



A Short eBook about
**AMAZING
WOMEN**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2011



DR CHARLES MARGERISON
The Amazing People Club®

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This eBook is developed for those celebrating International Women's Day. It is a selection of inspirational stories from the book titled *Amazing Women*.

This is published by The Amazing People Club® and is distributed by Hachette Book Group.

For further information about the book and audio series, visit www.amazingpeopleclub.com

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Helen Adams Keller



1880 1968

Life can be kind and cruel
My parents celebrated my birth
They gave thanks that I was healthy
It seemed that I was heading for a normal life
When I was 19 months old that all changed
I became very ill with what was called 'brain fever'
Doctors said it was 'acute congestion of the stomach and brain'
Probably today it would be called meningitis
The result was that I was left deaf, and blind
Learning became a major problem
So did my behavior
Not being able to see, hear or speak led to outbursts
I could think, but not express those thoughts
Frustration, confusion and anger were part of my everyday life
We lived on an estate called Ivy Green in Alabama
This was a divided society in more ways than one
Business was based on white landowners and black slaves
My family fought for the Confederate Army
In addition to my handicap my parents suffered
It was a difficult time for all
They did not know how to help me
It was Martha Washington who helped me in the early days
She was the six year old daughter of our family cook
We developed a sign language when playing together
My mother realized I needed professional help, and took action
She contacted Laura Bridgman, another deaf blind person
Her name had been in one of Charles Dickens' *American Notes*
That led to discussions with Alexander Graham Bell
In addition to telephones, he was working on problems of deafness
He recommended the Perkins Institute for the Blind
My mother asked for a special teacher
Incredibly, a very special person arrived
Anne Sullivan became not only my teacher, but my guide
She was only 20 years old
Having been blind herself, Anne knew what it felt like
She found a way to communicate with me
It was the start of a 49-year association and friendship
Initially, I gave Anne a hard time, but she did not give up

My father agreed that we should have a little house in the garden
Maybe he thought I would be less of a nuisance there
Shortly after, Anne made a breakthrough with me
It helped me escape from my isolated world of silence and darkness
On a visit to the well, she put my hands into the water
At the same time Anne drew symbols in the palm of my hand
She was showing me how to spell with her fingers
I realized that she was spelling the word 'water'
It was a breakthrough, and I had to know more words
Within a few hours, I had over 30 of them
Anne had to spell everything that I touched
It must have been hard for her, as I was very demanding
It was as if I had suddenly discovered the secret of life
In reality I had because I could now communicate
Equally, I could understand what others were saying to me
Each day, Anne wrote the name of new objects that I found
Suddenly, I was feeling better about myself and life
Learning via finger spelling became an exciting pastime
Gradually, she helped me learn how to read via braille signs
It enabled me to understand many languages
In addition to English, I could read French, German, Greek and Latin
At the age of eight, I went to the Perkins School for the Blind
I realized that other people had the same affliction
We learned from each other and gained professional help
In 1897, Anne took me to New York
There I studied at the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf
I also took lessons at the Horace Mann School
Mary Swift Lamson tried to help me speak, but it was difficult
Before the illness I had not learned how to use my vocal chords
They were in working order, but I could not use them properly
Next, in 1896, we went to The Cambridge School for Young Ladies
Being a teenager was a new challenge
Anne helped me at every stage, both academically and socially
Through many hard hours of effort, I gained entry to University
Mark Twain heard of me and introduced his friends
Some of them were influential and kind
Henry Rogers managed Standard Oil and paid my fees for college
Anne accompanied me to every class

She spelt out the lectures in my hand
At every stage, she was there as my interpreter and guide
Helping me to be the first deaf and blind person to gain a degree
The qualification was due to her patience and skill
It provided me with the foundation to help others
In the process, I became a suffragist and supporter of women's rights
Also, I fought for women to be educated in birth control
Another cause was the support I gave to the pacifist movement
This led me to help create the American Civil Liberties Union
In 1915, I founded Helen Keller International
A non-profit organization working to prevent blindness



The word had to be spread to get help for others
With Anne by my side we travelled to 39 countries
In particular, we became well known in Japan
In all of these endeavors, I spoke through Anne
She was one of the few people who understood my speech
On lecture tours we earned as much as 2000 dollars a week
Funds given to causes such as the American Foundation for the Blind
When Anne was ill, Polly Thomson became my interpreter
In 1936, Anne died and a part of me went with her
She had not only saved my life, but given me a life
Polly then became my guide and interpreter
My political work was also important to me
Helping those in need was the focus
To do this, I joined The Socialist Party
They supported the working class and disadvantaged
It was also vital to be involved with the union movement
Therefore, I was active with the Industrial Workers of the World

Part of my role was to serve on a commission related to blindness
I was surprised to learn how some work caused loss of sight
Health and safety at work had to be improved
With the help of colleagues, I wrote to inform people of their rights
In all, I wrote 12 books in braille or dictated
My books also reflected my convictions
Light in My Darkness reflected my spiritual beliefs
It was originally published in 1927 under the title *My Religion*
Recognition led to meetings with people of influence
Including meetings with the King of England and the President of the USA
Also with the media and film stars which were broadcast on radio and TV
It was a whirlwind life that went on for many years
In 1957, Polly Thomson had a stroke and died
She had given me a second life and helped me fulfill my mission
Together, we helped raise funds and support for the blind



Winnie Corbally then joined me and gave me support
We continued the lecture tours
Our work was also helped by the play called *The Miracle Worker*
It celebrated the life of Anne Sullivan and what she did for me
In 1962, it became a very successful film
By that time, I had the first of a series of strokes
Politicians and public bodies wanted to honor my work
In 1964, I was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
The next year I was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame
The names of Anne, Polly and Winnie deserved to be there also
Without them I could not have lit the flame for blind people
In 1968, I said my last prayer
I asked for my ashes to be with Anne and Polly
They were the heroines in helping me help the blind.

Helen Adams Keller

Achievements

Helen was born in good health and able to see and hear. It seemed that she would have a normal life. However, at an early age, through illness, she lost both the use of her eyes and ears. Despite this, with the help of Anne Sullivan and other women and tutors, she achieved remarkable things in her life.

Helen was a determined and intelligent girl. Her family had sufficient means to employ Anne Sullivan and to send Helen for special education. Mark Twain met her and was an admirer of her spirit. He introduced her to Henry Rogers, the head of an oil company. Impressed by Helen's determination, Rogers and his wife paid many of her university education bills. Helen used the opportunity well and became a leader for those with disabilities.

Throughout her long life, for she was almost 88 years of age when she died, Helen campaigned for the blind and deaf and others in need. She was an example of what people can achieve with determination. Helen gained a university degree and wrote a number of books. She made many tours in order to speak with people who had disabilities and to represent them. In between those tours, she wrote at length and in depth on the issues. In the process, she raised many thousands of dollars for charity, which went to supporting her work with those with physical disabilities.

Helen was influential and met many US Presidents when she spoke up for those who were disabled. Her work took her to Japan, Europe and Australasia, as well as visits to many cities and towns across the USA. In all, Keller and Sullivan travelled to over 39 countries, making several trips to Japan.

I have chosen to reflect her career as an educator, for she wanted to help others dealing with disabilities to learn. Helen also helped raise the awareness of people without physical disability as to how they could assist and contribute.

Recognition

Helen Keller and George Kessler founded the Helen Keller International (HKI) organization. This organization is devoted to research in vision, health

and nutrition.

In 1920, she helped to found the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Keller joined the Industrial Workers of the World (known as the IWW or the Wobblies) in 1912. All those organizations honour the work that she did to support them.



Helen is also recognized for her written work. At the age of 11, she created *The Frost Fairies*. It was the first of many books.

The Story of My Life was written when she was 22, with the help of Anne Sullivan and her husband. Helen went on to write 12 books in total. The one titled *My Religion* gained wide readership. *The World I Live In*, published in 1908, gave hope to many disabled people. Her political writings reflected her socialist beliefs, as seen in *Out of the Dark* in 1913.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was awarded to Helen on September 14th 1964, by President Johnson. The following year she was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame.

On the stage, screen and radio as well as in many newspaper and journal articles, Helen's work and life have been remembered and celebrated. She appeared in a silent film called *Deliverance*, in 1919, which told her story.

Later, she became celebrated in *The Story of Helen Keller* and the documentary called *Helen Keller: In Her Story*.

Mark Twain described Helen as a "miracle worker" and it became the title of a drama, which led to the film called *The Miracle Worker*. It started as a play in 1957 and became a Broadway show in 1959, a film in 1962 and a TV production in 1969 and 2000. Also, in 1984, a new TV production called *The Miracle Continues* was made. The Bollywood film industry made a film called *Black* in 2005, that depicted Helen's early life.

Augusta Ada Lovelace



1815-1852

My father was Lord Byron, the celebrated poet
However, I did not know him
He left my mother and I when I was five months old
That was the last time he saw me
In between writing, he was away having affairs and breakdowns
He died when I was eight years old
My mother, Annabella, ensured that I had a sound education
She chose mathematics and music as two key topics
Her view was that they were good subjects for training the mind
It was unusual for girls to receive tuition
There was no public education system in England at that time
Therefore, most people did not go to school
In particular, it was widely thought education was wasted on girls
It was expected that they should marry and look after children
It was an unwritten rule that men were in control
Women should not 'interfere' in politics, religion or business
It was assumed that women should know their place
Despite this, my mother arranged private tuition
Miss Lamont was my first teacher
Geography was a subject that I enjoyed
Mother objected and replaced one of the lessons with arithmetic
She had a strong view on what was good for me
Although she decided my studies, we were not close
Her other activities took up a great deal of her time
Many tutors were appointed and I had to work hard
Some family members said it was too much work
They wanted me to have more time to play
Mother ignored them and gave me punishments if I did not do well
Solitary confinement and having to stay motionless were two examples
Also, she demanded that I write apologies over small matters
By the age of 14, I was feeling under pressure
A peculiar illness came upon me
For three years, I lost the ability to walk properly
Confined to the house, I continued with my studies
During this time I became an accomplished musician
Also, I had tuition in foreign languages
Mathematics, however, was my main subject
There was a beauty and elegance to the formulae and equations

The book *The Mechanism of the Heavens* impressed me
Written by Mary Somerville, it dealt with mathematical astronomy
As a result, we met and became friends
In 1832, she introduced me to Lord William King
A very clever man, he became one of my tutors
Aged 27, he was ten years older than me
Although young, I was attracted to him
When I was 20, we married and had three children
He became an Earl in 1838 and took the title ‘Earl Lovelace’
That is how I became known as Ada Lovelace
It was a life of high society, meeting influential people
David Brewster, developer of the kaleidoscope, was one
Also, I met Charles Dickens and other writers
Scientists, like Charles Wheatstone and Michael Faraday, visited
At dinner, they shared their ideas
Mrs Somerville was also very helpful in other ways
She invited me to a dinner party at her home in 1834
Discussion centred on Charles Babbage’s work
What I heard fascinated me
He was developing a new calculating engine
This challenged my thinking about the future of mathematics
We met and he outlined his grand plans for a computer
With my knowledge of mathematics, we had a lot in common
I understood better than most people what he was doing
We continued to talk and share ideas
In 1841, Babbage went to Turin, Italy, and gave a talk on his work
Luigi Menabrea was there and wrote an article on the key points
A copy of this was given to me
With my linguistic ability, I was able to translate it into English
Babbage was delighted and suggested that I add my own notes
It ended up three times the length of the original
In the document, I outlined how Babbage’s machine could be used
My view was that it had greater potential than just a calculating machine
I proposed that it be used to compose music and produce graphics
In addition, I advocated its use in science and other practical purposes
The document was signed simply with my initials
It was unbecoming for a lady of my class to put her full name on it
My view, reflective of the time, was that it was ‘unfeminine’

Babbage felt it should be published and made the arrangements
It appeared in Richard Taylor's *Scientific Memoirs* in 1843
My discussions with Charles Babbage continued
They focused on mathematical applications
In particular, I developed an algorithm to calculate Bernoulli numbers
That became the foundation for the first computer program
It was a pity that we did not have more time to work together
So many people ignored or derided his great work
They did not have the vision to appreciate his breakthrough
He never wrote an article on his work
Practical demonstration was his forte
Writing things down was mine and we made a good team
I witnessed the development of Babbage's engine with pleasure
It was designed to read and store data and perform basic calculations
The start of a revolution in the management of information
The world of the calculating machine and the computer
Yet, our work relationship was short-lived
Once again, I was having problems with my health
My energy began to ebb away
Medication was prescribed, but did not resolve the problems
Doctors were called and more treatments tried
None of them worked and I was confined to the house
It became clear that I was suffering from a cancer
At the age of 37, amidst tears, I said goodbye to my children and husband
Requesting in my Will to be buried beside my father
The father that I had never met
Yet I hoped that my spirit, like his, would live on.

Post Script

In 1979, Ada Lovelace's work was recognised
A new computer language was commissioned, based on Pascal
The United States Department of Defence called it ADA
A brand for professional recognition
A credit to the work done with Charles Babbage.

Ada Lovelace

Achievements

Ada was the daughter of Lord Byron, who left his family when Ada was very young. Her mother imposed strong discipline upon Ada and she became a gifted mathematician. On meeting Charles Babbage, she realised that her skills could assist him in his computer development work. As a result, during a nine month period in 1842-43, Lovelace translated Italian mathematician Luigi Menabrea's memoir on Babbage's proposed machine, the Analytical Engine. She then added her own views on computer applications and is thought to have been the first computer programmer. It was groundbreaking work and set the scene for those who were to follow by leaving a record of what had been done.

Recognition

There was little or no recognition of Ada in her own lifetime. She regarded it as unfeminine to sign her name to the papers that she wrote, as women were expected to concentrate on domestic matters. Therefore, she only put her initials on the papers that were published.

In 1953, over 100 years after her death, Lovelace's notes on Babbage's Analytical Engine were re-published. That engine is now recognised as an early model for a computer.

The USA Defence Department named the computer language *Ada* after Ada Lovelace. The reference manual for the language was approved on 10th December 1980, and the number associated with it was the year of her birth.

In addition, Lovelace's image can be seen on the Microsoft product authenticity hologram stickers. Since 1998, the British Computer Society has awarded a medal in Ada's name and in 2008 initiated an annual competition for female students of Computer Science.

In the popular media, Lovelace has been portrayed in the novel *The Difference Engine*, by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling.

Further information on the Series

The Amazing Women series from The Amazing People Club provides a fascinating insight into the lives of amazing women – some well-known, some unsung heroines. Each story comes alive through BioViews®, a new concept in storytelling that reveals amazing stories, as if the person has given an interview about their life. Each of the stories can normally be read in around ten minutes and is based on the known facts of the individual's life alongside what they may have felt about their experiences.

BioViews® provide an easy way of learning about people who made major contributions to our world. The unique format and flow enables each person's story to come alive, as if it is being personally told to you. Each one of them reflects the interests, emotions and passions linked to the amazing person's achievements. They are stories that can provide inspiration and ideas for your own journey through life and we hope you will enjoy them.

The career notes at the end of each story provide background information on each person's life, reflecting their achievements and some of the recognition they have received.

Amazing Facts About Amazing Women

Nancy Astor was born in the USA but she became the first woman to take a seat in the British Parliament. She was one of the most powerful people of her time.

Elizabeth Blackwell became the first qualified female doctor in the USA, and the first woman to be registered as a doctor in England.

Edith Cavell was killed by the Germans in the First World War for helping allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. A trained nurse, she saved the lives of countless soldiers, regardless of which side they were fighting on.

Coco Chanel has a real 'rags to riches' story. From the age of 12, when her mother died, she was brought up in a convent, but despite her difficult start, through tenacity and hard work she progressed to become a powerful tycoon of fashion.

Marie Curie was born Marya Salomee Sklodowska. She married her husband, Pierre Curie, in 1895. Their first child was born in 1897 – the same year Marie gained her Physics Doctorate.

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy to a well-endowed English family. Her parents were very disappointed when she chose to be a nurse; an occupation seen by her parents as a menial type of work. Her fame and achievements, however, speak for themselves.

Edith Piaf spent her early years living in a brothel with her grandmother, who was in charge of the working girls. As a child, Edith suffered poor health, and at the age of three began to lose her sight, which didn't return until she was seven years old. She started singing on the streets to begin her outstanding career.

Eva Peron was born to a single mother and grew up in poverty but became the most powerful woman in Argentina and her life provided the inspiration for the film *Evita*.

Mother Teresa decided to be a missionary at the age of 12. Aged 18, she said goodbye to her mother and sister and set off to join the Sisters of Loreto at Rathfarnham, Ireland. She never saw her family again.

Other titles in the Amazing Women range include:

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For further information visit www.amazingpeopleclub.com.

Inspirational Quotes by Amazing Women

“Just don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”

Ella Fitzgerald

“Life is an exciting business, and most exciting when it is lived for others.”

Helen Keller

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.”

Marie Curie

“For what is done or learned by one class of women becomes, by virtue of their common womanhood, the property of all women.”

Elizabeth Blackwell

“Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression.”

Margaret Sanger

“It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union.”

Susan B. Anthony

“The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.”

Coco Chanel

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Mother Teresa

The Author's Note

Dr Charles Margerison is a Chartered Psychologist, a member of the Royal Institution and the Royal Society of Literature. He is Chairman of Viewpoint Resources Ltd, a publishing organization and the founder of the Amazing People Club. Previously, he was Professor of Management at the University of Cranfield, UK and also at the University of Queensland, Australia. He is the co-founder of Team Management Systems and the Chairman of Bell Hughes Music Group.



The author of more than ten books on management issues, he has also written an innovative continuing professional development system, called *The Communication and Problem Solving Resource*. This provides the educational support resources for the use of the Amazing People Series in schools and colleges.

The Amazing People Club Series commenced when Dr Margerison wondered what people like William Shakespeare, Marie Curie, Abraham Lincoln, and other great achievers would have said if he had interviewed them about their life and work. Therefore, he decided to research the known facts about their lives and write up what he thought they would say. In particular, he focussed on the psychological issues associated with their personalities and how they used their time and talents well in order to achieve. The stories give us an insight into their motivation and relationships with other people.

This unique range of stories is presented via a new concept called BioViews® that combines a biography with a virtual interview. The stories are an interpretation of the lives of amazing people, as in a theatre play. Each one is presented as if the person is talking to you personally. Every line of a BioView® has a meaning that provides a fact or an interpretation, or raises a question. There are no full stops, as in traditional writing, except at the end. The intention is to create the flow of conversation as in an interview.

BioViews® offer new and interesting ways of understanding major contributions to our world by amazing people. The stories are inspirational and we hope they can help you achieve your ambitions in your own journey through life.

The Amazing People Club®

eBook for International Women's Day 2011

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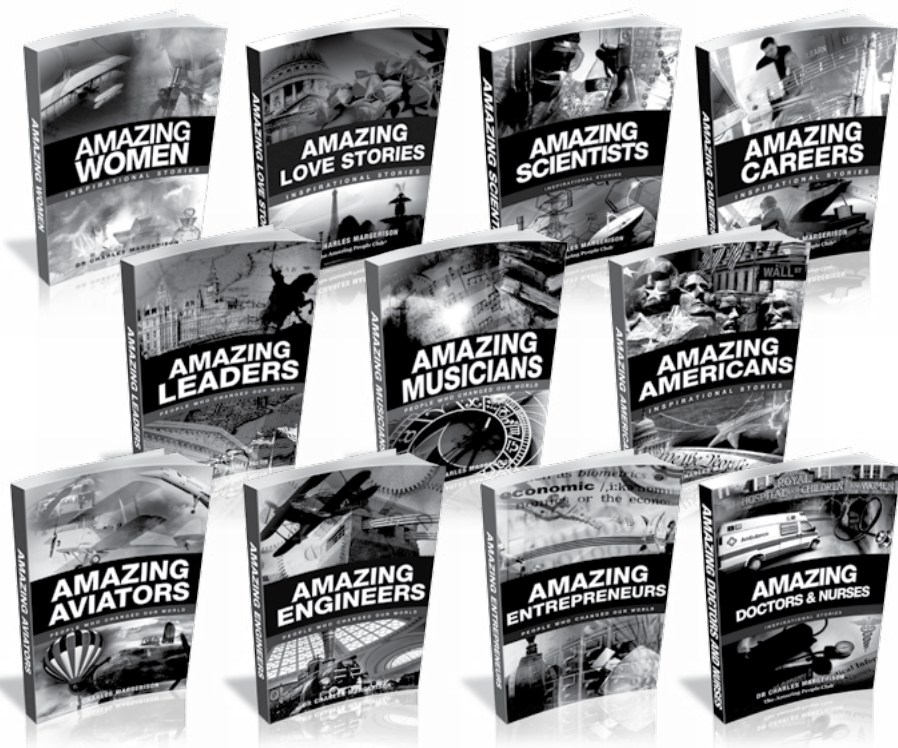
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We recognize there are different conventions on the spelling of words in what we shall call British English and American English. Within our titles, we have chosen to adopt the spelling style the featured individuals would have used to ensure the BioViews are as authentic as possible.

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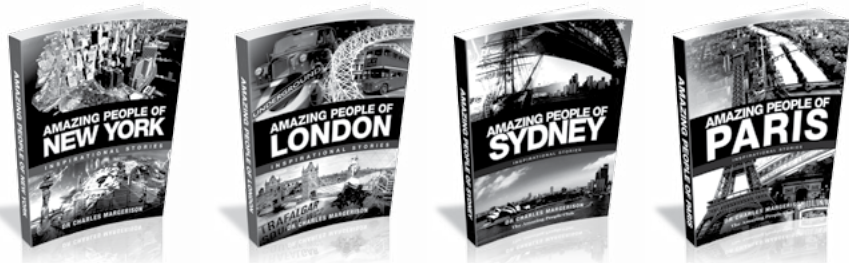


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