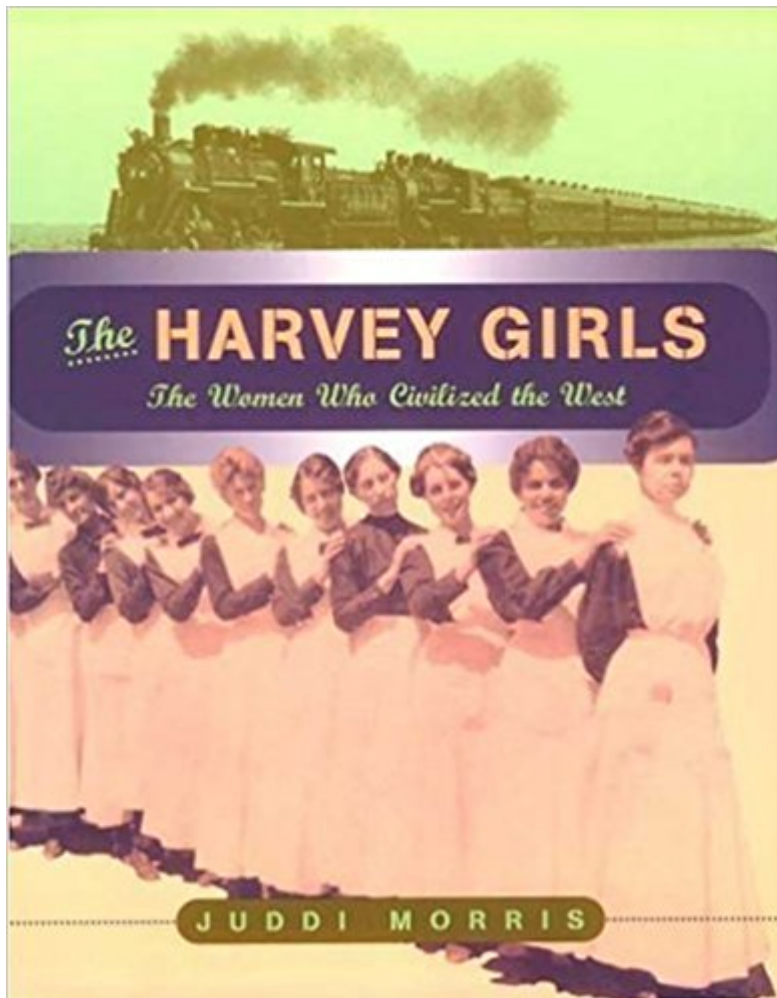




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The Harvey Girls: The Women Who Civilized The West



Synopsis

Book by Morris, Juddi

Book Information

Paperback: 104 pages

Publisher: Walker Childrens (January 1, 1996)

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-The story of the adventurous and talented women who left the East and Midwest to work in the renowned Sante Fe Railroad restaurant chain established by Fred Harvey after the Civil War, and which continued to operate until 1950. These carefully groomed, capable waitresses and hostesses had a civilizing effect on the rough men of the frontier, and "...played as big a part in settling the West as most men who traveled to this region during the latter half of the nineteenth century." The book is well researched, and Morris makes excellent use of comments gleaned from interviews with former Harvey Girls. The narrative is lively, conversational, and spiced with wry humor that will interest even reluctant readers. It includes descriptions of railroad towns in the unsettled West, points out the importance of Harvey's entrepreneurial talents, and briefly explains the rise and fall of the railroads. The book is illustrated with many black-and-white photos of the restaurants and of the women who devoted years of service to them. A solid treatment of an aspect of Western history seldom considered in other texts. Phyllis Graves, Creekwood Middle School, Kingwood, TX
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Gr. 6-9. Young people probably won't be familiar with this topic unless they've seen the Judy Garland movie *The Harvey Girls* (which, curiously, is not mentioned here). Although the idea of

women going out to "civilize the West" has a certain innate appeal, kids may be slightly disappointed when they find out that the Harvey Girls were really just waitresses at Fred Harvey's eating establishments along the Santa Fe railroad. Still, these were women who left their homes and families for the chance to earn their own money and for adventure, and as such they were pioneers in the women's movement. The book is useful for this perspective as well as for its description of the gradually changing Wild West. The writing is sometimes stiff, and Morris doesn't set the scene very well--she gives no years for her opening description of western life--but the interviews with Harvey Girls and the many black-and-white photographs add appeal. Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love this book! Think I've bought at least six copies over the years and given them to friends! Such a great overview of everything Harvey in an easy, fast read!!

My aunt Rose was a Harvey girl but at the time wasn't interested in her stories boy how I wish I could go back.

Good book about Harvey Girls and how they changed history.

Interesting and lively discussion of the women who civilized the West. Nice photographs as well. Would recommend this book to anyone interested in this late 19th through mid- 20th century period of Western history.

Good history and pictures. Seemed more like a junior high book but well worth reading.

Book in good shape

I got this for my mom who grew up in a railroad family. She has enjoyed it.

My grandmother was a Harvey Girl, thus, my mother thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It's provided much nostalgia for her, especially reading about some of the people who used to visit her family!

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