

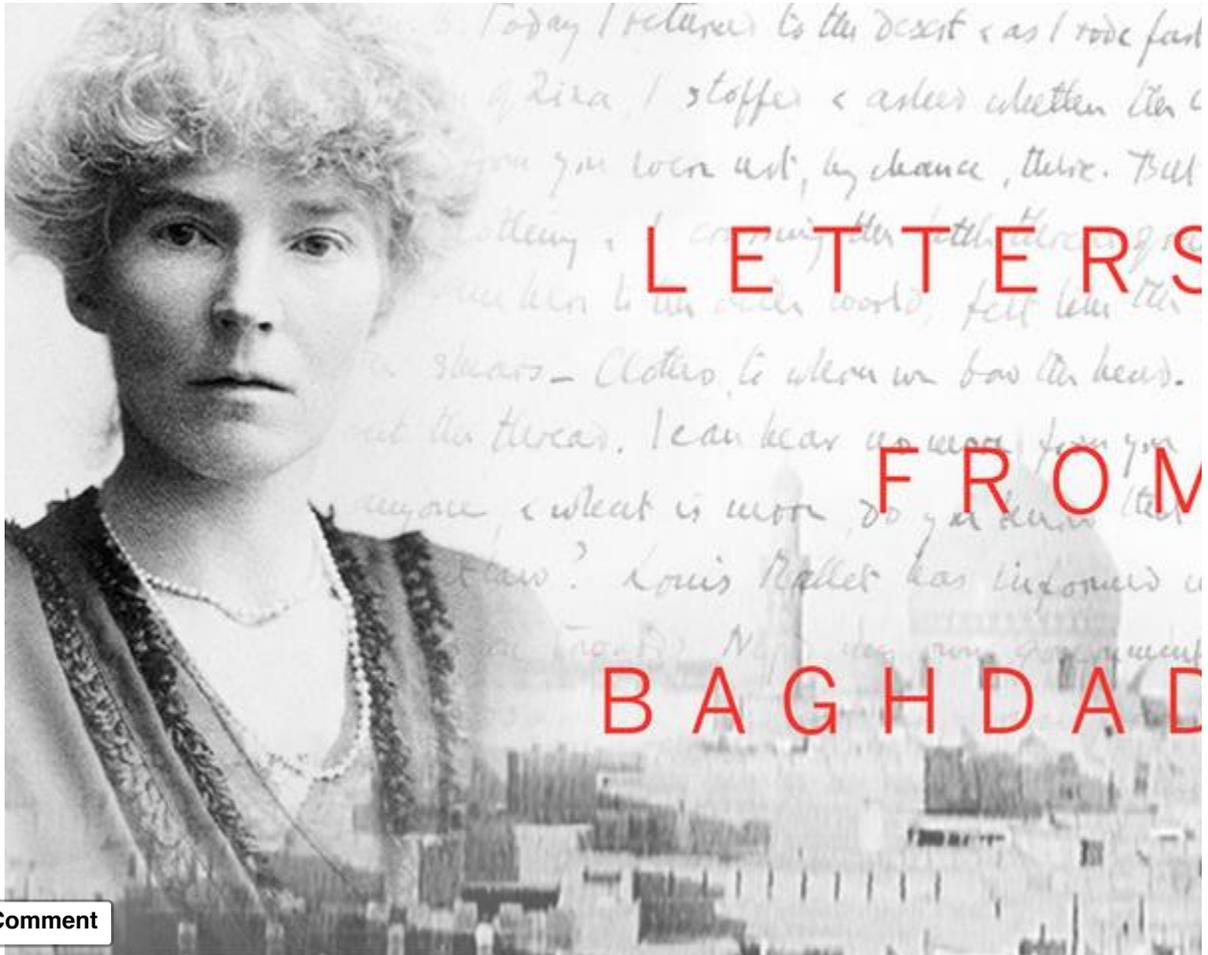
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A Mighty Girl

She was “[a]n adventurer, spy, archaeologist and powerful political force...[and t]he first female Intelligence officer employed by the British Military.” Gertrude Bell is sometimes called “the female Lawrence of Arabia,” but very few people know her story. Now, Between the Rivers Productions is running a Kickstarter to create a documentary, [Letters from Baghdad](#), about this trailblazing woman.

Zeva Oelbaum and Sabine Kraysenbühl, the filmmakers who conceived the project, call Bell “part proper Victorian and part modern woman.” The first woman to receive the highest honors in Modern History at Oxford, she acted as an advisor on Middle Eastern affairs during World War I, and helped reshape the national boundaries there after the war concluded. She also advocated for Iraqi self-rule, criticized Britain’s colonial policy, drafted the 1925 Law of Antiquities that allowed Iraq to retain excavated artifacts, promoted education for Muslim girls and helped establish one of the most progressive educational systems in the Middle East.

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-known. Oelbaum and Krayenbühl point out that “[a] recent biography on T.E. Lawrence doesn't mention her name, not even in a footnote” even though her maps and notes were critical to the success of the tribal revolt. In fact, they add, “In the 1996 Academy Award winning film, “The English Patient”, one of the characters mentions the ‘Bell Maps’, but goes on to refer to Bell as a man.” As the filmmakers assert, “It's time to bring Gertrude Bell's story back into history!”

The documentary draws on the over 1,600 letters that Bell wrote during her time in the Middle East. “These vibrant, humorous and richly detailed letters were written primarily to her family and friends,” Oelbaum and Krayenbühl say. “We were intrigued by the contrast between her public self and her private self.” The story these letters tell will be accompanied by more than 500 clips of archival footage: “[o]riginally shot in 35mm and transferred to HD, these visuals, some of them hand-tinted, will transport the viewer into the exotic, vanished world that Bell loved.”

As part of their Kickstarter campaign, Oelbaum and Krayenbühl are offering both digital downloads and DVDs of the documentary. They say, “with our team of historians, archaeologists, designers, editors, writers, researchers, and your help, we are poised to finally bring Gertrude Bell's story to the big screen - where it belongs!”

To learn more the “Letters from Baghdad” film project, watch the film's trailer, and support their Kickstarter campaign, visit <http://kck.st/1glaKgY>

While there aren't any books available for young readers about Gertrude Bell, there are several books for adult readers about her incredible life story: “Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell” (<http://amzn.to/1h36vqo>) and “Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations” (<http://amzn.to/1myt6Dt>).

To introduce your children to more real-life women explorers, visit our “Explorers / Adventurers” section at <http://www.amightygirl.com/books/history-biography/biography?cat=347>

For a few great stories starring Middle Eastern girls and women, check out “The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq” for ages 5 to 10 (<http://www.amightygirl.com/the-librarian-of-basra>), “The Girl With A Brave Heart” for ages 5 to 9 (<http://www.amightygirl.com/the-girl-with-a-brave-heart>), “Sitti's Secrets” for ages 5 to 8 (<http://www.amightygirl.com/sitti-s-secrets>), and “Dear Blue Sky” for ages 12 and up (<http://www.amightygirl.com/dear-blue-sky>).

For stories of amazing girls and women throughout history to inspire your Mighty Girl, visit our “History / Historical Fiction” section and our collection of hundreds of biographies, sortable by area of expertise, at <http://www.amightygirl.com/books/history-biography>

Like · Comment · Share · Friday, March 28 at 9:50am · Edited

Celesta Kin, Rio Tayla Jackson, Britt J. Haslett and 1,287 others like this.

492 shares



Kelly Bornt Phoninsan I read her story when I was in my late



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Sally Hibbets She sounds like an Amelia Peabody from the Elizabeth Peters series...except, she was real! So exciting to read about these wonderful women!

March 28 at 10:19am · Like · 1 - Reply



Sarah Bowsher There is a movie in production "Queen of the Desert"

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1837636/>

March 28 at 10:24am · Like · 5 - Reply



Gretchen Bundy-Ladowicz I read about here while stationed in Iraq. Want to talk about cool...

March 28 at 10:32am · Like · 3 - Reply



Catherine Matthews Wow!

March 28 at 10:40am · Like · Reply



Jane Whitman Hollywood should just visit your website/ Facebook page for movie ideas.

March 28 at 10:47am · Like · 3 - Reply



Robin Stephens The letters were written to her extremely well connected friends and family back in England so that she could affect policy through them!

March 28 at 10:52am · Like · 3 - Reply



Toni Virginia Maltman Saylor So wish we could have learned about women like this in school.

March 28 at 11:01am · Like · 9 - Reply



Jackie McCabe-Beyale This is so fascinating.

March 28 at 11:03am · Like · Reply



Lisa Middleton It is so sad that we are never taught about so many of the great women of history. Our curriculums here seem to make the best known women seem like exceptions, and so much male ego rules the rest.

March 28 at 11:18am · Like · 8 - Reply



Cathy Claire Bjerkan Gotta add this to my library for Elise and Emma!

March 28 at 11:54am · Like · Reply



Katherine Gaudet AWESOME! SHARING!

March 28 at 12:19pm · Like · Reply



Carole Jonville She was also a great alpinist. I have read this biography: "Daughter of the desert - the remarkable life of Gertrude Bell" from Georgina Howell

March 28 at 2:23pm · Like · 1 - Reply



Caroline Mitchinson Lawther She was born a few miles from where I live in what is now known as the 'original Washington'.

March 28 at 3:50pm · Like · 1 - Reply



John O'Hare Fantastic when a truth like this is revealed!

March 28 at 4:38pm · Like · Reply



Letters fro



Kristi Adams Johnson A Mighty Girl is my favorite page!!! I can hardly believe how many women are featured on here that I've never heard of - and I'm 42 and have a college education. My daughter is already better educated about women and their roles in the world!!!

Thank you so much!!!!

March 28 at 6:47pm · Like · 6 - Reply



Melissa Sames Wow, Gertrude Bell, her name now gives me goosebumps...the Desert Queen, holy wow what a lady.

March 28 at 7:17pm · Like · 1 - Reply



Alison Enever My 7 year old Mighty Girl wrote about Gertrude Bell for a school project on explorers last year. What a fascinating woman. My daughter loved learning about and telling others about her.

March 28 at 7:52pm · Like · 6 - Reply



Hannah Williams-Blakey Wowza

March 29 at 12:20am · Like - Reply



Emily Watson Colleen Ohlandt

March 29 at 1:39pm · Like - Reply



John Pulbrook Extraordinary woman Gertrude Bell..

March 29 at 6:01pm · Like - Reply



Pamela Beere Briggs I don't think it's a coincidence that it's women filmmakers making a film about this amazing woman. Let's keep digging up these hidden and forgotten stories, women filmmakers! Our daughters will be inspired. Our sons will be enlightened. The world will be wiser.

March 29 at 7:36pm · Like · 2 - Reply



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