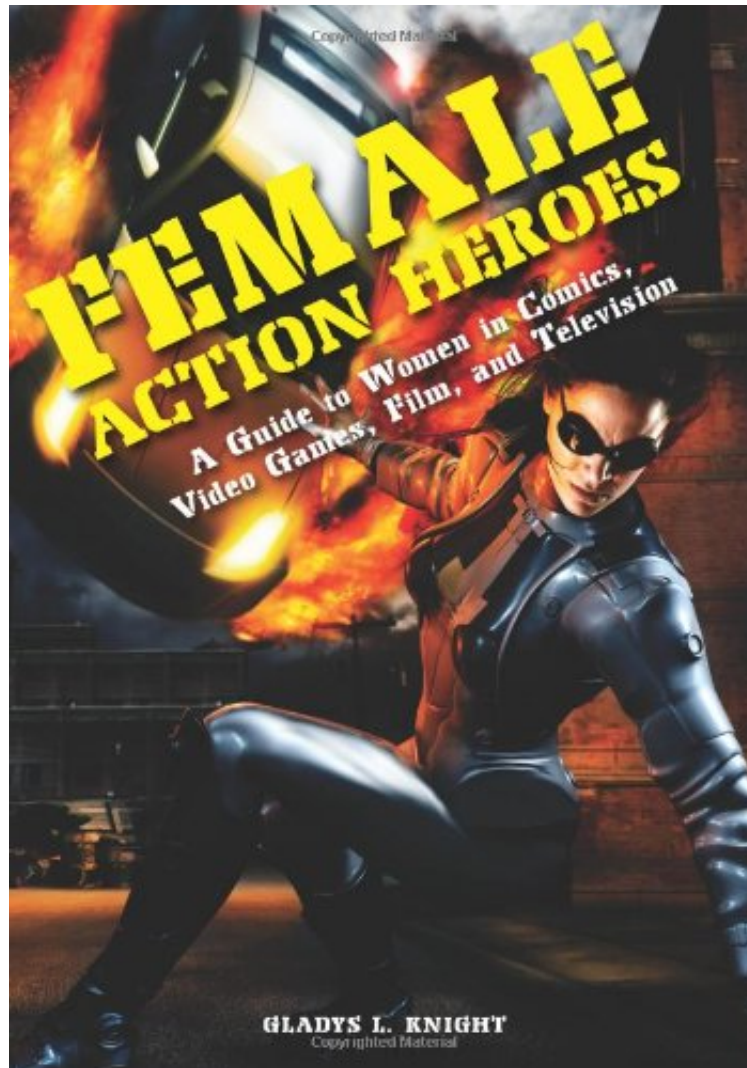


# Female Action Heroes: A Guide to Women in Comics, Video Games, Film, and Television

Gladys L. Knight

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**Gladys L. Knight : Female Action Heroes: A Guide to Women in Comics, Video Games, Film, and Television** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Female Action Heroes: A Guide to Women in Comics, Video Games, Film, and Television:

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This book offers 25 profiles of some of the most popular female action heroes throughout the history of film, television, comic books, and video games. Comprises 25 profiles, arranged alphabetically 70 sidebars provide additional information on pertinent topics, individuals, and symbols Includes a chronology of major appearances of the 25 female action heroes in film, television, comic books, and video games, as well as women's fashion trends and major events in women's history Offers a photograph of each featured, female action hero Presents a glossary of 39 terms, including female archetypes like "femme fatale" and social movements like "third-wave feminism" Provides a selected bibliography of books and Internet sites related to the topics of female action heroes, women's history, and media studies

From BooklistMale action heroes are a staple in the media. Now women are starting to come to the fore as action heroes in their own right. In this title, author Knight showcases a broad spectrum of female protagonists (mainly from American culture) featured in twentieth-century mass media. The oldest, Joan of Arc, is included because of several film treatments. Among others who are discussed are Catwoman, Foxy Brown, Lara Croft, the Powerpuff Girls, and Princess Leia. In all, there are twenty-five women covered in alphabetically arranged chapters. A black-and-white image introduces each entry, which details origins of the character, creator and portrayer mini biographies, power suit and abilities, villains, analysis, and impact. A short list of further readings completes each chapter. Feminism is an ongoing undercurrent, and social issues of the day are noted. For example, Emma Peel, of the Avengers, is described as a precursor of women's liberation, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer is a precursor of the third generation of feminists. Most chapters include sidebars addressing associated thematic concepts or other figures (e.g., Nancy Drew, Margaret Mead, Betty Friedan). A useful overview and selective time line can be found at the book's beginning, and a selected bibliography and index at the end. The writing is engaging; the content is accurate and makes good reading. A fun addition to reference collections from high school and up. --Lesley Farmer "This is the first work to cover strong women characters in media since *Action Chicks: New Images of Tough Women in Popular Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004). Its broad appeal makes it a good fit for public, school, and academic libraries and for anyone interested in gender roles and the historical time line of female toughness." - *Library Journal*"The writing is engaging; the content is accurate and makes good reading. A fun addition to reference collections from high school and up." - BooklistAbout the AuthorGladys L. Knight is a freelance writer. She is the author of Greenwood's *Icons of African American Protest: Trailblazing Activists of the Civil Rights Movement*.