



Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman

By Reeve Lindbergh

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Stock up for Black History Month and Women's History Month!

As a young black woman in the 1920s, Bessie Coleman's chances of becoming a pilot were slim. But she never let her dream die and became the first licensed African-American aviator. Reeve Lindbergh honors her memory with a poem that sings of her accomplishment. With bold illustrations by Pamela Paparone, **NOBODY OWNS THE SKY** will inspire readers to follow their dreams.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Coleman was the first licensed African American aviator, and the story of her perseverance is told in verse. "Lustrous, appealingly primitive acrylic art effectively conveys a sense of the '20s," said PW. Ages 5-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 1-4-This narrative poem using simple rhymes tells Bessie Coleman's life story and creates a cadence of bold rhythms that young children will want to hear again and again. Paparone's superb folk-art illustrations, rendered in brilliantly colorful acrylic paintings, provide accurate visual details of the Texas cotton fields of Bessie's childhood, Chicago's vibrant African-American community during World War I, and Paris in the 1920s. Perspective is perfectly realized in the end papers, which give bird's-eye views reflecting the world Bessie must have seen in her first courageous flights. There are jewels of subtlety in Paparone's illustrations, too. In one early scene from Bessie's Texas school years, readers spy students' artwork on a bulletin board. There among the horses and houses that other children drew is Bessie's picture of white clouds against a blue, blue sky. She had already imagined her future, "flying free, flying true." This appealing story is all about having and realizing dreams. Even though Bessie Coleman died tragically young, *Nobody Owns the Sky* is very much a celebration of life as well as a tribute to a young woman who dared to dream big. It is a splendid picture-book biography of the first order.

Jerry D. Flack, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5⁺-8. Written in verse, this picture-book biography celebrates pioneering African American aviator Bessie Coleman. The text tells of Coleman's life in a series of vivid scenes: her hard childhood picking cotton in Texas late in the 1800s, her disappointment that she couldn't afford to stay in college, her courage in going to France to learn to fly airplanes, her lectures and barnstorming trips across America, and her death in a Florida air show. Underlying the story is the message that although she encountered racial discrimination in her life, Bessie found freedom in fulfilling her dream of flight because "nobody owns the sky." Illustrating the deftly written verses, Paparone's acrylic paintings in pastel colors have the innocence and the power of folk art. An excellent introduction to Coleman's life and achievements. *Carolyn Phelan*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Witt:

This *Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman* are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason of this *Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman* can be one of several great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed a person with information that probably will shock your prior knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this *Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman* forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we know it

useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Katherine Wilcoxon:

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Kim Phillips:

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Alissa Sowell:

In this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is definitely Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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