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BEDSIDE BOOK OF BAD GIRLS: OUTLAW WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

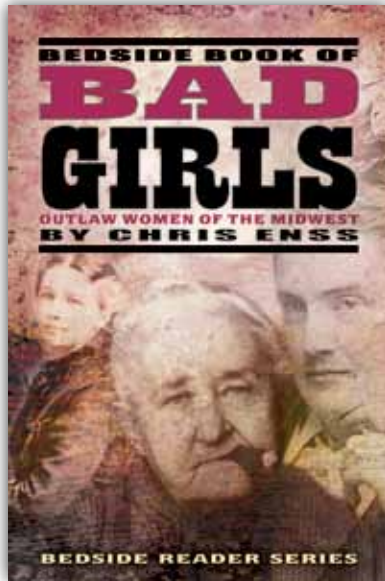
BY: Chris Enss

PUBLICATION DATE: October 2012

SPECS: 160 pages, 6" x 9", softcover, 21 historic black-and-white
photographs, index

ISBN 13: 978-1-56037-525-8

PRICE: \$14.95



NEW BOOK EXPOSES LIVES OF LITTLE-KNOWN OUTLAW WOMEN

Join award-winning author Chris Enss as she hunts down and exposes the Midwest's greatest female outlaws in Farcountry Press' newest release *Bedside Book of Bad Girls: Outlaw Women of the Midwest*.

The newest book in Farcountry's widely popular Bedside Reader Series features 11 profiles of outlaw women from across the Midwest who perpetrated a variety of crimes.

"I wanted to research outlaws who were involved in unique crimes, not just murders or horse theft, but skilled grifters who knew how to work the system," said Enss. "Many readers will be surprised to know these desperate ladies even existed."

Enss conducted two years of meticulous research on these bad girls, compiling fresh and little-known information on the renegades.

"I spent a considerable amount of time researching this subject to find information about women criminals few have heard about, and digging for fresh information

about those female desperados most familiar to readers."

Enss admitted that finding information on women who had perpetrated a variety of crimes was a challenge.

"Very little is written specifically about women outlaws and there are virtually no books about women outlaws of the Midwest," Enss said. "There are books that center around a solitary female outlaw, but this book features a variety of women."

Of all the women profiled, Enss explained that Jennie and Fannie Freeman were her favorite criminals.

"They were a mother-daughter grifting team who faked injuries to con businesses out of their money. I thought they were as ruthless as serial killer Kate Bender. The Freemans targeted specific businesses and lied about what had happened to them. Bender was waiting like a spider in her parent's home on the Plains to kill anyone who passed by; she had no specific individual in mind to murder. The Freemans were cunning and duplicitous, and what they did eroded away at societies' trust and led to an increase in the price of insurance premiums for everyone. That type of fraud is pervasive and sinister."

Winner of the Spirit of the West Award and the Cable Ace Award, Enss has authored numerous titles on women of the American West. Her love of the Old West was born during her research on the Bidwell-Bartelson wagon train.

"I was doing a history program for a local radio station, and during my research I learned about an admirable woman who traveled with the Bidwell-Bartelson wagon train," said Enss. "She was the only woman making her way west with this particular party, and she made the four month journey from Independence to Sutter's Fort barefoot and carrying

a one-year-old baby on her hip. I had a difficult time trying to find out her first name. She was known only as Mrs. Benjamin Kelsey. It wasn't until after weeks of poring over several journals kept by men on the wagon train that I learned her name was Nancy. I wanted to write and research the history of pioneer women so that their courageous efforts to settle a new land would not be lost. I wanted their individual names to be known."

Her love of the past has only grown since her research on Mrs. Nancy Kelsey.

"History defines us as a nation," said the author of her passion. "We are history-making creatures who can neither repeat our past nor leave it behind. It's vital for growth. History is a living, breathing entity with a myriad of examples to learn from. History is always."

Bedside Book of Bad Girls is available at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers, or from Farcountry Press at 1.800.821.3874, www.farcountrypress.com.



About the Photographer

Chris Enss has been writing about women of the Old West for more than a dozen years. She loves Western culture and travels quite extensively, collecting research for her books. She received the Spirit of the West Alive award, cosponsored by the *Wild West Gazette*, celebrating her efforts to keep the spirit of the Old West alive for future generations. She currently lives in a historic gold-mining town in Northern California.

For an interview, contact the author at 530-477-8859, or gvcenss@aol.com.

About Farcountry Press

Celebrating its 32nd year in 2012, the award-winning publisher specializes in softcover and hardcover color photography books showcasing the nation's cities, states, national parks, and wildlife. Farcountry also publishes several popular children's series, as well as guidebooks, cookbooks, and regional history titles nationwide.

The staff produces over 30 books annually; the backlog has grown to more than 300 titles.

For more information please go to: **www.farcountrypress.com, or call: 800.821.3874.**

For a press kit (cover image, interior photos, review copy) contact Heather Ripkey, 406-422-1267, Heather@farcountrypress.com.

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