived a life full of danger, adventure, and intrigue.

Soldier's Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson Details

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Author : Sheila Solomon Klass

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From Reader Review Soldier's Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson for online ebook

Kaelyn Medina says

It was good for my Deborah Sampson report.

Tara Chevrestt says

Deborah Sampson really existed. She was a Massachusetts gal who donned a pair of britches and fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary war. This is a fictional account of her life, parts of it anyway...

To read the full review, please click on the following link:

<http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2010/...>

Whitney Rushing says

Great historical fiction option for middle-school age. Some suspense with a lot of Civil War connections makes it an exciting semi non-fiction read.

Heidi Hilsmier says

"Soldier's Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson" by Sheila Solomon Klass unfolds the incredible true story of Deborah Sampson. Deborah was a "give-away child" that simply wanted to be the equal of any man. Her desire to fight for her country drove her to pretend to be a boy and enlist in the Continental army. Deborah's inspirational true story is a heroine's tale that proves women can really do anything that men can do.

Jordan says

I read Soldiers Secret The Story of Deborah Sampson written by Sheila Solomon Klass and this book is based on the time period in the American Revolutionary War in 1775-1783. In this book Deborah is sent to war to fight against the British, but girls aren't supposed to be in the war. Deborah is sent to the army (p.64) and is a woman and they aren't supposed to be there. She left her mother at home. Deborah is very nice and peaceful. She does not like to fight or be in the army (p.21,30). The story is based on Deborah in the war and hiding and being brave. She is not the best fighter but she can not fight because she is not brave. "I felt very proud. "I am ready sir." Then feeling a great sadness, I wandered aside where none could see me, and with my hunting knife, I hacked off my hair. It is for your country, Deborah, I comforted myself to stop weeping."

(p.93).

The point of view in this story is from Deborah's point of view. This effects the story because she is the main character and she is a girl. She is hiding a lot of things and is mysterious how she does it. She also does very interesting things. "I wandered aside where no one could see me and hacked off my hair." (p.93). Some of the themes in this story was don't judge a book by its cover because even if Deborah is a girl she can still do many things as a boy or man could do in the army. Deborah could be a girl but could be braver than other men, for example Deborah is not a fighter but proves she is brave enough to go into the army. Another theme for this book is Lost love because she falls in love with someone during the book but is separated because she has to go into the army. Her boyfriend's name was Lucas. Deborah sent letters to him telling him she was ok. Also this effected the story because she would take time to tell the readers how her lifetime was and what would be going on during the war and at her house. Two mood words for this book would be Love and bravery. I say love because she loves her boyfriend and wants to be in his arms and protected. Also I say bravery because she is very brave not to be afraid of the war but is confident in herself in what she can do. An important quote in this book is "I know there will be scorn and calumny for the woman soldier, but I live in hope that there may be one day an honorable discharge for Deborah Sampson." (p.207) This was important because this told me the reader that who Deborah was and how she lived her life during the war. Also it is very brave of her to go into the war knowing you are not supposed to be there. Also, to the other characters in the book like her mom she would be very sad and depressed because she loved Deborah because she died at age 66.

I can relate to the character because she is not very brave and I would be scared out of my mind if I were to be going into the army like Deborah. I would not be ready. "I am scared out of ,my mind, I couldn't fall asleep." (p.46). This would be me if I was in her situation and I would be very scared and my heart would be beating even thinking about it. This was a very interesting and detailed book. I would recommend it to people who love reading Historical Fiction and true stories because it was very descriptive and sad to think about someone who had to go through this and be away from their mom and friends. Also If I were to give it a rating of 1-10 I would give this book a 7 because it was very interesting but it needed better climax and more action during the war. There was a couple parts where I liked but would of wanted more of it.

SPOILER ALERT!!!

In the beginning of the book Deborah is sent to the army and only has a couple days to prepare and get ready. She is a woman so during the American Revolutionary war woman were not allowed in the army so Deborah is very scared and nervous. Once she is sent to the army she is nervous out of her mind. "I am scared out of my mind, I couldn't fall asleep." (p.46). Once she is on the army and in the war she is hiding and doesn't want to be seen or killed. She is missing her boyfriend Lucas and wants to be comforted by his company and love. Later on in the story the war ends and she is sent home and missed her mom and hugged her and kissed her and same with Lucas. Towards the end Deborah died at the age of 66. This is a true story and Deborah is still remembered today from the American Revolutionary war.

Suzanne Dix says

This is a really fascinating story about a true heroine. I loved learning about Deborah Sampson and really

enjoyed this first-person narration.

Rebecca says

Deborah Sampson is one of many women who disguised themselves as men to join the Revolution. In this fictionalized biography, Deborah's mother gave her away at the age of five, and indentured her as a servant at the age of eight. When Deborah finally escapes at age eighteen, she seeks more freedom than the culture allows women, and starts experimenting with male dress. Eventually, she flees an unwanted suitor and joins the Continental Army, maintaining her deception for well over a year. She participates in many battles and scouting expeditions, getting wounded and having to do her own doctoring. Klass, like Durrant in 'My Last Skirt,' adds in a doomed love interest in the form of a fellow soldier, but for the most part follows Deborah's true story.

Klass tells Deborah's story succinctly and well. Her tale is well-structured, and Deborah clearly presents her reasons for cross-dressing: "Of one thing I am certain: I never wanted to be a boy or a man. I was content in my femininity. What I always wanted was to be the equal of any boy." (25) Klass goes into much detail on how Sampson maintained her deception, and how she studied men for a long time before attempting to act like one. Readers interested in such complications will appreciate the level of detail.

Marcia says

Deborah Sampson's story is incredible; a woman disguising herself convincingly and becoming a soldier during the Revolutionary War. Hard to fathom, really. I love the time period and her bravery. It is a great story.

I grabbed this book for a quick read as it hasn't circulated and I was debating whether to weed it. The problem for me is it is fictionalized. I want a straight biography. I think that's why it hasn't gone out---middle schoolers who may be interested in studying Sampson need straight nonfiction. definitely worth another shot.

Kitkat says

2.5 stars

The book was long and boring. But I loved that it was based on true woman who disguised as a man. I loved that she took revenge for Roger who she loved. I loved that when she told the general they laughed because a woman out beat them. I thought it was an okay book.

Abby says

I read this book in one afternoon, and it was satisfying, even though it was only 200 pages long. I liked Deborah Sampson's narrating voice, except for that little whine of feminism that the author let slip through

sometimes. But for the most part, I get it; Deborah Sampson did break the rules by enlisting to be a soldier. Overall it was an enjoyable read.

Anthony says

So, an average woman in the late 1700's with, at the time, inhuman thoughts about joining the army. She eventually does, but not before camouflaging herself as a boy. So does this book fire the musket into the readers favorite section, or will it be sliced in half by the redcoats?

To start off, we get an entry point that has absolutely no effect on the story later. Good job, guys. Basicly, Deborah Sampson, or Robert Schultz (I think. Correct me if I'm wrong) as her boy name, tries to fake her death. She fails after she gets a common case of the hiccups. Don't think the bad luck ends for Deborah ends there, either. She suffers through a very hard childhood, if you could call it one. She had to start motherly chores at the ripe old age of 8. Deborah was a "Give-away child". She lived with people who never loved her, and, at best, enslaved her. At age 18, she finally did what she should have done a long time ago; run far, far away.

She joined the army having nothing else to do. And so, the adventure begins! I do NOT want to tell you anymore, because this is a book people don't usually pick up. Sure, it was in the top ten historical fiction books at some point, but who would notice? Bring on the scale!

Epic
Awesome X
Meh
Bad
Terrible

Yeah, this book is pretty good. As a matter of fact I will say one thing more; Deborah Sampson actually existed. And with that, I will see you in cyberspace

Michyla Tucker says

Deborah Sampson just wanted the same opportunities men have/had. Basically in the 1700's during the revolutionary war women didn't have the same opportunities as men. Women's responsibilities were taking care of their child and cleaning up their homes. But Deborah Sampson wanted more for herself. Her only problem was that she was a woman. The theme of the story was if you put your mind to anything you can do it.

The title relates to the book because the soldier does have a secret the secret is that she is a woman wanting to fight for her country and have equal rights as men. A major event that changed the character was when Deborah was so anxious to take action that she disguised herself as a man to go into war hiding herself from her fellow soldiers.

I was moved by the fact that Deborah Sampson went out of her way to help the independence of her country

by dressing as a man and fighting in the wars men fought in.

I rate the book 3 stars because it wasn't the type of book I was interested in but it was a successful story. I would recommend this book to a person that is interested in books about successful people and or women. You can do anything that you put your mind to no matter what a stereotype says.

Rebecca says

This book was fantastic.

It is amazing how weak and stupid men used to (And sadly some still do) think that us women are when there are countless examples of how equal we are to them as in the story of the brave heroine Deborah Sampson who didn't accept her 'role' in society and did what she wanted to do, fight for her country.

Just reading this book made me mad (Because of the injustices suffered by women), glad (Because of Deborah's spunk and feminist spirit even before the word had been invented), sad (For how much women have suffered for thousands of years and how it is not very well known) and at the same time that much more sure of why I am a feminist. For equality.

I have often said that a woman can do anything a man can if she shirks aside the pressure from society telling her she is inferior and can't do 'manly' things because she is a woman and this book proved my point.

Deborah spent one and a half years in the army going through the same things that the men around her did and more (She had to pull the bullets out of her own body for she couldn't go to a doctor and have her secret revealed) and was no less a fantastic soldier because she was a woman. Not once did she have to rely on the men to help her because she was a woman and not once where the men slowed down by her.

In the end she had to fear for her life when her secret was revealed for other woman who had disguised themselves as men to fight for their country had been flogged, publicly humiliated, and shamed for simply wanting to be equal. That is disgusting but sadly it is a part of our American History (and World history) that has been ignored. People say that the feminist movement was uncalled for and horrible for women have always been treated with the highest respect and equality as men. These people have never read their history (A much hidden history) for they would know the truths of Deborah's and thousands of other women's lives for thousands of years and the abuse, subjugation and inequality that they suffered through.

This book was fantastic and I highly recommend any who think they know America's history of the Revolution to read it and find out just how equal women are to men and what women who are subjugated and do not want to be forced into a certain position because of their sex will do to be equal.

Allison says

Klass, Sheila Solomon Soldier's Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson pgs. 215 Henry Holt and Co.
Language~G, Sexual Content~PG; Violence~PG-13

"In the 1700s, women's responsibilities were primarily child rearing and household duties. But Deborah Sampson wanted more from life. She wanted to read, to travel—and to fight for her country's independence." from front flap

Growing up Deborah Sampson was a head strong girl, always going against convention. It is no surprise that when she turned 18 and was finally her own woman, that she decided to turn convention completely on its head. Assuming the name of Robert Shurtliff, Deborah enlisted and fought in the Continental Army for over

a year. Klass takes this extraordinary true story and builds a wonderful historical fiction adventure about a strong female heroine. In her author's note, Klass does provide a brief biographical sketch and a chronology of events.

There is no sex or sexual innuendo, but there is discussion of breasts and menstruation. The violence is minimal and stems from war action.

MS/HS –ESSENTIAL Allison Madsen~Teen Librarian-SJO Public Library

Emma Clark says

This is a powerful book about a young girl who dresses up as a man to fight in the revolutionary war. this is a great book for all people to show how everyone has power and can make a difference in the world.
