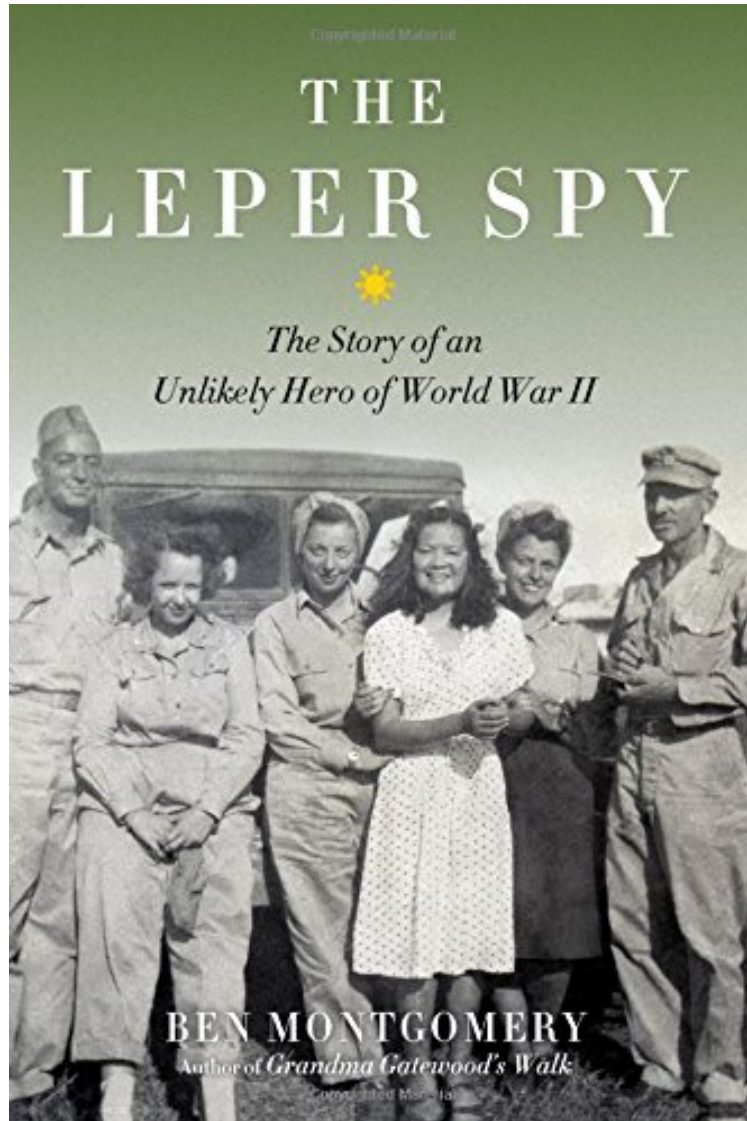


[Read now] The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II

The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II

Ben Montgomery

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Ben Montgomery : The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He paints a beautiful picture of a woman who did what was needed ...By Richard Berube I am sure there are hundreds if not thousands of unsung heroes of the world's many wars. Most of them left no record. Joey left almost no record and we would never have known her story if she had not had a dreaded (at that time) disease. Ben Montgomery has done an outstanding job of uncovering the life of one of these many

unsung heroes. He tells her story of helping to win a war, of helping fellow lepers, even of serving in the Peace Corp. I can't imagine the research needed to uncover someone's life in the Philippines during WWII. He paints a beautiful picture of a woman who did what was needed but who wanted no glory. She is a shining example for today's multicultural world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!!!! By Stella Amazing story and very well written! Good movie material! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read. I'm scheduled to review it for my ... By Suzanne Excellent read. I'm scheduled to review it for my book club and think it will be easy to write about

The GIs called her Joey. Hundreds owed their lives to the tiny Filipina woman who was one of the top spies for the Allies during World War II, stashing explosives, tracking Japanese troop movements, and smuggling maps of fortifications across enemy lines for Gen. Douglas MacArthur. As the Battle of Manila raged, young Josefina Guerrero walked through gunfire to bandage wounds and close the eyes of the dead. Her valor earned her the Medal of Freedom, but the thing that made her an effective spy was a disease that was destroying her. Guerrero suffered from leprosy, which so horrified the Japanese they refused to search her. After the war, army chaplains found her in a nightmarish leper colony and campaigned for the US government to do something it had never done: welcome a foreigner with leprosy. The fight brought her celebrity, which she used on radio and television to speak for other sufferers. However, the notoriety haunted her after the disease was arrested, and she had to find a way to disappear.

When Joey Guerrero-Leauman, a volunteer usher at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, dies, her brief obituary mentions only her birth in Manila and late-life accomplishments. What it omits is her diagnosis of leprosy, her WWII heroism in the Philippines, her championing of the rights of lepers, and her receiving the Medal of Freedom. The story of this unlikely spy begins when, as a young wife and mother, Josefina Guerrero is diagnosed with leprosy. Forced to give up her husband and young daughter and live in isolation, Guerrero decides to work for the resistance when Manila is attacked by Japan. Her leprosy, ironically, protects her from scrutiny by the enemy, and she is able to observe troops, draw maps, and smuggle information to the Americans and food to prisoners of war. After the surrender, Guerrero is exiled to a leper colony where she protests the unsanitary conditions and scant medicine and later travels to the U.S. for treatment. Montgomery (*Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, 2014) offers a fascinating tribute to the slight Filipina who courageously saved thousands and chose anonymity. -- Candace Smith, *Booklist* Yet odds are you have never heard of Joey Guerrero, as she was known (along with several other names). Until a few years ago, neither had Ben Montgomery, but his new book, *The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II*, brings her extraordinary life back into the light. - Colette Bancroft, *Tampa Bay Times* About the Author Ben Montgomery is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, which won the 2014 National Outdoor Book Award for History/Biography. An award-winning staff writer at the Tampa Bay Times, Montgomery was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 2010.