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The Daring Miss Quimby

Tessa McMillan

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Reviewer: Tessa McMillan  
Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Informational books;  
Subject: Quimby, Harriet, 1875-1912--Juvenile literature; Women air pilots--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Air pilots--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;  

Miss Harriet Quimby was a talented and adventurous woman. In 1912, she worked as a magazine writer. While doing a story for her magazine, she attended an air show. The planes enthralled her and she wanted to become a pilot herself. The only problem was that no American female had a pilot's license. Nonetheless, after taking lessons and working hard, she obtained the needed license. She then joined with the other male pilots at air shows in her purple flight uniform. Still, competing in the air shows was not enough. She decided she wanted to be the first female to fly across the English Channel. She completed that flight and returned to America celebrating. Later on, she and a fellow passenger were thrown from her plane during an air show and killed. In spite of the tragedy, her legacy of being an adventurous female pilot inspired other aviators such as Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman.

Whitaker has found an original subject to address in this book. Not many readers would know about Harriet Quimby and her pioneering steps into aviation. Stock's illustrations are supportive of the storyline, but they can look a bit messy in spots. Older children will enjoy this picture book as they learn more about this amazing woman.

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