STACEY ABRAMS
Born December 9, 1973
POLITICIAN
VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVIST

In the early 2000s, Abrams published romance suspense novels under the pen name Selena Montgomery. You can find her books on Amazon.

Stacey Abrams served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2006 to 2017. She became the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly in 2010, a role she held for seven years. In 2018, Stacey Abrams was just 55,000 votes shy of becoming the first Black woman governor of Georgia.

Stacey Abrams' 2018 gubernatorial loss reignited the debate over Georgia's long history of voter suppression. She created Fair Fight, a voter protection and education organization. Due to her work in mobilizing voters, she is credited with helping to flip Georgia's two Senate seats for the Democrats in 2021.

NELLIE BLY
Born May 5, 1864 – Jan. 27, 1922
JOURNALIST
Read more: https://bit.ly/31owVnY

In addition to being lauded for her hands-on approach to journalism, Bly was also well-known for traveling around the world in only 72 days. She was inspired to do the trip after reading the popular book “Around the World in 80 Days.” Bly held the world record for a few months.

Bly is most known for exposing the abuse and neglect endured by patients with mental illness. In 1887, she feigned insanity to infiltrate the asylum on Blackwell’s Island (now Roosevelt Island) in New York and wrote “Ten Days in a Madhouse” about her experience. Her investigative journalism inspired hospital and asylum reforms across the country.

Murad is Yazidi, a Kurdish ethnic and religious minority that were victims of genocide by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS). In 2014, ISIS attacked Murad’s village, killed hundreds of men (including her brothers and mom) and held thousands of girls and women, including Murad and her relatives, captive for months as sex slaves. In 2017, she published her memoir “The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State.”

Murad donated the entirety of her Nobel Peace Prize money to the Sinjar Action Fund (SAF), which advances reconstruction efforts in Sinjar, Iraq. SAF is an initiative of Murad’s nonprofit organization Nadia’s Initiative, which advocates for victims of sexual violence and rebuilds communities in crisis.

Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Cochran Seaman. Seaman took the pseudonym “Nellie” to go undercover as an investigative journalist in the 1880s.

Murad was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2018, alongside Dr. Denis Mukwege for their work “to end sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.” She is the first Iraqi and first Yazidi to receive a Nobel Prize.

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This Women’s History Month, we are highlighting some remarkable women whose accomplishments we hope will inspire you to dream big and fight for the less fortunate. Visit www.WomensHistory.org to continue learning.