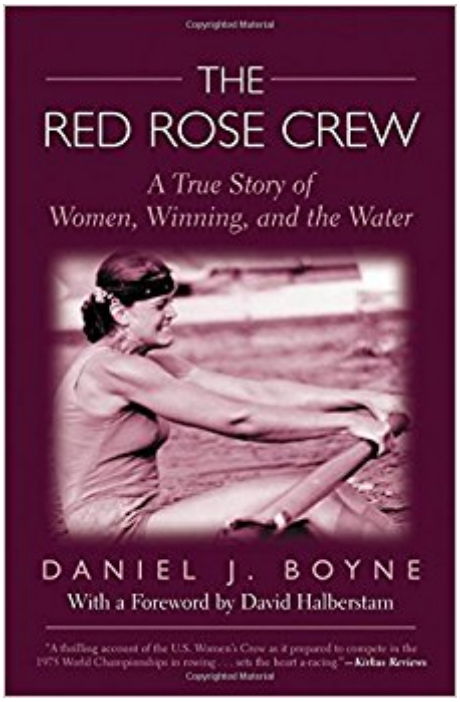
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Red Rose Crew: A True Story Of Women, Winning, And The Water



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Synopsis

In 1975, a group of amazing women rowed their way to international success and glory, battling sexual prejudice, bureaucracy, and male domination in one of the most grueling and competitive sports around. Among the members of the first international womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s crew team--and one of the first womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s teams anywhere--were Gail Pearson, the soft-spoken MIT professor who fought equally hard off the water to win the political battles neccessary for her team to succeed; lead rower Carie Graves, a statuesque bohemian from rural Wisconsin who dropped out of college and later became the most intense rower of the crew; and Lynn Stillman, a tiny sixteen-year-old coxswain from California. On hand to guide them was Harry Parker, the legendary Harvard menÃ¢â ¬â„¢s crew coach who overcame his doubts about the ability of women to withstand the rigors of hard training. From their first dramatic bid at the 1975 World Championships to their preparations for their first Olympic Games in 1976, this gripping story of bravery, determination, and indomitable spirit captures a compelling moment in the history of sports and of America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Boyne (Essential Sculling), a former women’s varsity rowing coach at Tufts University, has written an exhilarating story about the early days of the U.S. women’s national rowing team. Noting that society in the 1970s was radically different from today’s, the author details some of the obstacles faced by women attempting to enter the male-dominated sport of rowing, especially in the Ivy League. The reader also learns a great deal about the complexity of rowing eights, including the

technique and teamwork involved. Boyne's story takes us to the 1975 World Championships, where the U.S. women's team surprised the rowing world with a silver medal, carries forward to the 1976 Olympics, and concludes with a where-are-they-now section. Well written, direct, and effective, this book conveys the rowers' and coaches' skill, tenacity, energy, and enthusiasm for their sport. Recommended for public libraries, especially where rowing is popular.AKathy Ruffle, Coll. of New Caledonia Lib., Prince George, BC Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A thrilling account of the U.S. Women's Crew as it prepared to compete in the 1975 World Championships in rowing ... sets the heart a-racing." --Kirkus Reviews

This book is a nice, short, and informative book about the very early years of US womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s rowing at the highest levels. It tells the story of the first US womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s team to race an eight-person sweeped boat in the world championships in England in 1975. Partly due to their success in that venue, from that point on US women were regular participants in international rowing events.Even into the early 1970s rowing was a male-dominated sport. Women were not welcome: facilities, funding, coaching, etc were not available to them. Some very determined women gradually pried the door open, including one of the crew Gail Pearson, an older, MIT professor.The author sketches the backgrounds of several of the crew members ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ virtually all of them young college girls, the steps that were taken to form a US womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s team, the all-important selection of Harvard menÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s coach Harry Parker as the womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s coach, and the stressful manner in which the team was selected. It is made quite clear that rowing is an extremely challenging sport: extraordinary fitness is required, as well as an ability to deal with the pain from intense efforts and such problems as blisters. Though partly due to ParkerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s taciturn personality, the training was quite austere: an endless cycle of row, eat, sleep with time for few words.The European teams had years of experience on the Americans with substantial funding, especially the Russians and the East Germans. The upstart Americans placed second in the event barely losing to the East Germans, thus completing one of the more remarkable stories in American sports history.Written in 2000, the author briefly describes what the women of the boat have been doing since 1975. Many of them remained quite active in rowing circles. What the author could not have known is that Harry Parker continued to coach at Harvard until his death in 2013, having a distinguished career of 50 years, not the least of which was his superb job of coaching the 1975 US

women. As good as the book most certainly is, it is a bit abbreviated in places.

Historically this is an important book. The rowers are fleshed out, though unequally. Carrie Graves gets the lioness' share of coverage, while several others are merely silhouettes, by comparison. There is back story information that would probably have been lost had Mr. Boyne not collected his information and published it. The early years of women's rowing and racing were rough. Early hours, lack of locker rooms, equipment designed for men, used and passed down. The general hostility towards women in a pre-Title IX, man's world is well-observed. The intra-squad rivalries might have been explained. The racing descriptions, especially at the nationals in Princeton, and in England seemed thin, with the book rushing to a hasty close. There is some misinformation, but I did not note it when I read the book. All things considered, it is a great read.

I am the proud parent of a stroke rower. This story, of very different women, from widely geographic and psychological backgrounds, all coming together to do something no one had done before, is mesmorizing and grabs at every heartstring I have. The forward is equally compelling. I have met one of the Yale rowers in this story, and believe me, if she did half the stuff she is credited doing, I have even more admiration for her. This book taught me a bit about rowing, some equipment nuances, and training techniques. It gave me several nights of wonderful pleasure, some laughs, some tears. Now that this sport, like most others, is so scientific, so over studied (I guess we have the east germans to thank for that), it largely selects the athletes by performance. But the 'Red Rose Crew' had that intangible: spirit and guts. That doesn't always show up on ERG scores, or height charts. I am so glad I read this, and was able to share it with my daughter. The writing is clear, concise, and both narrative and dialogue where appropriate. Great work.

Great read

This book is great read. I am a rower and former coach but this book is written for rowers and non-rowers alike to enjoy. The author pulls you into another time when femle rowers (as many other female athletes of the time) were fighting to compete at an elite, international level in a male-dominated sport. The true story is told as a part of both college athletics' and Olympic history. The challenges both on and off of the water that these women and their coaches faced are shared so clearly that you feel you are actually watching it unfold. While I knew a lot about many of the key players from other books, and rowing connections, I learned even more about these inspiring

individuals that laid the foundation for so many rowers and athletes to train and compete at the highest levels since.

Amazing book about rowing and the challenges women have faced in sports

recommended this book to me, based on a previous purchase. I read a review and ordered it. It was delivered in a timely manner and I dove in. The book is great. The story of these women rowers in 1975 is inspiring and it is well told. As a rower, I appreciate what they went through, the relationship with their coach and with each other, and the effort they put in. But it is a good and inspiring story for anyone to read. I highly recommend it.

Great sports book for people interested in the early years of Tilte 9, crew, women's sports, and the Olympics. Good combination of biography, history and rowing. Short easy read.

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