Despite multiple waves of feminist revolution, today’s single woman is still mired in judgment. For a brief period in the late 1930s, she was all the rage. In the turbulent and transformative years between suffrage and the sixties, thanks to Marjorie Hillis, single women boldly claimed and enjoyed their independence. Hillis was already a success at Vogue when she published a radical self-help book in 1936: *Live Alone and Like It: A Guide for the Extra Woman*. She urged spinsters, divorcées, and “old maids” to shed derogatory labels and take control of their lives and her philosophy became a phenomenon. Hillis’s influence spanned decades and numerous best sellers.

Vuic provides a fascinating glimpse into wartime gender roles and the tensions that continue to complicate American women’s involvement in the military arena.

This is the story of the intrepid young women who volunteered to help and entertain American servicemen fighting overseas, from World War I through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Young women from across the United States, many of whom had never traveled far from home, volunteered to serve in one of the nation’s most brutal work environments. Vuic provides a fascinating glimpse into wartime gender roles and the tensions that continue to complicate American women’s involvement in the military arena.
WHEN WOMEN RULED THE WORLD: SIX QUEENS OF EGYPT
By Kara Cooney
932.01 Cooney (2018)
Female rulers are a rare phenomenon, but thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt, women reigned supreme. Queens like Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra controlled the totalitarian state as power-brokers and rulers. However, throughout human history, women in positions of power were more often used as political pawns in a male-dominated society. What was so special about ancient Egypt that provided women this kind of access to the highest political office and allowed them to transcend patriarchal obstacles?

THE HUSBAND HUNTERS: AMERICAN HEIRESSES WHO MARRIED INTO THE BRITISH ARISTOCRACY
By Anne De Courcy
935.48 De Courcy (2018)
The real women who inspired Downton Abbey were young, rich, American heiresses who married into impoverished British aristocracy at the turn of the twentieth century. Towards the end of the 19th century and for the first few years of the 20th, a strange invasion took place in Britain. From 1874 to 1905, young American heiresses married into the British peerage, bringing with them all the wealth, glamour and sophistication of the Gilded Age.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG: A LIFE
By Jane Sherron De Hart
BIOG 347.1 Sherron De Hart (2018)
This book, fifteen years in the making, was written with the cooperation of Ruth Bader Ginsburg herself and based on many interviews with the justice, her husband, her children, her friends, and her associates. Jane De Hart explores the central experiences that crucially shaped Ginsburg’s passion for justice, her advocacy for gender equality and her meticulous jurisprudence.

BROAD BAND: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WOMEN WHO MADE THE INTERNET
By Claire L. Evans
004.0922 Evans (2018)
The history of technology is one of men and machines, garages and riches, alpha nerds and brogrammers. The little-known fact is that female visionaries have always been at the vanguard of technology and innovation. They’ve just been erased from the story. Women are not ancillary to the history of technology. They turn up at the very beginning of every important wave. Evans gives these unsung female heroes their due with her insightful social history of the women who made the internet what it is today.

LADY FIRST: THE WORLD OF FIRST LADY SARAH POLK
By Amy S. Greenberg
973.61092 Polk/Greenberg (2019)
The little-known story of remarkable First Lady Sarah Polk, a brilliant master of the art of high politics and a crucial, but unrecognized figure in history. With savvy and charm, she helped her brilliant but unlikeable husband, James K. Polk, ascend to the White House. As first lady from 1845 to 1849, she was a recognized public figure in a culture where wives were nearly invisible, hosting popular and openly political entertainment in the White House. She exercised truly extraordinary power as First Lady: quietly manipulating elected officials, shaping foreign policy, and directing a campaign in support of America’s expansionist war against Mexico.

LEFTOVER IN CHINA: THE WOMEN SHAPING THE WORLD’S NEXT SUPERPOWER
By Roseann Lake
305.4 Lake (2018)
Forty years ago, China enacted the one-child policy. It resulted in both an enormous gender imbalance, with a predicted twenty million more men than women of marriage age by 2020, and China’s first generations of only-daughters. These girls were pushed to study, excel in college, and succeed in careers, as if they were sons. Now living in an economic powerhouse, enough of these women have decided to postpone marriage, or not marry at all, spewing the label “leftovers.” Well-educated and goal-oriented, they struggle to find partners in a society where gender roles have not evolved as vigorously as society itself. Focusing on the lives of four individual women, hundreds of interviews, and historical and demographic research, it shows how these “leftovers” are the linchpin to China’s future.

CODE NAME: LISE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE WOMAN WHO BECAME WORLD WAR II’S MOST HIGHLY DECORATED SPY
By Larry Loftix
BIOG 940.54864 Odette/Loftis (2019)
The year is 1942 and World War II is in full swing. Odette Sansom decides to follow in her war hero father’s footsteps by becoming an SOE agent to aid Britain and her beloved homeland, France. Five failed attempts and one plane crash later, she finally lands in occupied France. Working with her commanding officer, Captain Peter Churchill, she successfully completes missions, all the while being hunted by the German secret police, who finally capture them. They are imprisoned and then sent to concentration camps in Germany. They never give up hope for themselves and their colleagues.

SEARCHING FOR THE AMAZONS: THE REAL WARRIOR WOMEN OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
By John Man
939.6 Man (2018)
Since the time of the ancient Greeks we have been fascinated by accounts of the Amazons, an elusive tribe of hard-fighting, horse-riding female warriors. For centuries people believed in their existence and attempted to trace their origins. In the absence of evidence, we eventually reasoned away their existence, concluding that these powerful, sexually liberated female soldiers must have been the fantastical invention of Greek myth and storytelling. Following decades of new research and groundbreaking archeological discoveries, we now know these powerful warrior queens did indeed exist.

SISTER SAINTS: MORMON WOMEN SINCE THE END OF POLYGAMY
By Colleen McDaniel
289.3 McDaniel (2019)
The specter of polygamy haunts Mormonism. More than a century after the practice was banned, it still obscures people’s perceptions of the lives of today’s Latter-day Saint women. Many still see them as second-class citizens, oppressed by the church and their husbands, forced to stay home and take care of their children. This history of modern Mormon women dispels these stereotypes and contends that we are on the verge of an era in which women are likely to play a greater role in the Mormon Church. Well-educated, outspoken, and deeply committed to their faith, these women are defying labels like liberal and conservative, traditional and modern.

SHAPING THE WORLD’S NEXT SUPERPOWER
By Roseann Lake
305.4 Lake (2018)
Forty years ago, China enacted the one-child policy. It resulted in both an enormous gender imbalance, with a predicted twenty million more men than women of marriage age by 2020, and China’s first generations of only-daughters. These girls were pushed to study, excel in college, and succeed in careers, as if they were sons. Now living in an economic powerhouse, enough of these women have decided to postpone marriage, or not marry at all, spewing the label “leftovers.” Well-educated and goal-oriented, they struggle to find partners in a society where gender roles have not evolved as vigorously as society itself. Focusing on the lives of four individual women, hundreds of interviews, and historical and demographic research, it shows how these “leftovers” are the linchpin to China’s future.