



# Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly

By Deborah Noyes

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**Work for a New York newspaper**

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**Change the world**

Young Nellie Bly had ambitious goals, especially for a woman at the end of the nineteenth century, when the few female journalists were relegated to writing columns about cleaning or fashion. But fresh off a train from Pittsburgh, Nellie knew she was destined for more and pulled a major journalistic stunt that skyrocketed her to fame: feigning insanity, being committed to the notorious asylum on Blackwell's Island, and writing a shocking exposé of the clinic's horrific treatment of its patients.

Nellie Bly became a household name as the world followed her enthralling career in "stunt" journalism that raised awareness of political corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights. Leading an uncommonly full life, Nellie circled the globe in a record seventy-two days and brought home a pet monkey before marrying an aged millionaire and running his company after his death.

With its sensational (and true!) plot, *Ten Days a Madwoman* dares its readers to live as boldly as its remarkable heroine.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up—Daring? Turbulent? Madwoman? When a book's title includes those words, readers are bound to be inspired to open it. When the book is as well done as this one is, readers will stay through the last page. About half of the narrative is devoted to the 10 days that journalist Nellie Bly spent undercover in an asylum for mentally ill women (and women who were put there unjustly by their families). Given the high drama of these real-life events, the author's matter-of-fact writing style keeps the narrative from veering toward sensationalism. Passages from Bly's newspaper article about the experience are threaded into the narrative, thereby keeping her vibrant viewpoint as the dramatic center. The rest of the volume covers Bly's other exploits, personal and professional: her venture around the world in a record-breaking 72 days, her interview with imprisoned anarchist Emma Goldman, and her own marriage at 31 to septuagenarian millionaire Robert Seaman. The illustrations are a mix of straightforward archival photos and surreal retouched photos à la Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Quirk, 2011). Because the former are captioned with historical facts and the latter are not captioned at all, it is easy to tell the difference between the actual images and the fanciful. Noyes makes history accessible and irresistible in this thrilling account of women's lives, flagrant abuse, scandal, courage, and tenacity. The source notes are extensive, and the research is impeccable.

**VERDICT** This excellent work is a natural fit for units on history, biography, and social studies.—Jennifer Prince, Buncombe County Public Libraries, NC

Review

#### **Accolades for *Ten Days a Madwoman*:**

- A Junior Library Guild selection
- 2016 Nerdy Book Club Award for Long Form Nonfiction
- A 2016 Cybils Award finalist
- An ALA 2017 Amelia Bloomer list pick
- 2017 New York Historical Society Children's History Book Prize finalist

"Noyes makes history accessible and irresistible in this thrilling account of women's lives, flagrant abuse, scandal, courage, and tenacity. . . . Excellent." —*School Library Journal, starred review*

"You should also read *Ten Days A Madwoman*, even if you're not in middle school. You'll learn something. Because this isn't just a storybook telling of a woman's adventures . . . For a book that chronicles the life of a reporter at the end of the 19th century, *Ten Days A Madwoman* holds a startling prescience to the issues we face today, from benevolent sexism in the newsroom to the continued exploitation of the working class . . . a gripping book from start to finish, for kids and adults alike." —*The A.V. Club*

"Plenty of pizzazz. The brisk narrative draws from Bly's own writings and from biographies, skillfully incorporating quotations, dialogue, and well-chosen facts. The overall tone is admiring, but the balanced text also acknowledges criticism of her kind of "stunt" reporting and touches briefly on problems in her personal life . . . A lively biography that reflects the spirit of the intrepid reporter." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Noyes's thoroughly researched account, with archival photos and myriad quotes from Bly's own work, offers a well-rounded look at a self-possessed women who was nothing if not resilient." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Noyes' vivid storytelling throws us headfirst into Nellie Bly's inspiring work and incredibly daring adventures." —**Steve Sheinkin**, National Book Award Finalist and Newbery Honor-winning author of *Bomb* and *The Port Chicago 50*

"*Ten Days a Madwoman* thrilled and terrified me at the same time. I'd heard of Nellie Bly as a crusading reporter, but had no idea how daring, impetuous, and smart she was. I've got a new hero." —**Elizabeth Partridge**, National Book Award Finalist and Printz Honor-winning author of *John Lennon* and *This Land Was Made for You and Me*

"Noyes delivers a riveting narrative of one of our cleverest and most resourceful heroines, zeroing in on Nellie Bly's first exposé, and putting us right in the madhouse alongside sane women being driven crazy." —**Tanya Lee Stone**, Sibert Medalist and NAACP Image Award-winning author of *Almost Astronauts* and *Courage Has No Color*

"In *Ten Days a Madwoman*, Deborah Noyes gives us a compelling portrait of Nellie Bly, the audacious young reporter who risked her own safety to expose social injustice. Vividly written and gorgeously illustrated, the book brings fully to life a heroine of her time — and ours." —**Matthew Goodman**, bestselling author of *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*

"Noyes' emphasis on muckraking as opposed to showmanship is a valuable corrective to Bly's popular legacy." —*Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books*

"A stimulating read for those interested in strong women throughout history." —*VOYA*

"A good, readable introduction to a fascinating vanguard." —*Booklist*

"Noyes smartly...engage[s] readers." —*Horn Book*

"In this truly thrilling, appealingly designed, photo-laden biography by Deborah Noyes, readers will not only get a chilling look into the horrors of Blackwell's Island, but also a sense of women's challenges in 19th-century America." —*Shelf Awareness*

#### About the Author

**Deborah Noyes** is the author of nonfiction and fiction for young readers and adults, including *Encyclopedia of the End: Mysterious Death in Fact, Fancy, Folklore, and More*, *One Kingdom: Our Lives with Animals*, and *The Ghosts of Kerfol*. She has also compiled and edited the short story anthologies *Gothic!*, *The Restless Dead*, and *Sideshow*. She would like to slide down banisters for a living, but writing is the next best thing.

## Users Review

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#### Stanley Roman:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really

feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

### **Irvin Ashbaugh:**

The book Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly will bring you to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

### **Nancy Herman:**

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### **Tammy Carver:**

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