



The New Colossus

Marshall Goldberg

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Greed. Corruption. Murder. New York in 1880 is a hell of a place to make your living.

Nellie Bly arrives at age 24 in Manhattan, lacking connections and money, but blessed with an abundance of courage and a skill for reportage. Within ten months she lands two front-page stories on the country's most widely-read newspaper, Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*.

The pugnacious and voluble Pulitzer is so impressed that he assigns her to get to the bottom of a murder that has confounded the police—the untimely death of his friend Emma Lazarus, the controversial poet and activist. Her investigation leads to tense encounters with some of the most powerful and ruthless men of the time, in an era where elected officials are bought and sold, and where greed runs rampant on an unregulated Wall Street. Outgunned and ignoring her contemptuous all-male colleagues, Bly has only two real allies: a doctor who uses scientific techniques to establish criminal behavior, and a theater critic with unlimited access to underground New York. As the pieces fall into place Bly uncovers layer after layer of corruption, getting closer to a dangerous core—and to the truth.

The New Colossus Details

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Author : Marshall Goldberg

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From Reader Review The New Colossus for online ebook

Kristy Dallas says

I really enjoyed this book. I first read about Nellie Bly as a little girl, so I was excited to hear about this new novel. The historical details were fascinating to me and I find myself wanting to read more and learn which elements of this novel were fictionalized. At times I thought the writing was a little bit weak, but for the most part, the plot and characters carry things along nicely.

Jamie says

Very interesting historical fiction. Quick read. Interesting characters. Kept you guessing. Highly recommend

Carryn Lund says

Wow! Just wow!

Yes, we can all acknowledge that I am a huge fan of Marshall Goldberg. Marshall the friend, mentor, wedding officiant, and unwavering loyal supporter. He is an incredible human being. But reading The New Colossus was my first encounter with Marshall Goldberg the writer. And I am blown away!

The plot of his book had me hooked from page 1 - I found myself carrying the book with me throughout the day, trying to sneak in a few pages to figure out "whodunit?". Marshall's writing style flows flawlessly and yet is simple enough to engage any reader.

And the characters! All danced right off the page and came alive, evoking strong emotions and connections. Nellie Bly was quite the woman! Her pursuit of the truth, justice, loyalty to those she loves, and fearlessness actually remind me of a certain someone I know... The author of this wonderful historical fiction. Thank you, Marshall, for sharing your talent and this story with the world. I whole heartedly recommend this book.

Susan Johnston says

What a pleasant surprise! Not only was this a fascinating book on a remarkable woman whose exploits in the 1880's changed the world of women and journalism but it was a good mystery as well.

Nelly Bly was a woman whom life had shown not to trust anything or anyone. Her family was sent into poverty after the death of her beloved father and the machinations of her father's first family and the banker who was entrusted to take care of the estate. Full of courage and determination, she first took the world of newspapers, robber barons and men of power with little or no regard for those whom they hurt.

The title comes from the poem that would encapsulate what The Statue of Liberty came to mean to the many immigrants who came to the United States. Was the author murdered and if so, by whom and for what reason?

It is a corking good tale that had me up to the wee hours of the morning, wanting to keep reading. Not only is

Nelly a compelling and admirable heroine, the other characters in the book are also well drawn. Her ultimate lesson in grey rather than blacks and whites changes her forever. She changes the world.

While I enjoyed the book, I also appreciated the epilogue that helped flesh out what happened after the story ends to the characters. It is the sign of a good book that I wanted to learn more. I still do,

Karen says

I've seen that other reviewers had good things to say about this book, which is part of the reason I was incredibly disappointed in it. I enjoy a good historical novel occasionally. One reviewer compared the book to Caleb Carr's historical mysteries which I adored, and then to Eric Larson's histories which are not fiction...This author does not compare well to either of them. The language and the writing of this book did not compare well. He isn't of a sufficient literary bent or has the background needed for the excellent writing in the previous two authors. But I could have swallowed writing that was not the best, if the story and the characters were decent. I actually had to make myself finish the book, which for me is rare. I've read some on Nellie Bly and Emma Lazarus and I went to refresh some of my historical knowledge of these two. I'm sure the author did his research for this story. But it felt contrived, which historical fiction can do if not done right. But the biggest problem I had with the entire book was giving our current morals in 2015 to something that occurred in 1880s-1890s. I am not naïve enough to believe that lesbians did not exist then, nor that there were not loose morals in the Victorian era. But, to have all the characters act the way we do currently is not in keeping with that strait-laced society. They were private back then, much more than we are now. And women did not flaunt differences as much as they do now.

This is not a 'bad' book, and I'm sure some readers will enjoy it. But it played fast and loose with the time period and the mores of that time period, and for that reason I did not enjoy it.

Tara Chevrestt says

In this historical novel we meet the legendary Nellie Bly, lady reporter/investigator who infiltrated the Bellevue mental hospital by actually entering as a patient herself. Only the first part of the story touches on this, briefly, however, showing us how it was the start of her investigative journalism career. She'd been mostly confined to the gardening section until then, women having a hard time getting into journalism back then.

We watch her earn the grudging respect of many male coworkers as she tries to solve a case: who killed Emma Lazarus and why.

This ended up being a mystery with Nellie Bly as the sleuth. Emma Lazarus was a real woman. She was a Jewish poet who wrote The New Colossus, the poem on the Statue of Liberty. This was interesting to me. Upon further online research, I discovered there were indeed some rumors she was a lesbian and she was very outspoken about the hatred and discrimination toward Jews. I think some license was taken with this story as none of the biographies I read mentioned any hint of foul play regarding her death, but in this novel, obviously, she's murdered.

As Nellie investigates, she discovers lesbian love affairs, railroad tycoons with greedy intentions and murder

on "their" hands, the wrongful deaths of an Indian tribe, and a family who would rather let a murderer run loose than having more "scandal" on their hands.

The mystery is interesting and keeps one guessing. The author managed to reveal all kinds of historical things I never heard of before--both people and events.

The ending is really far fetched though, IMO. How Nellie came to her conclusion and the proof she had was really thin. I didn't really buy it all, her suddenly figuring out whodunnit in the manner she did. It was too much of a stretch. To be Frank, the ending stank. I almost brought this down to a two. I don't need a cheesy HEA, but this was an awful ending. The narrative is omnipresent, God-like, and makes the book more telling than showing at times and reads like a biography in bits. The story also strays a lot and divulges all kinds of details and history about the characters that becomes overwhelming after a while. I already cannot remember half of it. It's distracting.

Full review: <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2015/...>

Meaghan says

Nellie Bly is a household name in the world of undercover journalism with her game-changing exposé on the Bellevue Women's Asylum. Then she undertook a flight around the world, in a hot air balloon, in an attempt to beat the record of Verne's Phileas Fogg.

The author builds on this amazing true story of Bly to give her a fictional story to track down. The entire case is built upon true events and real people, and feels only a half step away from reality.

The poet Emma Lazarus, most famous for her poem "The New Colossus" inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, has recently died. It was known that she was seriously ill and would not live for long. Friend Joseph Pulitzer, however, is convinced that she had been poisoned. Fresh from her story on the conditions in the asylum, Pulitzer (currently the editor of The New York World), asks her to investigate her death.

Please support independent reviewers and read my full post here: <http://mwgerard.com/review-the-new-co...>

Michael Garin says

The Perfect Historical Novel

Informative, entertaining & a gripping mystery story.
Who could ask for more.

Jenn says

Loved this story and its history. Just taught a bit about Nellie Bly to my 8th graders and happened to follow shortly after with Emma's "The New Colossus". A great read!

Mary Rose says

This is a fantastic book!

Jen says

Nelly Bly was a remarkable woman for her time. I mean, at 23 she had herself committed to the infamous Bellevue Hospital insane asylum where she endured the horrific treatment of its inmates for ten days. (When Charles Dickens visited the asylum some 40 years earlier, he commented that it aroused his "deep disgust and measureless contempt.")

When the story was published, the psychiatrists who pronounced her insane (her symptoms were of amnesia, not insanity) were humiliated, the public outraged, and an investigation was prompted into the treatment of patients at the asylum.

And then there was the trip around the world in 72 days, a la Jules Verne in 1889. She circumnavigated the world (and even met up with Jules Verne in Amiens, France) by steamship and train sending dispatches when she could to Joseph's Pulitzer's The New York World --24, 899 miles in 72 days.

But the book is not about these assignments, although the Bellevue Insane Asylum story gets a bit of coverage. No, the assignment (for the novel) is one that Joseph Pulitzer gives Bly personally: look into Emma Lazarus' death and discover who killed her. Pulitzer is convinced that Emma was murdered, and she was a friend that he treasured and respected.

Learning more about Emma Lazarus, the respected poet and protege of Ralph Waldo Emerson, was fascinating. Her main claim to fame is the poem The New Colossus that graces the foot of the Statue of Liberty, but she was so much more than that.

Lazarus became interested in her Jewish heritage and began advocated for the rights of immigrants, especially those Jewish immigrants escaping the pogroms in Russia, meeting them at the docks and helping them avoid the pitfalls of a new world.

Like Nelly Bly, Emma Lazarus was a remarkable woman in many ways, and I'd love to read biographies about these two women.

Other historical tidbits that kept me returning to Google:

Alfred J. Cohen - pseudonym Alan Dale; author of A Marriage Below Zero, and the most feared drama critic of his time.

Mention of The Comstock Act - which made pornography a crime, but included in its definition of pornography was any discussion of contraception.

Castle Garden - On August 1, 1855, Castle Clinton became the Emigrant Landing Depot, functioning as the New York State immigrant processing facility (the nation's first such entity). It was operated by the state until April 18, 1890,[2] when the Federal Government took over control of immigration processing, which subsequently opened the larger and more isolated Ellis Island facility for that purpose on January 2, 1892.

Joseph Seligman - During the American Civil War, Seligman was responsible for aiding the Union by disposing of \$200,000,000 in bonds "a feat which W. E. Dodd said was 'scarcely less important than the Battle of Gettysburg'".[2]

In 1877, Judge Henry Hilton, the owner of the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga, New York, denied entry to Seligman and his family because they were Jews, creating nationwide controversy. It was the first antisemitic incident of its kind in the United States to achieve widespread publicity.

OK--enough. There are other names and incidents that were interesting (Pulitzer, Jay Gould, Helena deKay Gilder, the financing of the Statue of Liberty through public donations mostly of one dollar or less, Henry Hilton and A.J. Steward and the Missing Corpse, etc.), but I'm tired of going through my bookmark-riddled ebook.

I thought a novel about Nellie Bly would be fascinating. And in a way, it was, but the novel portion wasn't very good; the fictional parts of the story, the dialogue, the characters were stiff and unwieldy, and actually, pretty dull despite the murder mystery aspect.

It would have been nice if Goldberg was better at writing fiction, but he is damn good at writing history. If he didn't make the fiction live, he made the historical characters live.

I spent a great deal of time looking things up to see if events happened, and if they did, did the novel deal with them accurately. And it did! In fact, I could have saved myself some time, because the author had his own historical notes at the end.

Although the novel part didn't work for me, I'm so glad I read it!

(links and photos don't show up here, but will be on my book blog when the review is published on April 10)

NetGalley/Diversion Books

Historical Fiction. 2014. Print version: 303 pages.

Jennifer says

This is an awesome piece of historical fiction, the characters are very vivid, you will find yourself cheering on the hero, and booing the villians.

John Lombardo says

Started this on Friday 8/15 and am really enjoying it so far. Marshall G. is a Kiski alum Class of 1961. Amazing story about a local journalist. I am really liking this book. A great story and educational as well. Finished this today 8/25 and really enjoyed this book. Amazing research by MG. A good read. Our 2016 all school book !

Jehan Jones-Radgowski says

Goldberg does a fantastic job at painting life in the North post Civil War. For me at least this was a new focus; most of what I have been required to read or stumbled across was the Southern take on life after the Civil War. He takes us on a voyage bit by bit of the lives of two amazing and passionate women (the kinds of people that make you wanna find some cause and fight for it): Nellie Bly and Emma Lazarus. My problem with this book is it is a contradiction for me. It's me really, not Goldberg. I love historical fiction: books based on a time/period in life and the author uses his/her imagination to create the stories that could have been possible in this world. Then there are autobiographical works: the author tells the history about a key person or persons using previous books, person journals, etc. This book is both. So I was constantly distracted while reading it. I kept asking myself did that really happen or was that made up, throughout the book. The author has a couple of pages at the end explaining some things, but overall I was left feeling a little cheated. In full disclosure, he says to contact him on Facebook to find out what is real or not. But the book was great, it's over, I've got other things to read, write, and dishes to clean.

Heather Fineisen says

Smart. Blended enough history with believable dialogue for the time period to pull off an interesting and fun historical mystery. Goldberg provides historical notes at the end broken down by chapter that separates some fact from fiction. There are some big names here and some significant historical events and scandals. Now I want to read more about Nellie Bly. And Emma Lazarus. Is America's welcoming lady, the Statue of Liberty, opening our country's arms with words written by a lesbian immigrant? Sounds like a Nellie Bly investigation to me.

Provided by publisher
