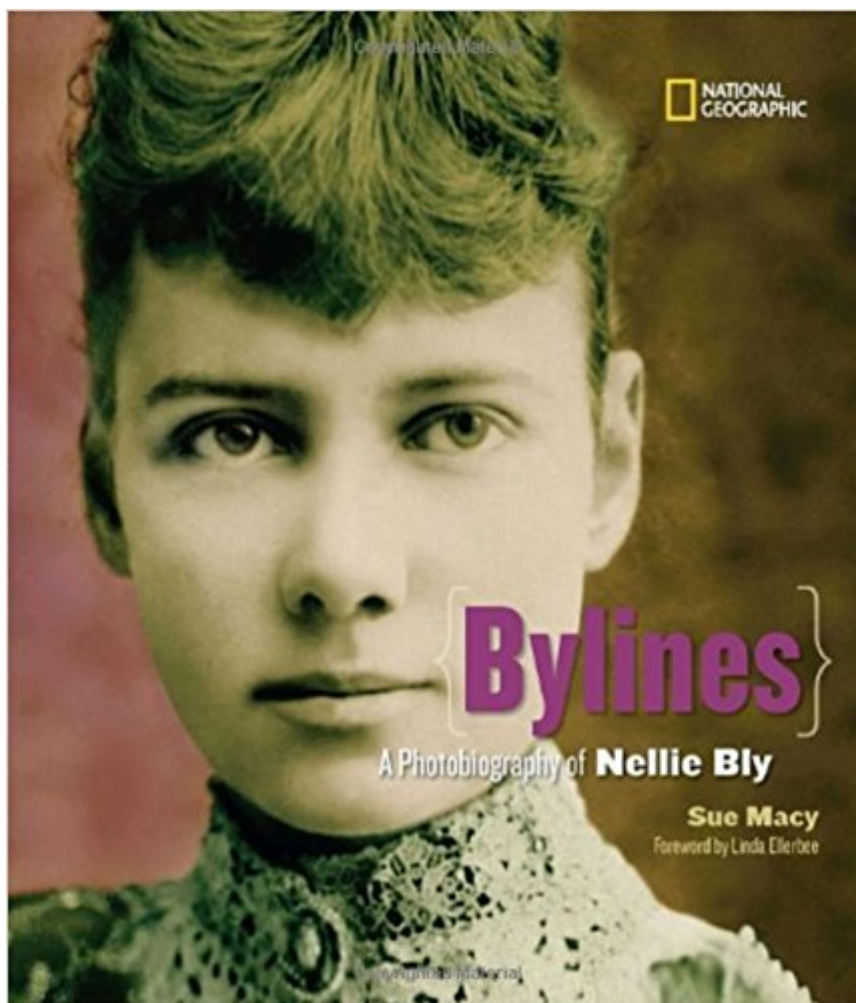


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# Bylines: A Photobiography Of Nellie Bly (Photobiographies)



## Synopsis

Bylines is the latest title from award-winning biographer Sue Macy. Nellie Bly was a pioneering American journalist who lived by the belief that "Energy rightly applied and directed will accomplish anything." This credo took her from humble origins in Cochran's Mill, Pennsylvania, a town named after her father, to the most exotic cities around the globe by the time she was 25. Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in 1864, in an age when many women led unassuming lives. Her life would make people sit up and take notice: When she wasn't making history herself, she was writing about others who did. Rarely has anyone left a more detailed record of her place in the world than Nellie Bly. In a very public life, she shared her feelings and opinions through her writing and embraced the struggles of all classes of Americans who were fighting for their rights. The story of the two decades before and after the turn of the 20th century was her story, and she wrote with a powerful pen. Her "stunt journalism" included getting herself committed to an insane asylum for women and circling the globe in a mere 72 days. She profiled leaders from Susan B. Anthony to Eugene V. Debs, exposed corruption, and offered her readers a travelogue that expanded their horizons, even as it made the world a little smaller. Her words live on even now, and Sue Macy's masterful biography invites young readers into Nellie Bly's America, a country at a time of great growth and social change.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 4-6 •The life story of this daring news reporter, globetrotter, and advocate for women's rights is presented chronologically from birth to death. By seamlessly weaving her subject's accomplishments as a national figure with her personal life, Macy offers a masterful account of how Bly and turn-of-the-century American society shaped one another. There is at least one period photo, map, or artifact per spread, as well as several full- and double-page visuals. Insightful captions relate the illustrations to the surrounding text. This meticulously researched and elegantly presented account also provides readers and teachers with a plethora of additional material: a date-by-date time line of Bly's life, museums to visit, and videos to watch. The ample index features just about every supporting character mentioned in the book and uses boldfaced page numbers to indicate illustrations. Pair this book with a read-aloud of Bonnie Christensen's *The Daring Nelly Bly* (Knopf, 2003) for a riveting classroom discussion of American society, feminism, and journalism. •Rebecca Dash, New York Public Library END

Sue Macy is the author of *Bullseye: A Photobiography of Annie Oakley*, *Winning Ways: A Photohistory of American Women in Sports*, and *A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*, among many other titles. She has received numerous awards and starred reviews for her work. *Winning Ways* and *A Whole New Ball Game* were both named ALA Best Books for Young Adults and NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People. Linda Ellerbee is a retired American journalist who cofounded Lucky Duck Productions with her husband, Rolfe Tessem. Their company is best known for its Peabody and Emmy Award-winning show *Nick News*. Prior to hosting this program for more than 20 years, she worked as a reporter at ABC, CBS, and NBC.

Yes, please keep offering biographies for girls to be inspired.

She is my travel inspiration. Remarkable woman who really knew how to pack light!

This is a great book on Nellie Bly. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in having accurate information this journalist.

I'm actually thrilled with this book! I have over 30 Nellie Bly books and this is superb!

Nellie Bly, a determined young journalist who would take the world by storm, was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran into a large family in a quiet Pennsylvania town. Although she was the thirteenth child of her father, she was the third child and first daughter of her mother Mary Jane. All the other girls were dressed in plain dresses, but Elizabeth wore pink. Naturally "Pink" Cochran would stand out from the crowd and would have a tendency to do just that for most of her life. When her father died his inheritance was divided among his children, but later, when she went to school to become a teacher, it was discovered a banker had squandered much of it and she was not able to complete her education. Undaunted, Nellie was determined to find a way to earn money to support herself and contribute to the family finances. Erasmus Wilson was writing, in her eyes, nonsense about how "women should stay out of the workplace and instead focus on cooking, cleaning, sewing and keeping a nice home." Her jaunty objections to his column actually landed her a job. Her byline? Nellie Bly. She was soon taking on some "gritty topics" along with the regular home and garden fare. Later when she took a big step and moved to New York, she ran up against another opinionated man named Dr. George Hepworth. He claimed that "it was improper for a woman to cover a story about a crime or a scandal." Nellie got a job on the New York World and set out to prove them all wrong. Oh, were they ever wrong! This is a marvelous photobiography of a young, determined groundbreaking journalist. This is only the second I've read in the National Geographic photobiography series and I've been quite impressed with both of them. The story was well researched, well written and very interesting. I loved the way the author brought Nellie to life and felt an affinity for this almost forgotten woman. The book is peppered with period photographs, reproductions of ephemera, and has numerous informative sidebars. Perhaps the most interesting photographs were those of women working in factories. In the back of the book is a chronology, an index and additional recommended book, video, and website resources. This is an amazing photobiography that will appeal to young and old alike!

This is a fascinating biography by an author who is rapidly becoming a "library must-have" in the field of women's history. Nellie Bly's story is an inspiration for anyone--girls, boys and adults--and her life as a crusading journalist is so rarely found in library collections. The photos are a nice addition, and the book by National Geographic virtually attests to its quality.

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