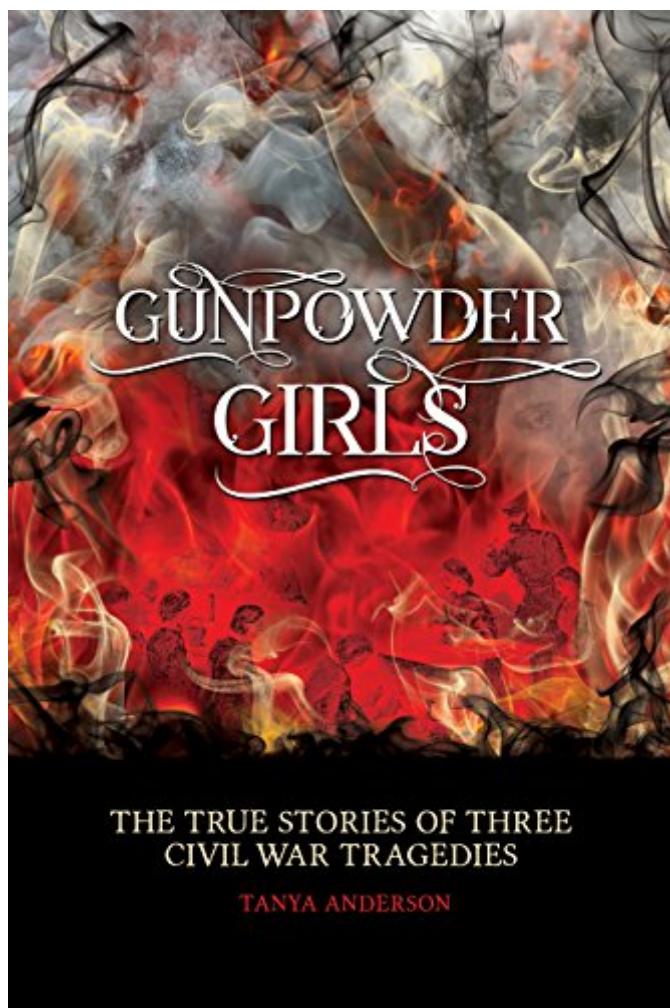


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Gunpowder Girls: The True Stories Of Three Civil War Tragedies



Synopsis

With thousands of men off fighting in the Civil War, the government hired women and girls "some as young as ten" "to make millions of rounds of ammunition. Poor immigrant girls and widows paid the price for carelessness at three major arsenals. Many of these workers were killed, blown up and burned beyond recognition. As Steve Sheinkin did with The Port Chicago 50, Tanya Anderson in Gunpowder Girls tells an amazing war story that finally gives its subjects their due. Hidden history comes alive through primary-source research and page-turning narrative. Gunpowder Girls is a story of child labor and immigrant hopes and the cruel, endless demands of an all-consuming war. "Outstanding," raves Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson, author of Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era. "Thoroughly researched and beautifully written, this tragic story of 140 girls and young women killed by gunpowder explosions in three arsenals where they produced ammunition for Civil War armies reveals details previously unfamiliar even to Civil War historians. We can now add their names to the human toll of America's greatest conflict." "Clear, engaging prose," writes Kirkus Reviews in its September 2016 issue. "Extensive backmatter adds gravitas. The employment plight of so many women of the era – few jobs and low pay – is amply illustrated. This grim, enlightening tale is most likely to appeal to those who seek out disaster stories or have an interest in American history. • Wow! This story is unprecedented. The accounts of the explosions themselves are as harrowing as narrative gets." Elizabeth Norton, Commerce Township (Mich.) Community Library

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is nothing boring about history--except how it is taught and/or written about all too often. Instead of teaching students to dread learning about the past, why not unearth the stories that make history come alive, as Anderson has done in both this volume and [book:Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg|15948944]? Meticulously researched, filled with anecdotes and photos to make the events come alive, and completed with ties to historical and ongoing struggles for women's rights, this book is well worth the read for anyone, but especially as a classroom centerpiece to help students understand why they should crave studying and researching history.

Excellent treatment of a story not many people know happened. Hope you sell lots of copies before the nut jobs start demanding it be taken off because it has a story in it about something which happened in the Confederacy.

A part of history that is often overlooked--the contribution of women and young girls during wartime in the United States. Very informative and well written. I highly recommend it.

3.75 Stars A historical account of 3 civilian tragedies during the American Civil War in which most of the casualties were girls and women. A book for students interested in the topic that is written more like a novella than a collection of historical facts with a subject matter that is long overdue. A few photographs are included as well as a decent bibliography. LT Early Reviewer

Fantastic book--beautifully written, impressively researched, and artfully designed. Great companion to any study of the Civil War, of course, but also a captivating pleasure-read. Highly recommend!

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