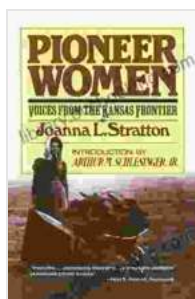


Pioneer Women Will Durant: A Trailblazing Historian and Author

Will Durant, the renowned historian and philosopher, is celebrated for his groundbreaking work on civilization's history. However, lesser known is the extraordinary woman who accompanied him on his intellectual journey: his wife, Ariel Durant. This article delves into the remarkable life of Ariel Durant, an accomplished historian, author, and advocate in her own right, who played a pivotal role in shaping the celebrated "Story of Civilization" series.

Early Life and Education



Pioneer Women by Will Durant

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 60132 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 493 pages



Ariel Durant, born Ida Kaufman, was born in Proskurov, Russian Empire (now Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine) on May 10, 1898. Her early life was marked by adversity and displacement due to the Russian Revolution. She eventually emigrated to the United States, where she pursued her education with vigor.

Ariel attended Barnard College, where she excelled in history and languages. She graduated summa cum laude in 1920 and went on to complete her master's degree at Columbia University.

Meeting Will Durant

Fate brought Ariel and Will Durant together in 1923 at a lecture by George Bernard Shaw. Captivated by Will's intellect and charm, Ariel sought his mentorship. Their initial collaboration, "The Mansions of Philosophy," proved to be a turning point in their lives.

In 1927, Ariel and Will embarked on a marriage that would span over half a century. Their partnership was not only a personal union but also a dynamic intellectual alliance.

Collaboration on "The Story of Civilization"



Ariel Durant's profound knowledge of history, languages, and literature proved invaluable to the creation of "The Story of Civilization." She co-authored ten volumes of the series, contributing her expertise in ancient Eastern civilizations, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.

Ariel's keen eye for detail, meticulous research, and evocative prose enhanced the narrative, bringing historical figures and events to life. Her

ability to synthesize vast amounts of information and present it in a compelling style made her an exceptional collaborator.

Independent Works and Activism

Beyond her contributions to "The Story of Civilization," Ariel Durant authored several independent works. Her book "A Dual Autobiography" (1977) provides a fascinating account of her life and partnership with Will.

Ariel was also a vocal advocate for women's rights and social justice. She served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Legacy and Recognition



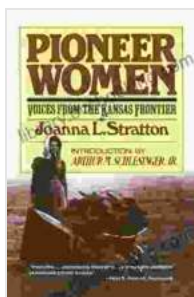
Ariel Durant's contributions to history and literature have earned her widespread recognition and accolades. She received honorary degrees from several universities and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Her work continues to inspire and educate generations of readers, showcasing the remarkable achievements of women in academia and the

importance of collaboration.

Ariel Durant was a pioneering historian, author, and activist who left an indelible mark on the world of scholarship. Through her groundbreaking work on "The Story of Civilization" and her independent contributions, she challenged societal norms and paved the way for women in academia.

Her life is a testament to the power of knowledge, collaboration, and the pursuit of equality. Ariel Durant's legacy as a pioneer woman will continue to inspire generations to come.

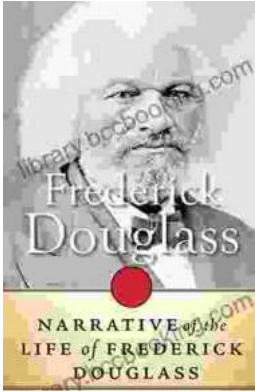


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