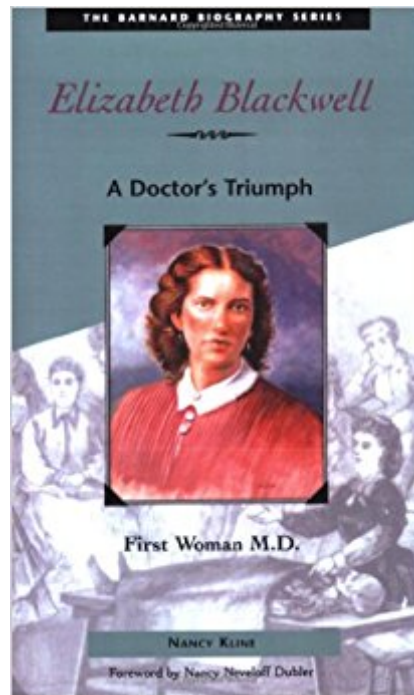




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# Elizabeth Blackwell: First Woman M.D. (Barnard Biography)



## Synopsis

Victorian Society recoiled at the thought of a woman learning about the human body. Yet in 1847, Elizabeth Blackwell was determined to become a physician--one who would not just improve the practice of medicine, but would also provide desperately needed medical care for the women of her time. Author Nancy Kline vividly re-creates Blackwell's world and her struggle to gain knowledge and acceptance in the closed, males only world of medicine.

## Book Information

Series: Barnard Biography

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Red Wheel / Weiser (March 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1573240575

ISBN-13: 978-1573240574

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #93,835 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up. Setting the stage for Blackwell's story is a foreword delineating the limitations of American medicine in the early 1800s and how much women suffered at the hands of male physicians, who practiced without standards. Onto this scene, from a close-knit family of Dissenters who emigrated from England, came a single-minded young woman determined to become a surgeon. A few physicians rallied to her cause, becoming sponsors, but no medical schools would admit her?except, eventually, Geneva Medical College of Western New York, and that was actually the result of a joke. The many personal and professional hurdles that Blackwell had to overcome in order to succeed are clearly put forth in this lively, well-documented narrative. Kline is particularly adept at placing her subject in the context of her social and intellectual milieu, her teaching career, and the community of medicine during her lifetime. This motivational biography makes thrilling the struggle of women joining forces to be recognized in a society totally controlled by males. A satisfying and eminently readable presentation.?Susan F. Marcus, Pollard Middle School,

Gr. 5<sup>^</sup>-9. From the Barnard Biography Series celebrating "heroic women" comes this well-researched biography focusing on the first woman doctor in America. The many changes of scene and of fortune in Blackwell's life, combined with her penchant for seeking new challenges, make her a lively biography subject. Appearing within the narrative are excerpts from Blackwell's journal and letters. They give a fresher sense of her voice and personality than one might otherwise glean from reading an account of her life. Carolyn Phelan

Perfect for my daughter's 3rd grade project!

Bought this book (kindle edition) for my ten year old daughter for a school biography project. She thought it was hard to follow and was more of a story than a biography. Not worth reading - Who was books offer much more

Nancy Kline provides an illuminating glimpse into the life and work of Elizabeth Blackwell, and does service to the memory of Dr. Blackwell by doing so. She accurately and fairly portrays the struggles that Dr. Blackwell overcame to become the first woman MD. Kline's prose is perfectly suited for the young adult reader, sufficiently complex to be thought-provoking, but also lucid. I gave this book as a gift to my 13-year old sister, and after she read it she shared it with her friends and all of the family!

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