



Not So Quiet...

By Helen Zenna Smith

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Praised by the *Chicago Sun-Times* for its “furious, indignant power,” this story offers a rare, funny, bitter, and feminist look at war. First published in London in 1930, *Not So Quiet...* (on the Western Front) describes a group of British women ambulance drivers on the French front lines during World War I, surviving shell fire, cold, and their punishing commandant, "Mrs. Bitch." The novel takes the guise of an autobiography by Smith, pseudonym for Evadne Price. The novel's power comes from Smith's outrage at the senselessness of war, at her country's complacent patriotism, and her own daily contact with the suffering and the wounded.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This bittersweet feminist antiwar novel, first published in Great Britain in 1930 as autobiography, chronicles the experiences of six young Englishwomen who have paid to serve as volunteer ambulance drivers at the front lines in France during World War I. As they contend with bad food, lice, little sleep, grueling and gruesome work, and a merciless commandant, their middle-class parents swell with pride over their daughters' "doing their bit." Heaven forbid that a daughter should disgrace them by refusing to serve, choosing not to serve at the front, or coming home a coward. Brilliantly written, and cleverly mixing humor with bitterness, this novel originally won the Prix Severigne in France as "the novel most calculated to promote international peace."-- Jeris Cassel, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J.

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Review

"A powerful condemnation of war and the societies that glamorize it." —*Kirkus*

"This intriguing book . . . vividly and impressionistically tells of the author's tour of duty in France. . . . One welcomes its return to print." —*New York Times Book Review*

"The reader of *Not So Quiet* . . . today is immediately gripped by its furious, indignant power." —*Chicago Sun-Times*

About the Author

HELEN ZENNA SMITH is the pseudonym of Evadne Price (1896 - 1985), who wrote several more novels about the character Smith. JANE MARCUS is distinguished professor of English at City College and the Graduate School and University Center, CUNY.

Users Review

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