



Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy

By Seymour Reit

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In 1861, when war erupted between the States, President Lincoln made an impassioned plea for volunteers. Determined not to remain on the sidelines, Emma Edmonds cropped her hair, donned men's clothing, and enlisted in the Union Army. Posing in turn as a slave, peddler, washerwoman, and fop, Emma became a cunning master of disguise, risking discovery and death at every turn behind Confederate lines.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8 According to the estimates of some historians, as many as 400 women fought in the Civil War disguised as men. One such woman was Emma Edmonds, 21 years old and Canadian born. She felt fiercely patriotic towards her adopted country, and was determined to fight for the Union. Not only did she serve as a field nurse, tending the wounded at the battle sites, but she also served as a Union spy. Reit has used Emma's own published memoirs (long out of print), research from the National Archives, and U. S. Army records. It should make for an exciting tale. Unfortunately, the finished product doesn't measure up to its promise. The style is far too episodic, with little unity between adventures, and not enough fleshing out of events. Some fictionalizing of dialogue and thoughts occurs. This is most likely to appeal only to those with a frenzied obsession with the Civil War. Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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Review

"The story is fast-moving, and Emma's spunk...is evident."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"This stranger-than-fiction story will captivate history buffs and hold the attention of the most reluctant reader."—Bank Street College of Education

"A suspense-filled account of a brave and loyal feminist."—*Booklist*

About the Author

SEYMOUR REIT is the author of more than eighty books for young readers. An experienced animated cartoonist, he is also the creator of Casper the Friendly Ghost. Mr. Reit lives in New York City.

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From reader reviews:

Alonzo Stark:

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This Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world with ten or fifteen tiny right but this reserve already do that. So , this is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that will?

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