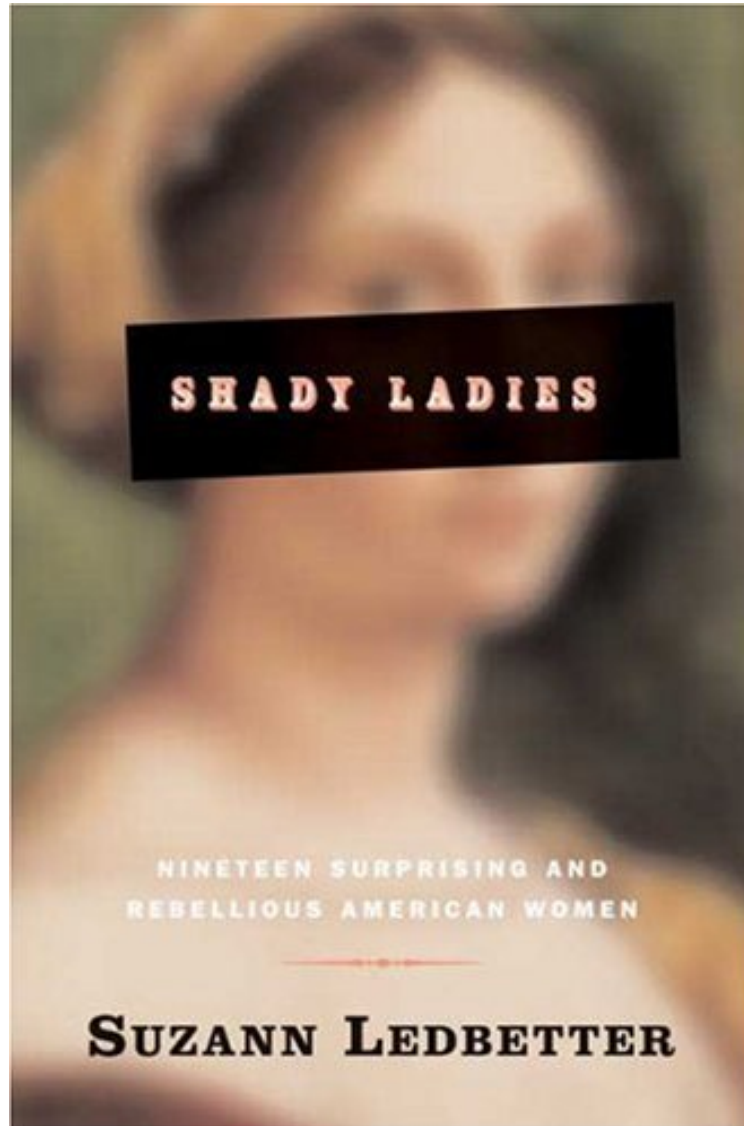


(Ebook free) Shady Ladies: Nineteen Surprising and Rebellious American Women

Shady Ladies: Nineteen Surprising and Rebellious American Women

Suzann Ledbetter

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Suzann Ledbetter : Shady Ladies: Nineteen Surprising and Rebellious American Women before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shady Ladies: Nineteen Surprising and Rebellious American Women:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Shady Ladies: Nineteen Surprising and Rebellious American WomenBy Amy J. SarffThis book was bought as a donation to a book drive my grandson was doing for a local school

library that was in need of books.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nineteen interesting women whet our appetite for more
By Cathy G. Cole
First Line: "So," I've been asked repeatedly, "what *is* a shady lady?"
Shady Ladies is a series of light and breezy biographies of nineteen 19th century American women who weren't content with the norm. The biographies range from the familiar--Margaret "the Unsinkable Molly" Brown-- to the more obscure, and Ledbetter has done an excellent job in finding women who will whet our appetites for more.
My favorites?
Sara Parton, who left an abusive husband to become a successful novelist under the pen name of Fanny Fern.
Sara Knight Borginnis Bowman, who "stood at least six-two in her stockinged feet and tipped a feed scale at better than two hundred exceedingly top-heavy pounds" and had a tendency to discard husbands whenever she felt like it. Sara rose from camp follower to the proprietor of a "full service hotel" for soldiers during the war with Mexico.
Frances Benjamin Johnston, who was a photojournalist fifty years before they had a name for her profession.
And Lydia Pinkham, who made a fortune with her Vegetable compound. (Before you laugh, how many other elixirs first marketed in 1875 can still be purchased today on Internet drugstore sites?)
Ledbetter clears up misconceptions concerning the more well-known figures, and brings others to life who had been long buried in the sands of time. I love reading about anyone who bucks the trend, and the author provides a bibliography for further reading, which is always a plus.
If you're in the mood for a fast-paced, fascinating account of women who didn't like the status quo, Shady Ladies is the book for you.
⁴ of 4 people found the following review helpful. Quite an Interesting Set of Stories
By John Matlock
Some of the interesting ladies you meet in this volume are not necessarily the ladies you'd really like to meet in person. 'The Unsinkable' Molly Brown's husband created the 'unsinkable' term when he said, 'she's too mean to sink.'
These stories of nineteen women tell of women in a time when women's rights were much fewer than they are now. Many of these women lived lives a bit strange by our standards. Divorce wasn't common, so some of them simply killed their husbands - note plural. Some of them took on roles in the business world, quite successful, or they wouldn't be listed in this book.
All in all, these mini-biographies are quite interesting. They run about a dozen pages each and while they don't have the space to go into great depth, they introduce us to a set of women who lives their lives far outside the norm.
All in all, it's quite an interesting set of stories.

Suzann Ledbetter has researched and written about American history for almost twenty years. The depth of her work is reflected in these well-crafted and enormously entertaining biographies of little-known---till now---Shady Ladies. Some were crackpots, some criminals, some charlatans, some genuine talents, but almost all have been sadly forgotten. Unsung though they may be, these defiant women challenged post-Victorian society in an era when females were second-class citizens. They are every bit as intriguing as their more famous sisters. Who knew Harriet Hubbard Ayer and her cosmetic concoctions predated Helena Rubenstein, and that Ayer virtually invented the newspaper advertorial? Photographs of Lydia Pinkham were the first photos ever used in advertising. A century after her death, modern science has confirmed that her black cohosh--laced elixir is a viable treatment for menopausal symptoms. "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" was coined by Fanny Fern, aka Sara Parton, who, unlike the better-known Nellie Bly, became the highest-paid newspaper columnist in the country. And Laura Fair was as dangerous to men as Calamity Jane ever was . . . and faced up to the Supreme Court no less.
Shady Ladies is the story of early American rebels and a fascinating view of the lives of seventeen notorious and notable women. Suzann Ledbetter chronicles the exploits of feminist pioneers, bringing them to life with humor, empathy, and meticulous research.

From Publishers Weekly
Biographer and novelist Ledbetter (*A Lady Never Trifles with Thieves*) illuminates the lives of 17 19th- and early 20th-century women who bucked a system that relegated them to the home to meet the needs of their husbands and children. Some are well known, like the "unsinkable" Margaret (Molly) Brown, survivor of the Titanic, who rose from a poor Irish background to become the toast of Denver society; a liberal, she espoused a separate justice system for juveniles and an international fair that others tried to shut down for featuring Chinese and Native Americans. Other subjects have been buried by time, and Ledbetter fills a gap in feminist history with her short descriptive bios. Henrietta Green, "the Witch of Wall Street," parlayed an inheritance into an estate valued at over \$100 million dollars, but was noted for her miserliness. Sara Parton, with advanced ideas about women, left an abusive husband to become a successful columnist and novelist under the pen name Fanny Fern. Frances Benjamin Johnston was an early photojournalist whose work spanned a 50-year career. Although at times the author's colloquial language is clunky, these stories of independent-minded females are well worth recounting. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From School Library Journal
Adult/High School
This breezy romp through 19th-century American history touches upon the colorful lives and careers of women who are largely unfamiliar now. Most, however, were widely celebrated in their time, if not downright infamous. An artistically talented and sometimes delusional eccentric, wealthy Elizabeth Ney built her Xanadu in the wilds of Texas. Adah Isaacs Menken ("The Menken"), a gifted actress, cut a dash through the society of artists and poets while scandalizing and entertaining the public. Some wrested a remarkable life from poverty, like the legendary dance-hall denizen known as "Silver Heels" and the famously voluptuous Sarah Bowman, who rose from camp follower to proprietor of a "full service hotel" for soldiers during the war with Mexico. As for some better-remembered names,

such as Ann Rutledge (Abraham Lincoln's mysterious lost love) and Margaret "Molly" Brown (of Leadville and Titanic fame), the author corrects misconceptions and provides details that make the women spring into focus for today's readers, while Lydia Pinkham, entrepreneur, and Fanny Fern, writer, are shown to be surprisingly modern figures. Filling out the collection are gritty pioneers of medicine, photography, law, finance, and other fields and walks of life. Adding a little spice to history and biography, this book takes its place alongside Barbara Holland's *They Went Whistling: Women Wayfarers, Warriors, Runaways and Renegades* (Pantheon, 2001) and Sara Lorimer's *Booty: Girl Pirates on the High Seas* (Chronicle, 2002), though it isn't in the same league with Milbry Polk and Mary Tiegreen's outstanding *Women of Discovery: A Celebration of Intrepid Women Who Explored the World* (Clarkson Potter, 2001). Christine C. Menefee, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Suzann Ledbetter has been a writer since she was ten years old. Born in Joplin, she has lived in Missouri her whole life. The author of nearly two dozen books, Ledbetter writes both historical and contemporary fiction, nonfiction, humor, and biographies. She was inducted into the Missouri-based Writers Hall of Fame of America in 1997 and received the Spur Award for her biography *Nellie Cashman: Prospector and Trailblazer*.