



Velvet Pumpkin Books

March 2026 Newsletter

WOMEN'S HISTORY & VOICES

There's a question that haunts the margins of history: *Where were the women?*

The answer, of course, is everywhere. They were inventing and organizing, healing and fighting, writing and building. They were there all along—just not always recorded. Not always credited. Not always remembered.

This March, we celebrate Women's History Month by doing what Velvet Pumpkin Books does best: recovering the stories that almost disappeared. Because when we tell women's stories, we don't just honor the past—we reshape the future.

March's Focus: Courage, Voice & Visibility

March is home to:

- Women's History Month
- International Women's Day (March 8)
- A global invitation to ask: Whose contributions are we still overlooking?

Women's History Month began as a single week in 1981 and expanded to a full month in 1987. But a month isn't enough—not when centuries of contributions have been erased or minimized. The work of March is to plant seeds that grow all year: to read women's stories, share women's voices, and question the gaps in every history we've been taught.

She persisted—and so must we, in telling her story.

March Reading Circle: Stories of Persistence

This month's reading selections celebrate women who challenged norms, raised their voices, and reshaped what's possible.

Children's Pick

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World

by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

From Harriet Tubman to Sonia Sotomayor, from Nellie Bly to Oprah Winfrey, this illustrated collection celebrates women who refused to take no for an answer. Each profile is brief enough for young readers but powerful enough to spark real conversations about what it means to persist in the face of obstacles. A perfect read-aloud for classrooms and families.

Young Adult Pick

I Am Malala: Young Readers Edition

by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

Malala's extraordinary true story of standing up for girls' education in Pakistan—and surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban—proves that one young voice can ignite a global movement. This young readers edition makes her story accessible to middle grade and early high school readers. Inspiring, urgent, and a testament to the power of refusing to be silenced.

Adult Pick

Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men

by Caroline Criado Perez

From crash test dummies sized for male bodies to medical research that excludes female subjects, Perez reveals how the "default male" standard has created a world that systematically fails women—often with deadly consequences. Meticulously researched and genuinely eye-opening, this book will change how you see everything from city planning to smartphone design. Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand structural inequality.

Velvet Pumpkin Spotlight: Hidden Histories of Women

March marks an important milestone for Velvet Pumpkin Books: we're deep in development on the Hidden Histories of Women series—an eight-book collection that recovers the stories of women history tried to forget.

These aren't footnotes or sidebars. These are full, rich narratives about women who:

- Served as spies, soldiers, and strategists in wars they were told they couldn't fight
- Built industries, invented technologies, and made scientific breakthroughs—without credit
- Led movements, organized communities, and changed laws
- Were buried, forgotten, or deliberately erased—until now

Titles in development include *The Blame*, *Battle Worn and Buried*, and *Women of the Americas*. We can't wait to share more in the coming months.

History forgot them. We won't.

Community Connection — Utah Highlights

Here in Utah, March offers meaningful ways to celebrate women's history and support women's voices:

Women's History Exhibits

Utah state museums and historical societies often feature special programming during Women's History Month. The Utah State Capitol and This Is The Place Heritage Park have highlighted Utah women's contributions in past years.

Girl Scout Service Projects

Girl Scouts of Utah host service projects and badge-earning opportunities focused on women's history, leadership, and community impact. A great way for young people to connect learning with action.

Women-Owned Business Spotlights

Support women entrepreneurs this month. Organizations like Women's Business Center of Utah and local chambers of commerce can help you discover women-owned businesses in your community.

Check your local library, community center, or city calendar for events near you.

A Question to Carry With You This Month

"Which woman's story changed the way you see the world?"

Maybe it was a grandmother's quiet wisdom. A teacher who saw something in you. An author whose words unlocked a door. A historical figure you only discovered as an adult. Share her story this month—because every time we speak a woman's name, we push back against the silence.

Looking Ahead

In April, we'll explore:

- Autism Awareness Month
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- Stories that move from awareness to acceptance
- A spotlight on *The Beautiful Witch* and neurodiverse representation in children's literature

Until then, may your March be filled with the voices of women—past and present—who remind us that courage sounds like speaking up, and persistence looks like refusing to disappear.

With gratitude,
Velvet Pumpkin Books

Stories for the thoughtful, the curious, and the kind.