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Book Reviews by Paul Gregoria


I hope you choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. And I also hope that you will choose to make some of that trouble on behalf of women. This phrase from Nora Ephron's Wellesley commencement speech, included in Cheryl Strayed's introduction, launches Karbo's exploration of the notion of difficult women. Such a woman insists on inhabiting the full range of her humanity, which sometimes means upsetting people and cultural mores. Karbo selects 39 women, mostly contemporary American women from politics, the arts, and entertainment. The text emphasizes the challenges of these women and their effects on society. Each woman is given an adjective: Helen Gurley Brown—Relentless; Rachel Maddow—Brainy; Rachel Solow—Resourceful; Jane Fonda—Defiant; Betty Friedan—Influential; Serena Williams—Willing; and more. Karbo's one-on-one conversations with the women are riveting and should be added to the permanent shelf of any female high school student.

We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave—

A message from the Oregon Council of Teachers of English

These words from Malala Yousafzai, the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, introduce McCann's criteria for her biographies: girls and young women who rocked the world and made it a better place. McCann, who was awarded the Oregon Spirit Award for Luba: the Angel of Besgen- son, here includes 45 women from Cleopatra, to Annie Oakley, to contemporary women like Selena and Emma Watson. Also included are entries on less well-known young women: rock climber Ashima Shiraishi, Nepalese author Minam Chimdi, and soccer star Nadia Nadim. Aimed at upper elementary and middle school readers, each entry offers high-interest facts.

Both in Praise of Difficult Women and More Girls Who Rocked the World would be welcome inclusions in classroom libraries and would be good resources for Women's History Month in March.

Praise of Difficult Women

An Interview with George Estreich, author of Fables and Futures: Biotechnology, Disability, and the Stories We Tell

George Estreich: Let’s see… am I allowed to mention my favorite bar, Squirrels Tavern? As someone who lives in Corvallis and loves it, I’d suggest walking around downtown. You could shop and eat. While in downtown Corvallis, can you make a little plug for our college town in the heart of the valley? Maybe a suggestion for what a typical week might look like for our students?

Lynette Gottlieb: George, greetings on behalf of OCTE. As a dedicated Corvallisite and engaged community member, can you make a little plug for our college town in the heart of the valley? Maybe a suggestion for what a typical week might look like for our students?

George Estreich: As a dedicated Corvallisite and engaged community member, can you make a little plug for our college town in the heart of the valley? Maybe a suggestion for what a typical week might look like for our students?

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one of my favorite courses I ever taught. With respect to the book, university in the MFA program. I have extensive teaching experience as an adjunct, as over and over and failing most of the time and revising a book... His daughter with Down Syndrome, first food preference.] Your writing is gorgeously GE: from, or drains, the same well.

You can be involved in this energizing event by serving as a workshop leader, and an autobiography by Nigel Hunt [or] a world of ethical conundrums. I think there is a world of ethical conundrums. We’ve been incredibly fortunate, especially at Corvallis High School, Pacific Northwest, with an identity who inhabits these categories but is not deterred by them. We know that it’s not easy. I have mined by them. We’ve been incredibly fortunate, especially at Corvallis High School, Pacific Northwest, with an identity who inhabits these categories but is... And that’s so much of what we’re doing as language arts teachers, teaching... One misconception about disability and our devotion to the often destructive idea of “normal” interact with our lives as teachers.

George, thank you. I can’t wait to hear you speak on April 13. The Oregon Writing Festival takes place annually each spring, co-sponsored by Portland State University’s College of Education and OECT. The goals of the writing festival are to attract a diverse writing to students and teachers, to honor the work of outstanding... Join Us in Corvallis, April 13. Register at octe.com. The Oregon Writing Festival takes place annually each spring, co-sponsored by Portland State University’s College of Education and OECT. The goals of the writing festival are to attract a diverse writing to students and teachers, to honor the work of outstanding... For more information, go to octe.org and ask “Events.” This year’s authors include Rosemary Perry (grades 4-5), Graham Salisbury (grades 6-8), and Kim Stafford (grades 9-12).

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