



## **Behind Every Great Man: The Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous**

*Marlene Wagman-Geller*

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**Who Said Men Get to Monopolize the Glory?**

**Discover the Little Known Women Who Have Put the World's Alpha Males on the Map.**

From ancient times to the present, men have gotten most of the good ink. Yet standing just outside the spotlight are the extraordinary, and overlooked, wives and companions who are just as instrumental in shaping the destinies of their famous—and infamous—men.

This witty, illuminating book reveals the remarkable stories of forty captivating females, from Constance Lloyd (Mrs. Oscar Wilde) to Carolyn Adams (Mrs. Jerry Garcia), who have stood behind their legendary partners and helped to humanize them, often at the cost of their own careers, reputations, and happiness. Through fame and its attendant ills—alcoholism, infidelity, mental illness, divorce, and even attempted murder—these powerful women quietly propelled their men to the top and changed the course of history.

**Meet the Untold Half of History, Including:**

- Alma Reville (Mrs. Alfred Hitchcock)
- Elena Diakonova (Mrs. Salvador Dali)
- Winifred Madikizela (Mrs. Nelson Mandela)
- Ann Charteris (Mrs. Ian Fleming, a.k.a. Mrs. James Bond)
- Ruth Alpern (Mrs. Bernie Maddoff)

And 35 more!

## **Behind Every Great Man: The Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous Details**

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# **From Reader Review Behind Every Great Man: The Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous for online ebook**

## **Vicki Hoppenrath says**

This book was very interesting. It was illuminating about many of the women. You realize that many were invisible while their husbands were in the Spotlight.

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## **Katherine P says**

The length of the chapters was really perfect. It was just long enough to give us a good understanding of where each woman came from, how she met her famous (or infamous) husband, and what her life was like as a married woman. There was enough to get a sense of the woman without getting overly bogged down in detail. I thought her choices of women was terrific as they were all the wives of people I was familiar with but almost all the names were new to me. I know nothing about Einstein's first wife, or General MacArthur's wife and even less about Ghandi's wife. And poor poor Mrs. Oscar Wilde. The mix of women is fascinating. Some are tragic, some are heartbreakingly patient, some are crazy (Gala Dali comes to mind), but they are all passionate women who sacrificed so much to support their husband. Wagman-Geller's voice comes through and you get touches of her opinion on some of the men and dashes of humor which keep the book interesting but still a light read.

Overall: The chapters in the book were addicting. Each time I came to a new chapter I thought "well I want to learn about her. I'll just read one more." I thoroughly enjoyed getting a look at the women behind (or propping up) the famous men!

Full Review: <http://iwishilivedinalibrary.blogspot...>

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## **nikkia neil says**

I enjoyed this book so much! I learned a lot about history that i didn't know and its helped me understand more of the historical fiction I read also. Everyone needs to read this!

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## **Kelly Hubbard says**

I loved the idea of this book, however I found myself annoyed by the writing style of the author as well as the lack of content. There are a couple chapters that I have marked as I would like to do a bit more research on but mainly I found that the author was reciting the wikipedia page of the women in question. I wanted to know more about their story beyond where they were born, their parents and if they had children or not. I wanted to know how they influenced their husbands, agreed/disagreed with their husbands behind closed doors, etc. Now, to be fair, there were a few chapters that illustrated how these women played a vital role in their husbands life but the remainder failed to bring the woman out of the shadow of her husband.

As for the authors writing style, I can appreciate that Wegman-Geller was trying to be witty but I found the majority of the work to be tedious to read. I kept asking myself, "did an editor even read this?"

In a nutshell---a lot of potential, but fell short of the goal!

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### **Cathi says**

While I enjoyed the premise of this book the writing was a bit disjointed. The writer seemed torn between styles. Certain sections would lean towards tell-all gossip, which was interesting, and more formal sections, which conveyed information and a sense of timeline. Occasionally I would read an entire section only to realize I'd forgotten the woman's name, because it was only mentioned once or twice. Writing like that, did not highlight the woman herself, and several sections often seemed more dedicated to the man than the woman. I liked the book, but I think it could have used a stronger editing process.

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### **Briana says**

The thought behind this book was, and is, a really good one; however, the execution leaves something to be desired.

The author's metaphors and similes are sloppy and juvenile, at best, and attempt to compare things that really have no business being compared to each other.

The pencil illustrations at the sides of the pages are distracting and not necessary. If she really needed to include pictures, why no include photos of the people of whom she is speaking. It would have been much better.

Still, I learned a lot about certain women I knew nothing about, but I did wish for a bit more detail in the too-short chapters.

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### **Sweetpea says**

I received a free copy of this book from the GoodReads First Reads Program in exchange for an honest review. Both entertaining and educational, I really enjoyed this book.

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### **Rhonda Lomazow says**

A wonderful read really a must for all the strong women who stand behind their man.you'll laugh &you'll learn history of famous&infamous couples .the good the bad&other ugly.this book would make for a great book club read.

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### **Julia Bragg says**

This book had such a potential to tell an amazing story - it really did. However, it didn't tell that story. It was

basically like reading each woman's wikipedia page, instead of focusing on their individual accomplishments aside from where they grew up, who their parents are, and their children. This book failed this women just as society "forgot" as the title suggests.

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### **Katy Cater says**

This book was not well-written. One thing that really bothered me is that the author attributes thoughts to people. For instance, "He assured her of its success by explaining all women loved furs; she bit her tongue from responding the only time she had ever seen one was on the shoulders of his lovers, a present from him." Maybe this thought was stated in an autobiography or letter, but the presentation seems strange to me. I also feel like the majority of the stories I read were less about the woman than her husband's marital infidelities. While the premise behind this book is great, and I would love to read a more scholarly presentation of many of these women's lives, I will not be finishing this book.

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### **Sara says**

So far so good. This is my first Wagman-Geller book, I like the length of the chapters and her wit. The only thing I hate is the work is not unbiased which almost caused me to put it down.

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### **Reading Harbor says**

\*\*\*Disclaimer: This was a Good Reads Win.\*\*\*

I was excited to receive this book because I thought it would offer some insightful vignettes as to how some great women helped raise/ support / nurture men. As you know, most of history is written by men - the feminist movement did not start until late, maybe 1920-ish in America and is still non-existent in some parts of the world. Although I would not necessarily consider myself a staunch feminist, I do support history correctly reflecting the significant achievements of women (ex. Rosalind Franklin, Marie Curie, etc)

I thought this book might be interesting in the way that it would highlight some great stories of how women helped contribute to great achievements. Maybe it would showcase that it really takes a team to succeed. Unfortunately, I found that these short stories reflected more of the support role women had to men. The women described were more of paramours to the men. I felt like the stories read more like Wikipedia entries, a bit dry. It was more of like a book of short trysts that really famous guys had with women that are little known about.

So, since this book didn't really match my expectations based off of what I perceived the title and the blurb to indicate it should be about, I am giving it only 3 stars.

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### **Jennifer Martin says**

Really great premise but really poor execution. Selection of women was interesting. Bios read like they were

written for blog; half the sentences sound like the author wanted to put "lol" after them. The choice of details included were odd at best and there is little to no attempt to put things in historical or chronological context.

Wasted a great idea with really poor writing.

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### **Cris says**

This book is quite bad. Not only is it completely negative about the relationship between men and women, but the author's attempts to be clever actually make it impossible to figure out the facts. The women are portrayed as slavishly attached to their husbands' talent and position, with no will or principles of their own. The men chosen for this book are for the most part philandering, narcissistic and crass. Even those who have been acclaimed for their ethical leadership are portrayed with insensitivity and lack of historical context. The sketch on Kasturba Ghandi called Mahatma Ghandi a male-chauvinist pig. Constance Wilde gets no credit for her principles, though miraculously C.S. Lewis does not get called a chauvinist pig because he marries for honorable reasons. The lesbian relationships in this book are the only ones where tyranny is not the subject of scrutiny. This book will only ring true to wounded people. The rest of us are better off observing any loving couple in their advanced years for inspiration.

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### **Nancy says**

Behind Every Great Man: Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous by Marlene Wagman-Geller was touted as about the women who helped 'propel' their husbands 'to the top'.

I was all for reading about gals like, say, Dolley Madison and Abigail Adams, but who had been forgotten by the historians. (Likely because they were too busy writing about the men.) 28 women nearly forgotten! Including Alma Hitchcock and Emma Wedgewood Darwin!

Wagman-Geller is very entertaining. You laugh out loud, you grind your teeth. But I felt really bad about laughing at these women, many of whom suffered great indignities and suffering because of the love for 'their man,' some of whom are candidates for the Worst Husband of the Millennium Award.

Each woman's biographical sketch consists of a few pages; Mrs Stephen Hawking has 10 pages plus photos. One could find out most of this information Googling around online. (Of course, you would not have Wagman-Geller's lively narrative.) If you want brief biographies with attitude, this is the book for you.

The author is not above using the women's peccadilloes for laughs, or to arouse one's distaste. Some of these gals were outrageous and some plain evil. Those who were badly used by their husbands deserved a more respectful treatment.

I received a free ebook from the publisher through NetGalley for a fair and unbiased review.

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