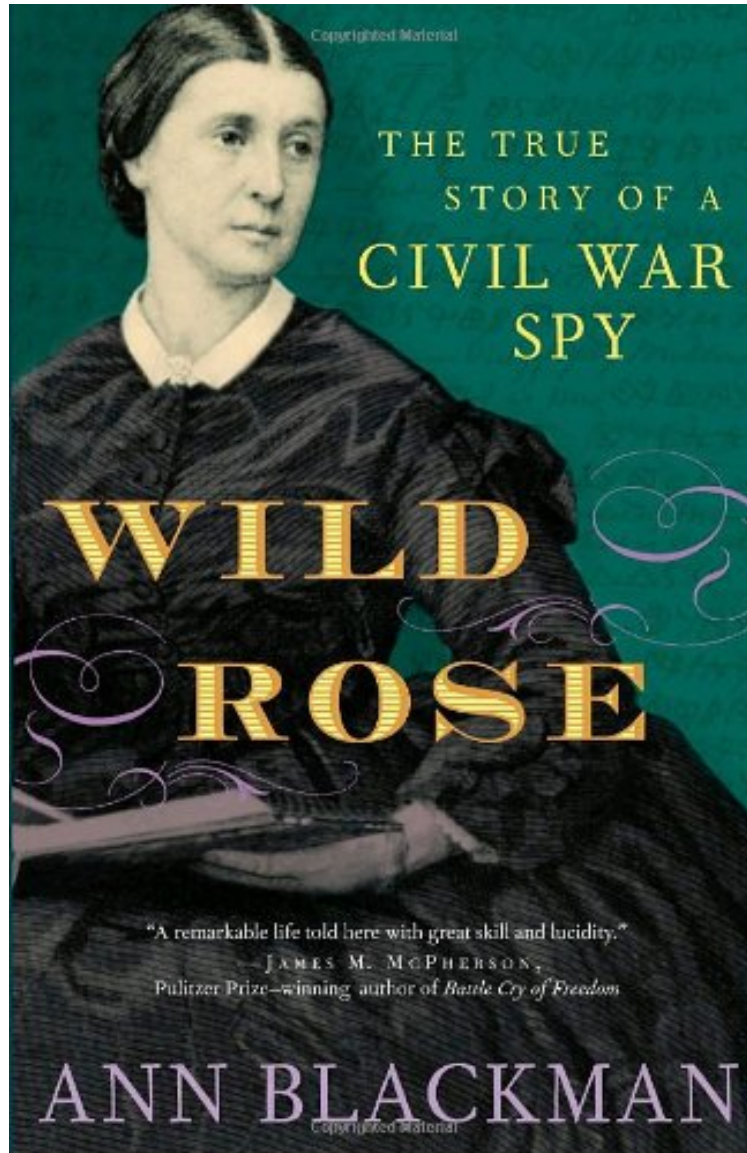


(Download) Wild Rose: The True Story of a Civil War Spy

Wild Rose: The True Story of a Civil War Spy

Ann Blackman

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Ann Blackman : Wild Rose: The True Story of a Civil War Spy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wild Rose: The True Story of a Civil War Spy:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The Southern SpyBy Agent 355I first came across the name Rose O'Neale Greenhow, though the website Fold3.com. Rose was featured in the section for this month in history due to her Confederate spy arrest on August 23, 1861. As an avid history buff, I was fascinated to learn of this southern spy

during the Civil War. Wanting to know more, I searched for a book on the subject and found *Wild Rose*. Rose was a well-educated woman of high society, using her intelligence at a time when women were looked down on for an interest in politics. She was a staunch supporter of slavery and made sure everyone knew her opinion. *Wild Rose* tells of how Rose comes to these beliefs. Through her spying right in the heart of Washington D.C., society, she was able to provide information to the South that changed the outcome of some battles of the war in the south's favor. With her information about military information on the North, she used couriers that brought the information to the Confederate generals. After being caught and exiled to the South, President Jefferson Davis then sent her to England France, in the hopes Rose could convince them of helping the Confederacy. While in Europe, she wrote her memoir, which became a best-seller in Europe. The royalties from her book ended up being the downfall of Rose, keeping her money around her neck by a chain. She drowned while trying to escape from a blockade in Wilmington, North Carolina when her lifeboat overturned in the water. I found this book very informative a great read. Would recommend to anyone interested in Civil War or women's history, but I think anyone a fan of history would enjoy the book. I gave it only four stars because I wished that the author Ann Blackman would have written the book in chronological order. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Life of Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Female Confederate Spy By Molly Bloom I'm a native Southerner, so I enjoy reading about Southern history--esp. when it's written about someone actually involved IN that history. Both my parents are from near Wilmington, NC, and I've heard the story of Rose O'Neal Greenhow for years (tragically she died near Fort Fisher, which isn't far from Wilmington). When I found this book, I HAD to have it. I wanted to know the full story of one of the South's most famous--and alluring!--female spies, and Rose was the perfect choice. I'm learning things about Rose I never knew. Of course I don't agree with all her attitudes (such as her approval of slavery!), but I think she had to have been a fascinating and brilliant woman (not to mention a very brave one!) to have taken the risks she did for her beloved South. Rose was fearless and like a lot of very brave people, her courage ended up costing her her life. Then again, she lived a very full life and I don't think she would have regretted that for a moment. Women in those days had very limited options--Rose refused to be trapped by the expectations of her times and I admire that. Very intriguing book--and TRUE, too! (Anyone who thinks "history" is dull should try reading a few books like this one!) 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating By Jennifer I have not traditionally been a reader of historic non-fiction but was intrigued by the subject-matter of this book and was not disappointed. I was fascinated to learn about the social scene of the time and to be introduced to this admirable woman. It was incredible what a "small world" it was and how other historic figures were interwoven unexpectedly into this biography. While I don't agree with her politics nor her methods, I couldn't help but admire her courage and the conviction with which she contributed to a cause she believed in. The writing style was informative and conversational. In fact the book inspired me to read *A Slave in the White House: Paul Jennings and the Madisons* to learn more about this remarkable man of integrity to whom I was first introduced by Ms. Blackman. In contrast, that book was written in a far more academic style and while it was thought-provoking it didn't grab me as "*Wild Rose*" did, but as a companion book it was a great read and provided another perspective and angle to the subject-matter.

For sheer bravado and style, no woman in the North or South rivaled the Civil War heroine Rose O'Neal Greenhow. Fearless spy for the Confederacy, glittering Washington hostess, legendary beauty and lover, Rose Greenhow risked everything for the cause she valued more than life itself. In this superb portrait, biographer Ann Blackman tells the surprising true story of a unique woman in history. I am a Southern woman, born with revolutionary blood in my veins, Rose once declared and that fiery spirit would plunge her into the center of power and the thick of adventure. Born into a slave-holding family, Rose moved to Washington, D.C., as a young woman and soon established herself as one of the capitals most charming and influential socialites, an intimate of John C. Calhoun, James Buchanan, and Dolley Madison. She married well, bore eight children and buried five, and, at the height of the Gold Rush, accompanied her husband Robert Greenhow to San Francisco. Widowed after Robert died in a tragic accident, Rose became notorious in Washington for her daring and numerous love affairs. But with the outbreak of the Civil War, everything changed. Overnight, Rose Greenhow, fashionable hostess, became Rose Greenhow, intrepid spy. As Blackman reveals, deadly accurate intelligence that Rose supplied to General Pierre G. T. Beauregard written in a fascinating code (the code duplicated in the background on the jacket of this book). Her message to Beauregard turned the tide in the first Battle of Bull Run, and was a brilliant piece of spycraft that eventually led to her arrest by Allan Pinkerton and imprisonment with her young daughter. Indomitable, Rose regained her freedom and, as the war reached a crisis, journeyed to Europe to plead the Confederate cause at the royal courts of England and France. Drawing on newly discovered diaries and a rich trove of contemporary accounts, Blackman has fashioned a thrilling, intimate narrative that reads like a novel. *Wild Rose* is an unforgettable rendering of an astonishing woman, a book that will stand with the finest Civil War biographies. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly The biographer of Madeleine Albright and FBI turncoat Robert Hansen now turns her attention to the Civil War, yielding this excellent biography of Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow (1817-1864). Born into a Maryland farming family impoverished when her father was killed by one of his slaves, Rose grew up as

one of the belles of Washington, D.C. Even after marrying the quiet, scholarly Robert Greenhow, she continued to play an active role in pro-Southern Washington, including nursing John C. Calhoun on his deathbed. The Greenhows traveled to California hoping to profit from the Gold Rush. After Robert's accidental death in San Francisco, Rose returned to Washington and became a prominent hostess and what would now be called a lobbyist, with many political contacts. She turned these into an espionage ring in time to provide intelligence to the Confederates for the Battle of Bull Run and continued her work until she was placed under house arrest, then confined in the Old Capitol Prison. Released to go South, she traveled to Europe as an emissary from Jefferson Davis to cultivate pro-Confederate notables. The course of the war doomed this mission, and she died in a shipwreck while returning home. Blackman presents her as a woman of both charm and intellect, well equipped to step politely across 19th-century gender boundaries. This literate and thoroughly researched biography does Greenhow justice. Agent, Todd Shuster. (On sale June 7) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
A grand dame of antebellum Washington, Rose O'Neale Greenhow was a Confederate spy. In jail, her stout defense of the South made her a Lost Cause heroine, and her celebrity, on a par with that of Elizabeth Van Lew (the subject of *Southern Lady*, *Yankee Spy*, by Elizabeth Varon, 2003), ranks highest in the annals of Civil War espionage. Doing justice to this remarkable woman, author Blackman perceptively re-creates Greenhow's social and political milieu. From a slaveholding Maryland family, the beautiful Greenhow made an advantageous match to a State Department official and eventually became a vivid, sensual presence in the capital's social scene, popular with powerful men such as John Calhoun and James Buchanan. Greenhow's striking personality--confident, snobbish, and canny--is astutely portrayed amid an active narrative of her life, which ended in an 1864 shipwreck on her return from a European diplomatic mission as Jefferson Davis' emissary. Civil War readers will become engrossed in Blackman's able portrait, which summons the zeitgeist of the entire era through one woman's adventurous life. Gilbert Taylor
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Tales of Civil War spies are often full of embellished and romanticized derring-do. Not so with Ann Blackman's thoroughly researched biography of Rose O'Neale Greenhow, whose remarkable life needs no embellishment. The story of Rebel Rose, told here with great skill and lucidity, illustrates yet again that truth is stranger than fiction. James McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*
This is a fascinating tale of intrigue and suspense. Blackman has discovered some truly remarkable, never-before-published papers that reveal how deeply involved Rose Greenhow was in the Confederate cause. Cokie Roberts, National Public Radio commentator, author of *Founding Mothers*
The first comprehensive story of a remarkable woman whose passion for the Southern cause was equal to that of any soldier who fought for southern independence. Well worth reading. Jim Lighthizer, President, Civil War Preservation Trust
For anyone wondering what role women played in shaping the course of history of the United States, Ann Blackman has an answer: Rose Greenhow. The story of Wild Rose has everything: power, intrigue, passion, and a clever, determined woman at the center. This is a great read. Judy Woodruff, CNN anchor, *Judy Woodruff's Inside Politics*
Sexy, audacious, determined
Rose O'Neale Greenhow finally gets her due as a power player in American history. Relive the Civil War through the exploits of this Southern patriot, who dazzled Washington and Europe long before women were supposed to behave so boldly. Lynn Sherr, ABC News correspondent, *20/20*
Ann Blackman has brought all the skills she honed as a Washington journalist to tell the story of a fascinating woman of the nineteenth century. Here is the Confederate spy, a courtier, a savvy Southerner, a rebel in her own right shown with all her strengths and flaws. Ellen Goodman, syndicated Boston Globe columnist
From the Hardcover edition.