

**BOOK DETAILS**

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**AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Amy Stewart is the *New York Times* bestselling author of nine books, including *Girl Waits with Gun* and the rest of the Kopp Sisters series, which are based on the true story of one of America's first female deputy sheriffs and her two rambunctious sisters. Her popular non-fiction titles include *The Drunken Botanist*, *Wicked Plants*, and *Flower Confidential*. She lives in Portland with her husband Scott Brown, a rare book dealer. They own an independent bookstore called Eureka Books, which is so independent that it lives in California while they live in Oregon.

The fearless Kopp sisters are back in another unforgettable romp by HWA-longlisted international bestseller Amy Stewart.

It's 1917, and the US Army is marching to join its allies in the First World War. Constance Kopp and her sisters may not be soldiers, but that doesn't mean they can't do their bit. All over America, women are banding together to create military-style training camps, and so the Kopp sisters leave their farm in New Jersey to learn some army discipline.

In *Kopp Sisters on the March*, the women of Camp Chevy Chase face down the scepticism of the War Department, the double standards of a scornful public, and the very real perils of war. Once again, Amy Stewart has brilliantly brought a little-known moment in history to light.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. The excerpt from the *Richmond Times Dispatch* (vii) provides immediate context for the National Service Schools. Did the last sentence stand out when you first read it? Did it seem to foreshadow something? How do you react differently reading the epigraph after finishing the book?
2. Constance is still having trouble adjusting to her more domestic life. She even looks for her whistle to direct traffic on their way into camp. Norma notices and says, "Go ahead and order them out of the way. You like to be in charge" (15). How did it feel seeing Constance's listlessness here compared to the previous books?
3. On pages 22–23 the registration questions are read to Constance. These are the real questions that were used to register women to the National Service Schools. Which questions stood out to you the most and why? Which answers make Constance feel discontent and less empowered?

PRAISE FOR THE KOPP SISTERS SERIES

‘Told in Stewart’s nimble, witty prose, this fifth in the popular series is based largely on fact and offers a paean to patriotism and the role women have played in war, even a century ago.’

STARRED REVIEW

— *BOOKLIST*

‘A well-researched, rollicking story.’

— **CAITLLN HICKS, *NEW YORK JOURNAL OF BOOKS***

‘The novel excels in revisiting a vanished time, place and sensibility.’

— **KATHERINE A. POWERS, *THE WASHINGTON POST***

‘A welcome addition to this sui generis series, always fresh thanks to its vividly imagined characters firmly grounded in historical fact.’ **STARRED REVIEW**

— *KIRKUS*

‘Stewart skillfully builds nail-biting suspense ... The blend of practicality, forthrightness, and compassion in her first-person narration is sure to satisfy series fans and win new admirers.’

— *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*

‘An unforgettable, not-to-be-messed-with heroine — one of the nation’s first female deputy sheriff’s ... A kick-ass history.’

— *MARIE CLAIRE US*

‘One hundred years ago, Constance Kopp was well on her way to becoming the baddest chick in the West.’

— *COSMOPOLITAN US*

4. Constance describes the scene at the school: “The place had the air of a summer party, inspite of the early March chill, and seemed far removed from the fighting in France or, for that matter, the very idea of war” (28). The disconnect between the camp and the war is brought up many times throughout the book. Why does it seem so far removed? Does that change throughout the duration the story?
5. What is specifically appealing to Beulah about joining the National Service School? How is this community of women different or similar from her community of women on Mayo Street?
6. Mrs. Nash shares a little about what the women will and will not be doing, saying “there is no intention of producing a modern Amazonian corps” (41). What were the women’s expectations before attending? Do you think they were truly surprised they wouldn’t be treated equal to the men? For the more privileged attendees, why do you think they signed up for this camp instead of some other summer social activity?
7. “There are times when I find the law to be more of a hindrance” (293). Usually Constance is teaching others, but what does Nurse Cartwright teach Constance?
8. There is a discussion on page 311 about Miss Rankin: “Besides, she’ll be criticized no matter what she does. If she votes in favor, they’ll say that there’s no need to put a woman in office if she’s only going to vote as the men do. If she votes against war, they’ll say that women are too soft to make the difficult decisions.” How does this compare to how women in positions of power are viewed today? And how does the media’s representation of Miss Rankin sound similar or different to how women are represented in the media today?
9. “It’s my camp. We’re going to train for war” (323). This change in Constance’s behavior is where we see the character most like the Constance we have seen in previous books. What sparked this change the most? Where does her confidence come from?

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- I0. Beulah asks Constance: “Why are you waiting for her to tell you what you’re going to do and who you’re going to be? Can’t you work that out for yourself? ... Why don’t you decide what you want and do the asking yourself? ... What I’m trying to say is, you can’t wait for somebody else to decide whether you get another chance. What if nobody ever does?” (304–305) Why are these questions so hard for Constance to hear, and to answer? Why does it seem hard for Constance to be challenged by Beulah? Are you surprised by Beulah’s perspective and understanding?
- II. Near the end of the novel, Constance picks up Beulah from the nurse: “Constance looked at Beulah and the nurse, puzzled over the easy manner they had between them” (321). Did Beulah and Nurse Cartwright’s relationship surprise you? How do you think they help each other? Why does Beulah feel so safe with her? Why is Constance so surprised?
- I2. Maude Miner says, “I’ve never been prouder of this country’s daughters than I am right now” (337). Why was it so important for her to see the women’s training in person, even if she thought, at first, it was a detriment to their cause? What did it show her personally, and what does she hope it will show men?
- I3. Were you as surprised as the other characters to find out Norma’s pigeon project will be involved in the war effort (338)? What role, if any, did her confidence play in this result?
- I4. On page 340–341 we find out Constance’s plan to go to Washington and ask for what she wants instead of waiting to be asked. Do you think it’s realistic?
- I5. The epilogue is set six months later and only focuses on Beulah and Nurse Cartwright. What did you think about this ending?



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