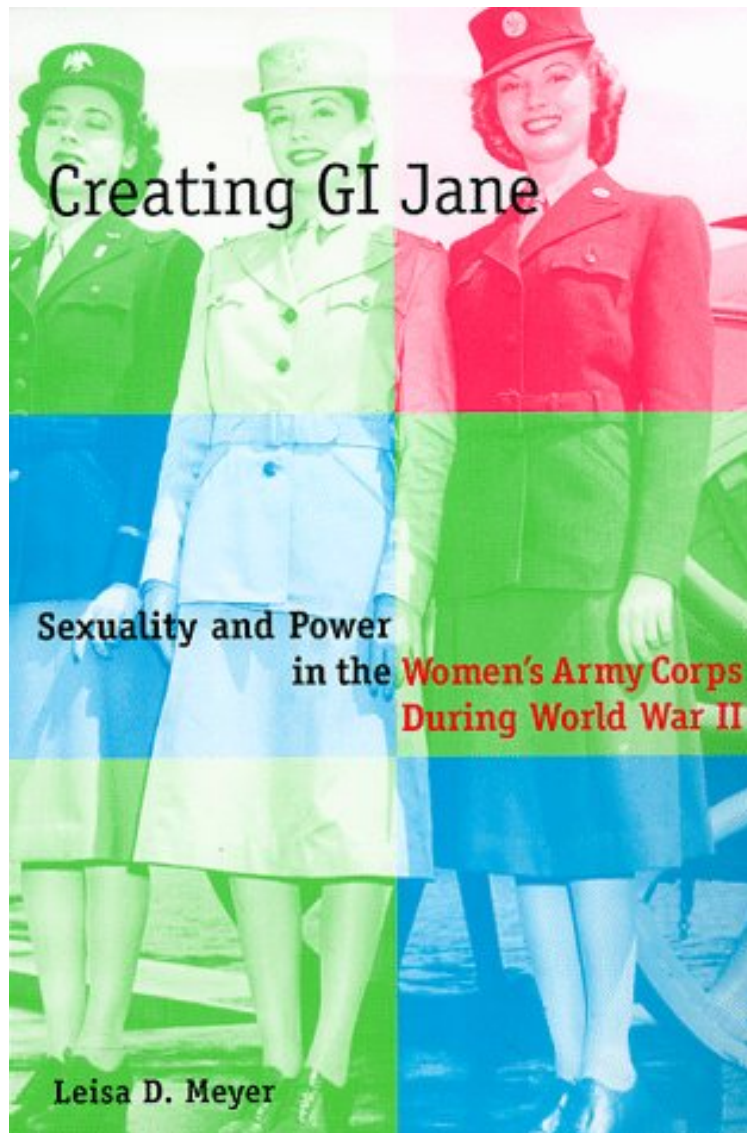


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Creating G. I. Jane

Leisa Meyer

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#1081737 in Books Leisa Meyer 1998-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.88 x .66 x 5.921, .81 #File Name: 0231101457288 pages Creating G I Jane Sexuality and Power in the Women s Army Corps During World War II | File size: 29.Mb

Leisa Meyer : Creating G. I. Jane before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating G. I. Jane:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Critical examination and analysis of the WAC program. By Denise E. Great book on the gender, political and sexual issues that came along with forming the Women's Army Corps during WWII. The book's biggest strength is that it's an interesting companion to the official Army history of the WAC

program and often presents a contrarian viewpoint to the military's public response. It's also one of the few books that addresses sexuality in the WAC ranks. *Creating G.I. Jane* explores the climate and response to women in the military as well as problems related to integrating women for the first time. Because it does delve into propaganda and underlying motives as well as controversial subjects, there is some concern that the book primarily functions as a gender study and may not fully represent the program's norms. This doesn't diminish the book, but it does mean that it's not a complete history of women in the military during WWII. For that reason, while it's a very strong stand-alone book, I highly recommend reading it in conjunction with other books on the WAC for a better total picture of the program. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerGreat history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By SayeedPerfect product

A compelling indictment of the social issues surrounding the Women's Army Corps in the 1940s.

From Library Journal Meyer (history, Coll. of William and Mary), formerly trained as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy, fills a void in the historical debate on women in the military. Her volume draws from oral histories, archival records, and popular media coverage of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) to provide a platform for a discussion of the contemporary debates about women's roles in the military and in wartime. Founded to fill a clerical labor shortage in the army during World War II, WAC attempted to provide women a way to serve their country. Derided in the press and society at large as prostitutes for soldiers, WACs had to adhere to a stricter and more antiquated moral code than civilian counterparts. African American women viewed admission into WAC as a victory in the racial struggle. Meyer also examines historically the issue of lesbianism. While not a history of WAC, her volume offers solid historical context. Recommended for all academic and large public libraries. ?Jenny Presnell, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, Ohio Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. Meyer's study of the creation of the Women's Army Corps provides a backdrop against which to read today's headlines detailing sexual misconduct in the military.... Meyer offers a richly textured, theoretically informed account of that debate, focusing on the complex and often contradictory arguments articulated by both supporters and opponents of the creation of a formal presence for women in the military... Race and racial politics played an equally significant part in the creation of the WASC, and Meyer brings her considerable skills to an analysis of the lengths to which the military went to avoid undermining established racial as well as sexual systems. (Choice) A powerful indictment of the sexism that dominates the military. It is also a fascinating look at the ways in which women insisted upon their right to serve their country. (Bay Area Reporter) Compelling.. Gives us important insights into the complex sexual double standards that control our current debate. (Lambda Book Report) A meticulously researched, carefully organized, and intelligently presented study of social issues surrounding the Women's Army Corps in the 1940s. (The Lesbian of Books) From the Back Cover In *Creating GI Jane*, Leisa Meyer traces the roots of a cultural anxiety at the core of the American psyche, providing the historical perspective needed to understand the controversies still surrounding the gendered military. Drawing upon a rich array of sources including oral histories, army papers, congressional hearings, cartoons, and editorials, Meyer paints nuanced portraits of the experiences of women soldiers against the backdrop of strife and opportunity during the war years. The book chronicles the efforts of the female WAC administration to counter public controversy by controlling the type of women recruited and regulating service-women's behavior. Reflecting and reinforcing contemporary sexual stereotypes, the WAC administration recruited the most "respectable" white middle-class women, limited the number of women of color, and screened against lesbian enlistments. As Meyer demonstrates, the military establishment also upheld current sex and race occupational segregation, assuring the public that women were in the military to do "women's work" within it, and resisting African-American women's protests against their relegation to menial labor. Yet *Creating GI Jane* is also the story of how, in spite of a palpable climate of repression, many women effectively carved out spaces and seized opportunities in the early WAC. African-American women and men worked together in demanding civil rights deriving from military service. Lesbians found the military simultaneously dangerous and conducive to community formation during and after the war. In this fresh, provocative analysis, Meyer offers compelling evidence that these struggles had lasting effects on larger civil rights movements that emerged in the postwar years.