

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-1-5344-8419-1

Publisher & Date

Aladdin, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (940.54 or biography)

Grade Level

K-4

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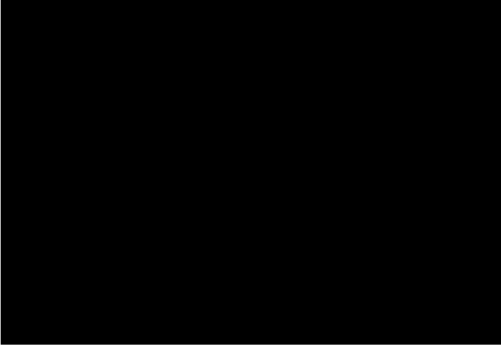
Book Review: LOVE IS IN THE AIR: THE STORY OF AVIATION PIONEER NANCY HARKNESS LOVE

Nancy Harkness Love was an adventurous young woman. From a young age, she knew she wanted to fly. Despite her parents' resistance, she became one of only 200 women with a private pilot's license. When she was in college, she earned her commercial pilot's license and transport license. When her parents couldn't pay her college tuition, she dropped out of school. She was hired by Bob Love (her future husband) to demonstrate airplanes for his customers, and by the time she turned 24, she was in high demand. In 1942, she was asked to work for the Ferrying Division for the U.S. military. This was the beginning of the WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron).

Love was the first squadron commander of the WAFS, a division of military pilots who flew in noncombat roles. The WAFS eventually merged with another women's pilot program and became WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). These women were the unsung heroes of World War II.

This story pays tribute to Love and the other women for their service to their country in World War II. Unfortunately, when World War II ended and men came home, the men expected to return to their work as ferrying pilots. The WASP division was disbanded, and these women were sent back to their previous lives as homemakers without veteran status and without the benefits that men were given. It took 70 years for these women to receive





recognition for the work they did during World War II. This book has an author's note that fills in other information about Love and also includes information about other pilots who flew during World War II, including one who witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor while she was flying a ferrying mission. I highly recommend this book for any public, school, or home library.

