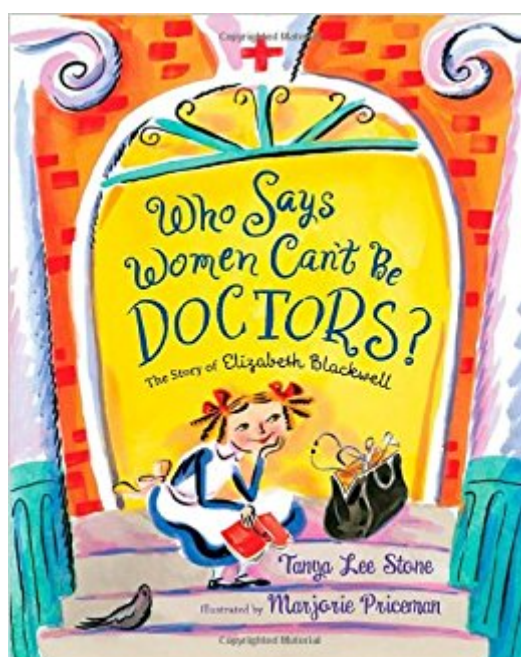


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# Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story Of Elizabeth Blackwell (Christy Ottaviano Books)



## Synopsis

In the 1830s, when a brave and curious girl named Elizabeth Blackwell was growing up, women were supposed to be wives and mothers. Some women could be teachers or seamstresses, but career options were few. Certainly no women were doctors. But Elizabeth refused to accept the common beliefs that women weren't smart enough to be doctors, or that they were too weak for such hard work. And she would not take no for an answer. Although she faced much opposition, she worked hard and finally when she graduated from medical school and went on to have a brilliant career proved her detractors wrong. This inspiring story of the first female doctor shows how one strong-willed woman opened the doors for all the female doctors to come. *Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?* by Tanya Lee Stone is an NPR Best Book of 2013

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Series: Christy Ottaviano Books

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1 edition (February 19, 2013)

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 9 x 285 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,359 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Anatomy & Physiology](#) #77 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Women not able to be doctors? There's a crazy thought! Yet one woman had to be first. Stone and Priceman combine their considerable talents to tell the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, who fought the scorn, the sneers, and the barriers on her way to becoming a physician. Priceman's always active art works particularly well here, beginning with her depiction of

young Elizabeth, who liked to explore and was willing to take on both fights and challenges. As an adult, prompted by a friend who wished for a woman doctor, Blackwell decided to apply to medical school—and so the rejection began. Once accepted, she was treated abysmally by her fellow students, until she proved herself smarter than any of them. The gouache- and india-ink artwork, featuring rich colors accented by heavy lines, delights. Whether it's a landscape tilted on its side, smaller vignettes that take Elizabeth from waking to sewing circle to tea and back to bed, or a flurry of No, no, no, no . . . swirling around a spread, the pictures feel like poetry in motion. They highlight Stone's almost staccato text, short and snappy, easy to read yet full of information about both Blackwell and her times. The extended author's note will further intrigue readers. Grades K-3. --Ilene Cooper

“Here’s a refreshing introduction to a regularly but often dryly cited female ‘first’.

The Horn Book “Stone presents the highly readable and detailed story of a girl who is sure to inspire aspiring young doctors.

School Library Journal “Staccato text, short and snappy, easy to read yet full of information about both Blackwell and her times.

Booklist, starred review “A bracing, vivacious account of a pioneering woman.

Kirkus “[a] smart and lively biography of Elizabeth Blackwell.

Publishers Weekly “A short, incisive biography. . . . The cameos of action, matched by full-page pictures, make the history accessible. A must for library shelves.

Booklist, starred review on Elizabeth Leads the Way “This biography brims with upbeat energy as the spirited woman sets out to change the system—an energy amplified by Rebecca Gibbon’s bright folk art-styled pictures.

The Washington Post on Elizabeth Leads the Way “[This book] fires up readers with a portrait of the 19th-century feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. . . . The sometimes informational tone is animated and energized by Gibbon’s plentiful vignettes and paintings, rendered in a vibrant folk-art style.

Publishers Weekly on Elizabeth Leads the Way “Through words and pictures that work together and an emphasis on ideas and personality rather than factoids, this well-conceived introduction is just right for a young audience.

School Library Journal on Elizabeth Leads the Way “In lively prose well-matched by Gibbon’s irrepressible images, Stone tells the story of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. . . . A fine introduction for very young readers to the woman and her key role in American history.

Kirkus Reviews on Elizabeth Leads the Way

There are more and more great picture book biographies being published about ordinary people who did extraordinary things. I love it. This is another great one to add to the list. Elizabeth Blackwell was clearly a strong-willed person from the time she was little. I loved the examples the author shares illustrating this, for example carrying her brother over her head until he gave in on whatever it was they fought about, and sleeping on a hard floor to 'toughen' herself up. I also really liked the details about how she didn't set out to become a doctor, she didn't even like being around blood or sickness when she was younger. But once the idea was planted in her mind, she persisted until she made her dream a reality, despite a tremendous amount of opposition. I love stories like this because they are inspiring and true! The illustrations by Marjorie Priceman are darling and match the spunky tone of the writing to a tee. The bright colors and expressive faces add a great deal to the enjoyment of the story. I highly recommend this as not only a great picture book biography, but just an awesome story period.

Bought this book as a gift for college graduate going on to medical school. Great story and shows women nothing is impossible!

I am a doctor, love that my daughter has a book to help encourage her to go for a non traditional career, even though I am generally conservative.

gift for my granddaughter...her other grandmother and great grandfather and deceased grandfather were all doctors (md's)

I bought this book for my two younger granddaughters (age 7). I read the book after receiving it, and I can't wait for them to read it. I think they will love it. I really appreciated the additional information concerning Dr. Blackwell that was included at the end of the book. The book details the obstacles/challenges Dr. Blackwell faced and how she overcame them in such an interesting way that a young reader will enjoy. I'm so pleased when I find books at their reading level that give young girls positive role models.

Well written text with excellent illustrations that bring the words to life.

Elizabeth Blackwell was my inspiration fifty-five years ago to become a physician so I was thrilled to find this book. My daughter teaches second graders in an English language school in Prague, and

she has an infant daughter. Naturally I purchased this book for them. My daughter invited me to read it to her class on my recent visit. The children appeared to enjoy the story as they listened attentively. The illustrations are wonderful. I highly recommend this book, especially for young girls.

Gave this to my niece who's mother happens to be an M.D. I'm not sure which of them enjoyed it more but it was a hit - simply written but encompasses important history, and full of fun and bright illustrations. We were all very happy with this book.

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