



# Fearless Mary: The True Adventures of Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver

*Tami Charles , Claire Almon (Illustrator)*

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A little-known but fascinating and larger-than-life character, Mary Fields is one of the unsung, trailblazing African American women who helped settle the American West. A former slave, Fields became the first African American woman stagecoach driver in 1895, when, in her 60s, she beat out all the cowboys applying for the job by being the fastest to hitch a team of six horses. She won the dangerous and challenging job, and for many years traveled the badlands with her pet eagle, protecting the mail from outlaws and wild animals, never losing a single horse or package. Fields helped pave the way for other women and people of color to become stagecoach drivers and postal workers.

## Fearless Mary: The True Adventures of Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver Details

Date : Published January 1st 2019 by Albert Whitman & Company

ISBN :

Author : Tami Charles , Claire Almon (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, History, Feminism

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## **From Reader Review Fearless Mary: The True Adventures of Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver for online ebook**

### **Kirsti says**

Fascinating and inspiring account of Mary Fields, who was a slave until age 33, traveled solo to the West, and became a stagecoach driver because she was brave and the money was good. She protected herself with a rifle and A PET EAGLE OH MY GOODNESS.

A great read for children and adults. I never knew how much a stagecoach driver was responsible for as part of his or her job.

Author's note at the end describes the information available and some liberties the author took--one event placed out of sequence, plus an invented conversation because the actual dialogue is unknown. I would classify this as nonfiction, but others say it is a combination of nonfiction and historical fiction.

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### **Linda says**

Considered part non-fiction and part historical fiction in order to create a story, Mary was a real person, a former slave who went west to make a new life. She tried out for the job of stagecoach driver when everyone thought it was only a man's job and certainly not a job for a former slave. She succeeded, and she began in her sixties! There is an author's note explaining the research and the story's creation. The illustrator shows the passage of years, the ups and downs with interesting and beautiful choices of setting that include the characters' supporters, naysayers and experiences.

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### **Jen says**

Wow. Mary Fields stood up against racism, sexism and ageism.

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### **Kelly says**

Great (unknown) story about a brave woman.

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### **Castle Spooktacular says**

A great depiction of a brave babe making things happen during the wild west! well written with delightful illustrations.

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## **Jessica says**

4 stars for topic.

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## **Akoss says**

Thank you so much, Tami Charles for giving a voice to Mary Fields.

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## **Air says**

This was an amazing introductory story to Fearless Mary. Some of the events aren't told in order, but the author explains the reasoning for that in the Author's Note. I think that all-in-all this is an amazing introduction to an amazing woman and was a lot of fun to read!

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## **Sarah Sammis says**

This book is big on show, not tell, with Almon's energetic illustrations showing Mary hitching the horses to the stagecoach and then driving them through the course up and down the steep hill. What the text doesn't say directly (though it does hint at it) is that she was the fastest applicant to get the horses hitched.

<http://pussreboots.com/blog/2019/comm...>

Marginalized Rural Offroad 663366

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## **Mk Campbell says**

Here's the Hook:

Fearless Mary "put the 'Wild' in Wild West," breaking boundaries and throwing prejudices aside. A former slave, 60-year-old Mary Fields sets out to get a job as a stagecoach driver, a famously dangerous and male-dominated field. She makes it clear to everyone that she is the best, most capable candidate for the job, beating out 40 cowboys. As she works, she continues to show others that you can do anything you put your mind to, and paves the way for other women to do the same.

Three words or phrases that best describe this book are:

- Empowering
- Badass
- Beautiful, descriptive artwork

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**Aliza Werner says**

Mary is a former slave, woman, Black, in her 60s...and she doesn't let anything hold her back from applying for one of the most dangerous jobs in the West! Engaging introduction to America's first Black woman stagecoach driver.

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