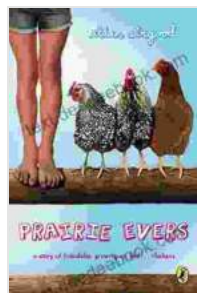


Prairie Evers Ellen Airgood: A Trailblazing Aviatrix and Medical Pioneer

Early Life and Education

Prairie Evers Ellen Airgood was born on May 24, 1880, in Waddams Grove, Illinois. From a young age, she displayed an inquisitive mind and a passion for adventure. Despite the societal norms of her time, which discouraged women from pursuing careers in science and technology, Airgood was determined to break barriers and follow her dreams.

Inspired by the Wright brothers' historic flight in 1903, Airgood became fascinated with aviation. In 1910, she became the first woman in Illinois to earn a pilot's license. This remarkable achievement marked the beginning of her pioneering career in aviation.



Prairie Evers by Ellen Airgood

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1272 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 224 pages



In addition to her interest in aviation, Airgood also had a strong desire to pursue medicine. She enrolled at Northwestern University's Woman's Medical School in 1912 and graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1916.

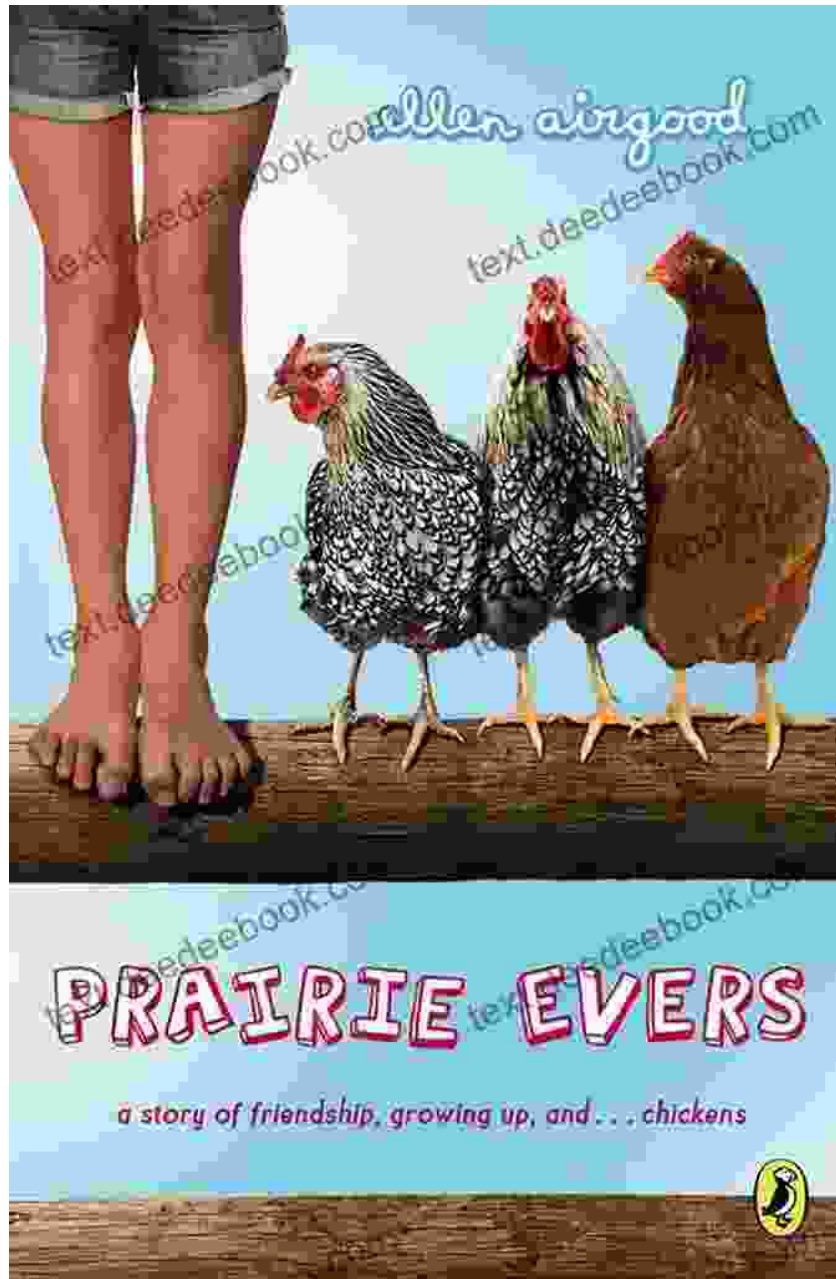
Becoming a medical doctor was an equally groundbreaking accomplishment for Airgood, as few women practiced medicine at that time.

Aviation Career

After graduating from medical school, Airgood combined her passions for aviation and medicine. She became a flight surgeon for the U.S. Army during World War I, where she cared for wounded soldiers and conducted research on the effects of high altitude on the human body. Her contributions to aviation medicine were groundbreaking and helped advance the field significantly.

In 1920, Airgood became the first woman to fly across the United States. Her solo flight from Chicago to San Francisco covered over 2,000 miles and took several days to complete. Along the way, she faced numerous challenges, including mechanical problems, bad weather, and societal skepticism. However, her determination and perseverance prevailed, and she successfully completed her historic journey.

Airgood's aviation accomplishments continued throughout her career. In 1922, she became the first woman to fly over the Canadian Rockies. She also set several altitude records and became a renowned lecturer and advocate for women in aviation.



Prairie Evers Ellen Airgood flying an airplane.

Medical Career

While Airgood's aviation achievements garnered much attention, her contributions to medicine were equally significant. She established a successful medical practice in Chicago, where she specialized in obstetrics

and gynecology. Airgood was a skilled and compassionate physician who dedicated her life to improving the health of women and children.

In addition to her clinical work, Airgood was also a researcher and advocate for public health. She published several articles on women's health and safety, and she actively campaigned for access to healthcare for all. Airgood's legacy as a medical pioneer continues to inspire future generations of healthcare professionals.

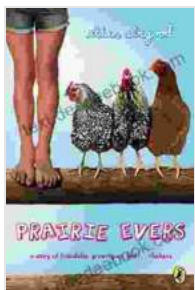
Challenges and Legacy

As a woman pursuing careers in male-dominated fields, Airgood faced numerous challenges throughout her life. She often encountered skepticism and discrimination from her male colleagues and the general public. However, she remained undeterred and remained committed to her passions.

Airgood's legacy is one of breaking barriers and paving the way for others. She proved that women can achieve great things in both aviation and medicine, even in a time when society discouraged their participation in these fields. Her trailblazing spirit continues to inspire women and girls worldwide to pursue their dreams and make a meaningful impact on the world.

Prairie Evers Ellen Airgood passed away on June 2, 1963, at the age of 83. Her contributions to aviation and medicine continue to be celebrated today. She is remembered as a true pioneer who dedicated her life to breaking down barriers and making a difference in the lives of others.

Prairie Evers Ellen Airgood was an extraordinary woman who left an enduring mark on the world of aviation and medicine. Through her pioneering spirit, determination, and compassion, she shattered societal norms and paved the way for future generations of women in these fields. Airgood's legacy serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us that anything is possible if we believe in ourselves and dare to dream big.



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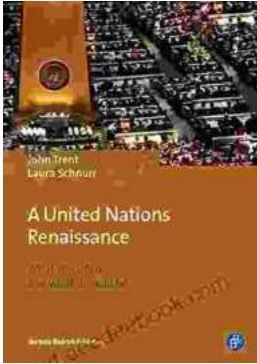
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