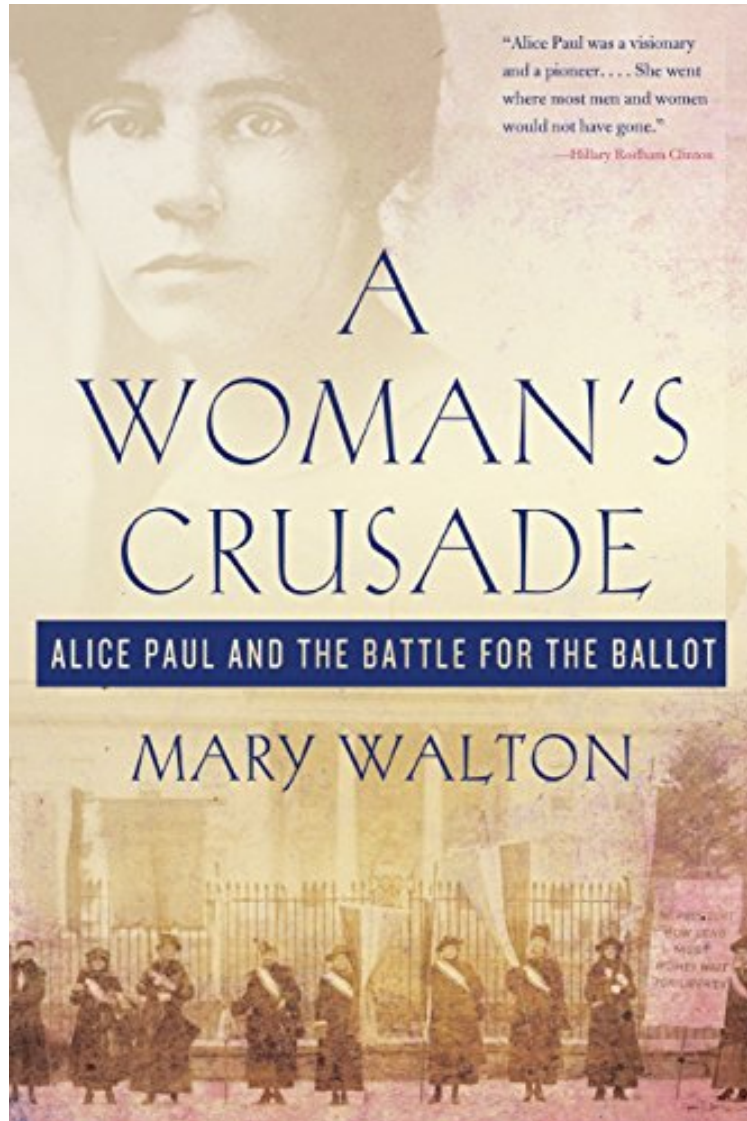


A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot

Mary Walton

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Mary Walton : A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A well-deserved tribute to Alice PaulBy Nathaniel Levin"A Woman's Crusade" is a recently published book by Mary Walton. It tells the story of Alice Paul and her leadership of

the National Woman's Party in the fight for women's voting rights in the United States. This is a well-written, readable book, accessible to the general reader. There has never before been such a book about Alice Paul, and Mary Walton deserves praise for according Paul the recognition in book form that was missing for such a long time. Most of the book is taken up with details of the work of Paul and her allies in the period of 1913 to 1920, when the struggle for a federal suffrage amendment was at its height. For a suffrage buff like me, it was fascinating to learn about specific problems that Paul faced in organizing the great suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. in March 1913. The parade itself and the near-riot that ensued brought immense publicity to the suffrage cause. Paul was remarkably adept at generating constant newspaper coverage and public attention for the campaign to adopt what became the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Paul understood that ever-greater spectacle and sensation were needed to keep the suffrage issue in the forefront of the public's mind. Her tactics escalated to fierce criticism of President Woodrow Wilson, picketing of the White House, unjust arrest and imprisonment of Paul and her allies, hunger strikes, forced feedings and harsh mistreatment in prison of the militant suffragists. Walton's account can be read as implying that Paul's militant tactics, single-minded leadership, the personal martyrdom through mistreatment of Paul and the other militants, and the resulting crescendo of publicity, were the key factors in bringing about the ultimate victory of the suffrage forces. There is, however, a competing and more complicated narrative. Both Alice Paul's supporters in the National Woman's Party and the adherents of Carrie Chapman Catt's NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association) wrote histories of the suffrage victory. In these histories, each camp slighted and minimized the contributions made by the other group. Many more recent accounts of the suffrage movement tend to adopt the preferred narrative of one camp or the other and thus fail to present a complete picture. This is not the case, however, in the classic "Century of Struggle" by Eleanor Flexner, which is still--more than 50 years after its original publication--the one essential book about the suffrage movement in the U.S. Flexner's account gives high marks to Alice Paul for breathing life into the federal amendment campaign and for the personal sacrifices and the persecution that Paul and her followers suffered for what now are recognized as lawful protest tactics. But Flexner also accords great praise to the leadership of Carrie Chapman Catt, and suggests that she and her organization, with its hundreds of thousands of "feet on the street", were even more vital in harvesting the pro-suffrage sentiment that the militants did so much to generate. I could write at length about particular topics in the suffrage fight that are told quite differently in Flexner's account than in Walton's. But in any case, Walton's book deserves a wide readership and tells a stirring version of the suffrage battle, as seen from the militants' point of view. At long last there is now a good biography of Alice Paul, and that is something to be glad about, for all lovers of women's history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is easy to read and has a nice pace with good ...By Ludlowsmom I wish I could give this book to every woman in the USA. I am ashamed at how little I knew about Alice Paul, the brave, relentless advocate for women. We have all forgotten these brave women. I am going to start celebrating her birthday as my own patriotic holiday. The book is easy to read and has a nice pace with good tidbits of personal information scattered with the historical record. I really enjoyed learning about the details of the struggle, the one woman who died because of the campaign. We could all learn from the way Ms. Paul used theater of the street to get the point across. When I read about the hostility of men and police to the marches, I wondered at the primeval nature of the male response. How much of that has been sublimated, I wonder. Anyway, it is a must read.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Wished I would of read it years ago. By osflies Well written historic account of the suffragette movement in the states. A real page turner, Mary Walton knows how to tell a story! Alice Paul's story was exhilarating and left me with a great sense of pride for her and the young women who dedicated themselves to this movement. Thanks for getting us the vote!! I will never take it for granted after having read this. I will say, I am appalled at how little I knew about the fight for women's suffrage prior to reading this book. I read this for a book club and I will speak for all of us - none of us knew 1/2 of the struggle these women went through and the book club has members male and female from age 27 to 55. Shame on the schools for not teaching this better.

Alice Paul began her life as a studious girl from a strict Quaker family in New Jersey. In 1907, a scholarship took her to England, where she developed a passionate devotion to the suffrage movement. Upon her return to the United States, Alice became the leader of the militant wing of the American suffrage movement. Calling themselves "Silent Sentinels," she and her followers were the first protesters to picket the White House. Arrested and jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were force-fed and brutalized. Years before Gandhi's campaign of nonviolent resistance, and decades before civil rights demonstrations, Alice Paul practiced peaceful civil disobedience in the pursuit of equal rights for women. With her daring and unconventional tactics, Alice Paul eventually succeeded in forcing President Woodrow Wilson and a reluctant U.S. Congress to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote. Here at last is the inspiring story of the young woman whose dedication to women's rights made that long-held dream a reality. "Alice Paul was a visionary and a pioneer. Her struggle for women's rights was built on the premise that no society or nation can reach its full potential if half of the population is left behind." -- Hillary Rodham Clinton

Mary Walton, a veteran reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer, has captured Paul's fire, her slow burn in *A Woman's*

Crusade. Part of the genius of the book lies in Walton's quiet analysis of the methods used by the National American Woman Suffrage Assn. and the National Women's Party, founded by Paul in 1916. Los Angeles Times[A] fast-paced narrative...Recommended. ChoiceMary Walton delivers an engrossing account of one of the most dramatic episodes in American History--the culmination of the seven-decade quest for woman suffrage. This moving portrayal of the brilliant activist Alice Paul and her dedicated companions in prison and on the picket lines captures the courage and sacrifice demanded of women who risked reputations, health and even their freedom to gain the right to vote. Marla R. Miller, author of *Betsy Ross and the Making of America*A Woman's Crusade makes it clear that rather than the Constitution simply conferring voting rights on women, women suffrage activists chiseled their demand into the Constitution through a strategic, relentless, and sometimes personally painful campaign. Mary Walton vividly captures Alice Paul's determined leadership of that movement. Donald A. Ritchie, author of *Our Constitution*Nearly a half century before Martin Luther King brought Gandhian methods to bear on racial segregation, Alice Paul used non-violent protest to win full voting rights for American women; but few Americans know about her. Mary Walton vividly brings her to life again in this brilliant, important and highly readable book. America's understanding of its history will be all the richer for it. Gene Roberts, *The Race Beat*, 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for HistoryPerhaps more than any other person, Alice Paul was responsible for U.S. women finally securing the right to vote in 1920--and yet most Americans have never heard of her. It's astonishing that an individual of such courage and accomplishment would have to be "rescued" from obscurity, but that's precisely what Mary Walton has done with this dynamic and entertaining biography. Walton sweeps the reader along in Alice Paul's seven-year crusade for suffrage, all the way to its nail-biting conclusion. This is a wonderful and important book. Thomas Kunkel, author of *Genius in Disguise: Harold Ross of The New Yorker*Mary Walton's exciting, carefully researched biography offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at one of the most intriguing personalities of the 20th century. Walton helps us appreciate Paul's leadership and aggressive vigor in a story that reveals all the drama, doubt, and grandeur of true history. Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr., author of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*Mary Walton has written a passionate history of one of my heroines (and distant relative), Alice Paul a fiery feminist who understood political strategy and the value of a sound-bite better than anyone. A leader in the suffragist movement and founder of the National Woman's Party, Alice Paul drafted the Equal Rights Amendment, which I now proudly carry as lead sponsor in the House. All Americans should read this book to learn more about one of our most extraordinary and dynamic leaders. Congresswoman Carolyn B. MaloneyRichly endowed with research . . . detailed, absorbing . . . I value the book for introducing her to the next generation of feminists with a taste for revolution. Ms MagazineAbout the AuthorMary Walton is a veteran journalist who wrote for the Philadelphia Inquirer for twenty years. The acclaimed author of several books including *For Love of Money and Car: A Drama of the American Workplace*, she lives in Ocean Grove, NJ.