



Hit: Essays on Women's Rights (Classics in Women's Studies)

By Mary Edwards Walker M.D.

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The only woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War, Dr. Mary E. Walker (1832-1919) was a surgeon, a public lecturer, and an outspoken champion of women's rights. One of the first women in the country to be awarded a medical degree, she served as an assistant surgeon for the 52nd Ohio Infantry and was cited for valor in going behind enemy lines to attend to the sick.

Though her early career was highly distinguished, her subsequent life became controversial and in some respects tragic. Always a woman of great independence, she publicly expressed strong opinions about the need for women's rights and harshly criticized prevailing patriarchal attitudes and the enforced subservience of women. After the war she published *Hit*, an enigmatically titled book in which she advanced her radical ideas on topics from love and marriage and dress reform to woman's suffrage and religion.

With an insightful foreword by Walker specialist Mercedes Graf (professor of psychology, Governors State University, University Park, Illinois), this new edition of a little known work by a pioneering feminist will be of great interest to anyone concerned about women's rights.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

"Walker's book deserves to be read today, . . . as it puts into historical perspective the efforts of one of the first suffragists of America whose ideas helped promote the cause of the women's rights movement. On another level, it should also be perused as it gives us insights into the character of an early woman pioneer in medicine whose exploits generated a great deal of controversy given that they were so much at odds with the dominant image of the Victorian woman at the time." -- Mercedes Graf

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