



# She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World

*Chelsea Clinton , Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator)*

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**She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World** Chelsea Clinton , Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator)

**Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids who are ready to take on the world to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, persisted.**

Throughout American history, there have always been women who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard. In early 2017, Senator Elizabeth Warren's refusal to be silenced in the Senate inspired a spontaneous celebration of women who persevered in the face of adversity. In this book, Chelsea Clinton celebrates thirteen American women who helped shape our country through their tenacity, sometimes through speaking out, sometimes by staying seated, sometimes by captivating an audience. They all certainly persisted.

*She Persisted* is for everyone who has ever wanted to speak up but has been told to quiet down, for everyone who has ever tried to reach for the stars but was told to sit down, and for everyone who has ever been made to feel unworthy or unimportant or small.

With vivid, compelling art by Alexandra Boiger, this book shows readers that no matter what obstacles may be in their paths, they shouldn't give up on their dreams. Persistence is power.

This book features: Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges, Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey, Sonia Sotomayor—and one special cameo.

## She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World Details

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## From Reader Review **She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World** for online ebook

### Cyndi says

Just finished reading this book to my grandson and it was wonderful! Written by Chelsea Clinton, it is a children's book about thirteen extraordinary little girls who overcame great odds to become extraordinary women who crashed open the doors for the rest of us. Get this book (buy it borrow it from the library, whatever) and read it to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, volunteer at a school, you get the idea. This is the kind of books kids should be reading and learning from. Real life superheroes.

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### Julie says

I recently read and reviewed **Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls** and wondered at the process (which was not explained in the book) that was used to select 100 rebellious women and girls from the entire world.

Chelsea Clinton was tasked with a similar job in her new children's book, **She Persisted**, but Clinton at least had a narrowed scope, of selecting only 13 American women who persisted.

So, I asked myself, before I began. . . Who would be MY 13 American women. . . who persisted? Well, it just came rolling out (though I have placed them by order of birth). . . Emily Dickinson, Louisa May Alcott, Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Willa Cather, Zora Neale Hurston, Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Toni Cade Bambara and Alice Walker.

Turns out. . . none of those ladies are in Ms. Clinton's book.

Okay, so no writers (even though they have influenced ME more than any other women!), so what did the former President's daughter use as HER guideline here?

Well, it's explained on the book jacket, "Chelsea Clinton celebrates thirteen American women who helped shape our country through their tenacity-sometimes through speaking out, sometimes by staying seated, sometimes by captivating an audience. They all persisted."

Of the 13 women, I hadn't heard of 5 of them, so, similar to the **Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls** experience, I scratched my head on a few.

But, overall, this book is precious, the watercolor illustrations are beautiful, and, if my 9-year-old's response is any indication, it will be well-received by girls.

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### leynes says

**So, if anyone ever tells you no, if anyone ever says your voice isn't important or your dreams are too big, remember these women. They persisted and so should you.**

Now this is a children's book that I would read to my hypothetical children. Don't be fooled by the 3-star-rating since it only reflects my personal enjoyment and what I got out of this book (which isn't much since it's not very high in information density and literally only takes five minutes to read). As a children's book, however, this is an absolute banger. It's easily comprehensible, has beautiful illustrations and an important message.

I highly appreciate children's books that are technically nonfiction since they're a great teaching tool. It's never too early to educate oneself and children are very perceptive. We shouldn't underestimate them. Furthermore, I appreciate the diverse set of women featured in this book.

*She Persisted* tells the story of thirteen American women who stood their ground in the face of adversity. It would've been even better if women from all around the world would have been featured but since I know that Chelsea Clinton is working on a follow up (entitled *She Persisted Around the World*) I don't begrudge the fact that only American women were showcased in this first installment.

*She Persisted* tells the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Hellen Keller who became blind and deaf as a toddler and then went on to graduate from Radcliffe College to become an author. Readers will hear of Maria Tallchief, the first Native American prima ballerina, and of Claudette Colvin, who refused to give up her seat on a bus in segregated Montgomery, Alabama, nine months prior to Rosa Parks.

**I knew then and I know now that, when it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can't sugarcoat it. You have to take a stand and say, "This is not right." ? Claudette Colvin**

Readers will marvel at the strength of Ruby Bridges who was the first to integrate into an all-white elementary school in Louisiana in 1960. Little girls (and boys) might find a new hero in Florence Griffith Joyner, who is up to this day the fastest woman in the world. Her record of 10.49s for 100m was set at the 1988 Summer Olympics.

All in all, *She Persisted* is a phenomenal children's book. Adults may get five enjoyable minutes out of it but nothing more.

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### **Erin Kelly says**

Excellent mix of historical and contemporary. Sadly, no Asian American women. But still good. The artwork is perfection.

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### **Lauren Stoolfire says**

Incredibly inspirational and empowering. I want to put this into as many hands as possible!

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### **Beth says**

I have to admit, I was a bit dubious when I heard about this book. It seemed like it was just a quick way to capitalize on a particular moment in politics. But then I read the book. It is beautifully written and thoughtfully curated. The women included in this book go beyond the typical names you're used to reading about like Rosa Parks or Susan B. Anthony. But whether the women in this book were well-known or little-known, one thing unites them all. They were warned. They were given an explanation. Nevertheless, they persisted. And so should you.

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### **TheSkepticalReader says**

Don't let the hounds get you down. Persist.

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### **Stephanie Anze says**

"Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose, just so they can picture themselves doing those jobs. You can't be what you can't see." Sally Ride, Astronaut

In 'She Persisted', Chelsea Clinton presents the real life stories of thirteen American woman who defied expectations and rose above adversity. Varying in ages, races and achievements these women where at some point told no, you can not, its impossible. I love a good illustrated book and this one definitely delivered. Some of the women I had heard of before but some where new to me. I love the message of the book. Its as relevant today as it was years ago. A book whose target audience is children but should be read by everyone.

While the book is not overtly political, the inspiration is worth learning about. In February 2017, Elizabeth Warren voiced her objections to the confirmation of Jeff Sessions as US Attorney General. The senate majority leader Mitch McConnell put a vote to silence Warren and she was told to sit down. Sessions was confirmed and at the end of the vote McConnell said about Warren: " She had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted ." While that comment was meant to diminish Warren, it sparked a movement instead. Women rallied behind Warren. If nothing else, my takeaway from this book is to make our voices be heard, regardless of the outcome

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### **Theresa Alan says**

This is a wonderful book about thirteen women who persisted even after being told they should shut up and stay in the kitchen. In the case of prima ballerina Maria Tallchief, she was told she should change her name because "Tallchief" revealed her Native American heritage. Instead, she became the first American prima ballerina.

The illustrations were wonderful and the vocabulary appropriate for my first-grade niece. The stories are inspiring and important. Highly recommend.

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## **Kelli says**

This book deserves five thousand stars for its message. Beautiful artwork and a handful of sentences about each woman make this a perfect children's picture book. The absence of encyclopedic detail allows the truly inspirational message to be the main focus. The last page was wonderful ...connecting the cover image with the book's spectacular message. My ten-year-old daughter (who has for the most part aged out of picture books) told me she found this book inspiring. I couldn't agree more! 5 stars

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## **David Schaafsma says**

Each year my family reads all the Goodreads-award-nominated picture books, and we have been doing this for years. Everyone rates each book and adds a comment and it may (or may not) affect my overall rating. This is book #10 of 2017.

Tara: 4.5 stars. Inspiring.

Harry (12): 3 stars. I like how the the title fits all the women in the book.

Hank (11): 3.3 stars. The great history of the twentieth century: She persisted.

Lyra (10): 5 stars!! Inspiring, yeah! Women can do anything they put their minds to.

Dave: 4.5 stars. Inspiring. Taking the next step after "she resisted," Clinton takes the stories of a persistent 13 women, with emblematic quotes to remember them by, to inspire young girls and women (and the boys and men who are with them) to create social justice. Who will remember these stories if we don't retell and re-read these stories?

Harriet Tubman: "I should fight for my liberty as long as my strength lasted."

Helen Keller: "One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar."

Clara Lemlich (organizing for just factory conditions): "I am one who suffers from the abuses described here, and I move that we go on a general strike."

Nellie Bly: "I have never written a word that did not come from my heart. I never shall."

Virginia Apgar (a doctor who created the Apgar score to test a newborn baby's health): "Nobody, but nobody, is going to stop breathing on me."

Maria Tallchief (Native American dancer): "It never occurred to me to say, 'It hurts to do that.'"

Claudette Colvin (who, at 15, like Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat to a white woman and move to the back of the bus): "I knew then and I know that, when it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can't sugarcoat it. You have to take a stand and say, 'This is not right.'"

Sally Ride (astronaut): "Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose, just so

they can picture themselves doing those jobs someday. You can't be what you can't see."

Florence Griffith Joyner: "When anyone tell me I can't do anything, I'm just not listening anymore."

Of course there are many books like this, and I thank Julie for calling attention to the fact that there are NO WRITERS in Clinton's 13, but it's still a good list, including people we don't usually hear about. Another book like it: Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls.

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### **Michelle says**

I picked up "She Persisted" expecting my inner 8 year old to be drawn in and perhaps be inspired by tales of courage, intelligence, and naturally, persistence. After reading this book though, I could say that its heart is in the right place, but the execution failed to make any real impact.

The premise is workable ("she persisted") but I think the author's task isn't just to regurgitate isolated facts -- rather it is to weave a narrative that a child can then empathize with, and walk in the footsteps of the protagonists. Each story felt like a cut and paste from Wikipedia, and the presentation has the allure of reading a dictionary. The artwork is also sub par, very two dimensional, and does nothing to draw a viewer into the narrative.

Nevertheless, whether or not this book is any good, it's a worthy effort. I think teaching children - girls and boys- to persist should be regarded with utmost importance. Nothing comes easy, and there are always people and circumstances who will stand in your way. Only by persisting can anyone succeed.

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### **Richard Denney says**

This was a quick, inspiring, and amazing read. I read it while I was helping out at my cousin's book fair and it was selling like crazy so that's great to hear. :)

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### **Calista says**

An Inspiring book about 13 women who helped shape the country we live in. These women rose above what people said a woman could do. They persisted. We need these examples to remind our next generation that everything is possible to them.

To open doors, children need to know there are others who have opened doors and we can now step through. Be done with limits.

The art gets the job done.

I got this for my Niece and I don't know if she gets it and she did enjoy the story.

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## **Gary Anderson says**

When Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell intended to rebuke Senator Elizabeth Warren during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings for Attorney General Jefferson Sessions, McConnell uttered the phrase “Nevertheless, she persisted.” As it turns out, McConnell created a new rallying cry for women: “She Persisted.”

*She Persisted*, Chelsea Clinton’s new picture book, isn’t overtly political, but it capitalizes on McConnell’s phrase to present thirteen American women who pushed through barriers to accomplish feats that benefit all of us.

Some of these women were quite young at the time of their difficulties. These will resonate especially clearly with school-age readers. Each of the thirteen women is explained with a one-paragraph “she persisted” story supported by a quote from the woman herself and two Alexandra Boiger illustrations, one showing the subject at the time of her perseverance and another demonstrating the larger effect of her persistence.

I hope grown-ups will help young readers find their way to *She Persisted*. It’s an appealing, useful book.

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