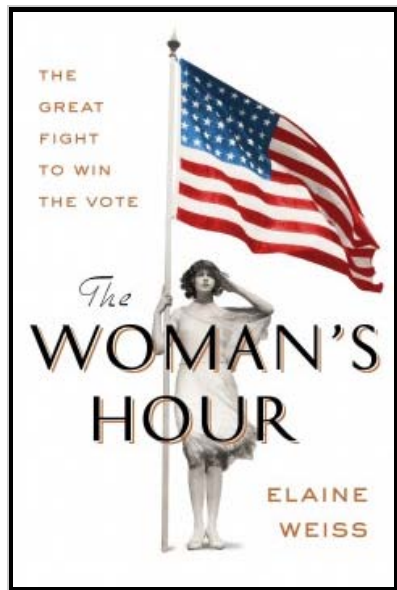


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The Woman's Hour

The Great Fight to Win the Vote

by Elaine Weiss

Price: \$28.00(Hardcover)
 Published: March 06, 2018

★★★★★
 Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: The nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. "Anyone interested in the history of our country's ongoing fight to put its founding values into practice--as well as those seeking the roots of current political fault lines--would be well-served by picking up *The Woman's Hour*." --Margot Lee Shetterly, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Hidden Figures* Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, twelve have rejected or refused to vote, and one last state is needed. It all comes down to Tennessee, the moment of truth for the suffragists, after a seven-decade crusade. The opposing forces include politicians with careers at stake, liquor companies, railroad magnates, and a lot of racists who don't want black women voting. And then there are the "Antis"--women who oppose their own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the moral collapse of the nation. They all converge in a boiling hot summer for a vicious face-off replete with dirty tricks, betrayals and bribes, bigotry, Jack Daniel's, and the Bible. Following a handful of remarkable women who led their respective forces into battle, along with appearances by Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Frederick Douglass, and Eleanor Roosevelt, *The Woman's Hour* is an inspiring story of activists winning their own freedom in one of the last campaigns forged in the shadow of the Civil War, and the beginning of the great twentieth-century battles for civil rights.

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About The Author

Elaine Weiss
 Elaine Weiss is an award-winning journalist and writer whose work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, as well as in reports and documentaries for National Public Radio and Voice of America. A MacDowell Colony Fellow and Pushcart Prize Editor's Choice honoree, she is also the author of *Fruits of Victory: The Woman's Land Army in the Great War* (Potomac Books/University of Nebraska Press).

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What We Say

Countless memoirs, scholarly works and popular histories have been written about suffragettes and the ongoing fight to attain equal rights for women. Demanding their right to vote in the United States was only one step in that journey, but it remains a thrilling and dramatic one. HBO aired a noble miniseries about it just a few years ago. This new popular history by journalist Elaine Weiss is a highly entertaining addition. It smartly zeros in on the final battle for enfranchisement: the political shenanigans in Tennessee to ratify the 19th Amendment. This is a ticking clock scenario: 35 states have ratified it and the rest (mostly former slave states) have rejected it or won't even bother considering the idea of women voting. That leaves Tennessee. If women don't achieve victory there, they must start from scratch and wait years or perhaps a decade or longer to garner their basic civil rights. Weiss captures the urgency. Better still, this is often a battle between women, not women pleading with men. Major figures include the head of the traditional, more socially respectable suffragette movement founded by Susan B. Anthony and others; the fighters in the more radical wing unafraid of pickets and ACT-Up style stunts; and the formidable women campaigning against suffrage. It's all here, including Bribery, heart attacks, mysterious trouble-makers, false charges, petty and un-admirable abandonment of racial justice (no one is a saint) to achieve a (partial) victory. Without obscuring the main narrative, Weiss offers deft histories of the movement, its racial politics, biographies of key players and more. If you don't know your suffragette timeline, you'll be on the edge of your seat until the very end. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"This well-researched and well-documented history reveals how prosuffragists sometimes compromised racial equality to win white women's enfranchisement, and that, although the 19th Amendment was ratified, there exists to this day an ongoing battle to effect universal, unrestricted suffrage."—*Library Journal*

"Remarkably entertaining ... a timely examination of a shining moment in the ongoing fight to achieve a more perfect union."—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred and Boxed Review

"Anyone interested in the history of our country's ongoing fight to put its founding values into practice—as well as those seeking the roots of current political fault lines—would be well-served by picking up Elaine Weiss's *The Woman's Hour*. By focusing in on the final battle in the war to win women the right to vote, told from the point of view of its foot soldiers, Weiss humanizes both the women working in favor of the amendment and those working against it, exposing all their convictions, tactics, and flaws. She never shies away from the complicating issue of race; the frequent conflict and occasional sabotage that occurred between women's suffrage activists and the leaders of the nascent civil rights movement make for some of the most fascinating material in the book."

—Margot Lee Shetterly, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Hidden Figures*

"Imaginatively conceived and vividly written, *The Woman's Hour* gives us a stirring history of women's long journey to suffrage and to political influence. Making bold connection with race and class, Weiss's splendid book is as much needed today as it was in 1940 when Eleanor Roosevelt noted that men hate women with power. As every victory since the Civil War and Reconstruction faces the wrecker, *The Woman's Hour* is an inspiration in the continuing struggles for suffrage, and for race and gender justice, and for democracy.

—Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Praise for *Fruits of Victory*

"Weiss's excellent work of cross-disciplinary scholarship offers readers a unique look at how WWI changed society."

—*Booklist*

"Weiss effectively chronicles the birth of the WLA movement and the dedicated women behind it. Recommended for both scholarly readers and interested history buffs."

—*Library Journal*

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