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# Wheels Of Change: How Women Rode The Bicycle To Freedom (with A Few Flat Tires Along The Way)



## Synopsis

A finalist for the YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Award, Sue Macy's *Wheels of Change* offers young listeners an ear-opening account of how, beginning in the late 19th century, the bicycle helped change the course of women's history. Macy meticulously documents how women used the freedom of their newfound mobility to effect social change, even in the face of constant challenges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Narrative nonfiction is one of my favorite genres to read. I just love reading about real people, real times, and real places. Sue Macy has written a fascinating account of how the introduction of the bicycle helped woman step out of the shadows were they had been kept for centuries (most of them, certainly not all). Like most technological advances, the bicycle had it supporters and its naysayers. I found it really interesting to read about the development of the bicycle along with advertising and marketing strategies. I found it ironic that cigarette companies placed images of woman riding bikes on/in their boxes. I guess they wanted their brand associated with something fun and healthy, just like beer companies today want their product associated with athletics as well. It was fun to read about some of the ladies both celebrity and ordinary who used the bicycle and the freedom it represented to advocate for their cause(s) including the right to vote. It was also somewhat amusing to read about all the good and bad things doctors had to say about bicycles and the medical conditions helped or hurt by riding a bicycle. Sidebars included short newspaper article reprints that provided a glimpse into some of the attitudes of the day. The one that really made me

role my eyes was a list of don'ts for female riders which included things such as: Don't wear a man's cap, don't criticize people's 'legs'", Don't wear clothes that don't fit, etc. Somehow I doubt there was a similar list for the men. The book is illustrated with posters, trade cards, postcards, and photographs of the period which helped me understand the text better. The photo of a young lady in her corset, looking like she couldn't possibly breathe in it made me wince. Macy has created a book that is both fascinating and entertaining. One that I can heartily recommend to those readers who enjoy getting a glimpse into the ways that life has changed over the years. Although a number of bicycle related inventions are still with us today, there are many that have gone away.

I would recommend this book for fourth grade and up. It is good to have some background on women's suffrage and overall women's discrimination throughout history. The language is not difficult, nor are the concepts but I think ten and up would get the most out of it. I would say once one is out of high school, the book may be a little watered down. I would have preferred a book with more detail and elaboration, however, for the target age, this is appropriate.

The bicycle played a most important part in liberating women beginning with the invention of the safety bicycle in the early 1890s. This book is written for young people but it makes interesting reading for people of all ages. The book is heavily illustrated and the pictures help tell the story. I highly recommend this book for all people including people of all ages and both men and women.

This full-color book is for all ages: adults will enjoy it as much as will middle graders. Every page contains photographs or diagrams or posters of some sort, and they all illustrate the history of women and the bicycle. There's some absolutely wonderful sidebar information on types of bicycles, how they were propelled, where they were raced, who held the records, and so on. The book is very well written and its argument convincing: that the bicycle helped women achieve a certain degree of freedom, and that once that was achieved, there was no going back -- only forward. My only complaint about this book is that it ends suddenly and abruptly: as a reader I would have liked a kind of tapering off into the present day. Or, if not that, some dates on the cover, such as 1850 - 1920 or such, so that I would be prepared for the story stopping.

great book, interesting read. colorful, engaging illustrations.

This is a wonderful book that everyone should read. It tells the story of the evolution of the bicycle

and how bicycles helped liberate women. The illustrations are wonderful, too. Why weren't we taught this in school? This is an important part of women's history.

Good read on women's history as it pertains to the rise in popularity of the bicycle. Presentation is more like a children's book, which I didn't expect. But it's still a worthwhile purchase.

Bit of a coffee table book but a good contribution to 'women in biking', worth a read. View tips and guidelines | 3 more words required.

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