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NEW Middle Grade Biography BOOK RELEASE: *The Spy with the Wooden Leg: The Story of Virginia Hall*

An action-packed World War II spy biography about a woman who helped change the course of history

Title: *The Spy with the Wooden Leg: The Story of Virginia Hall*

Author: Nancy Polette

Publisher: Alma Little, an imprint of Elva Resa
www.elvaresa.com/pressSpy.html

Available from: all major booksellers,
Amazon.com, MilitaryFamilyBooks.com

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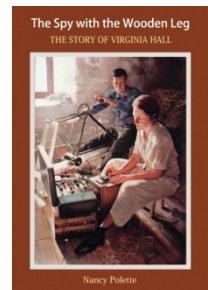
Retail Price: \$16.95 Hc, \$12.95 Pbk

Format: 5.125"x7.5" 160 pages

Ages: Recommended for age 10 and up

(St. Paul, MN) Alma Little, an imprint of award-winning independent publisher Elva Resa Publishing, is pleased to announce the release of *The Spy with the Wooden Leg: The Story of Virginia Hall*, a middle-grade World War II spy biography by Nancy Polette.

In this action-packed World War II spy biography for kids ages 10 and older, readers learn the story of Virginia Hall. How did a young woman from Baltimore, born at a time when daughters led sheltered lives and a woman's place was in the home, become one of the bravest and most valued intelligence agents in World War II?



Virginia Hall had a dream to become the first woman ambassador for the United States. Turned down by the US State Department time and again, Virginia could not stand idly by while the German army swept through Europe conquering country after country. Despite a life-threatening hunting accident, which took her left leg, she volunteered to drive an ambulance in France. She rescued downed airmen, radioed vital information to the Allies, and led three battalions of French Resistance forces in guerrilla warfare. Known as *la dame qui boite* or the Limping Lady, she rose to the top of the Gestapo's Most Wanted list. Following the war, Virginia was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the US Army's highest military decoration after the Medal of Honor. No other civilian received such an honor. The Limping Lady helped change the course of history as the spy with the wooden leg!

Book features:

- inspiring story of Virginia Hall's life overcoming adversity and her career as a master spy
- historical summaries throughout the book. Labeled "During This Time in the World" the summaries give readers a glimpse of the events surrounding World War II.
- reproduction of actual drawing by OSS agent Peter Harratt, code name Aramis, of Virginia Hall, code name Diane Heckler, in 1944. Courtesy of National Archives.
- photo of Virginia receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, the US Army's highest military decoration after the Medal of Honor. President Truman wanted to give her the award at the White House and tell the world about her bravery. But Virginia said, "No!" She wanted to continue to be a spy. So General Bill Donovan, OSS chief, presented her the award in his office with only Virginia and her mother in attendance.
- cover painting by Jeffrey W Bass, CIA Fine Art Collection. Cloistered in an old barn in south central France, OSS spy Virginia Hall communicates with London. Edmond Lebret (cousin of Leah Lebret), a

Maquis leader, operates an improvised, manual generator to supply power to Virginia's B2 spy radio. The code phrase *les marguerites fleuriront ce soir* (the daisies will bloom tonight) alerts Virginia to expect something from London.

Major themes:

- perseverance; overcoming adversity
- fulfilling life dreams
- WWII history
- espionage and guerilla warfare
- inspiring women
- unconventional heroes
- living with a handicap; prosthetic limbs

About the author:

NANCY POLETTE has written more than 150 books. She is a professor of education at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. She taught elementary school for thirty years and directed gifted programs for St. Louis County Schools. *School Library Journal* describes her as “an educator with imagination, creativity, and an appreciation for the intelligence of children.” Nancy researched the life of Virginia Hall for five years to write *The Spy with the Wooden Leg: The Story of Virginia Hall*. She lives in O’Fallon, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Learn more about Nancy at www.nancypolette.com.

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An imprint of Elva Resa Publishing, Alma Little brings children a diverse world of possibilities, opportunities, and wonder. A portion of sales is donated to charities that help make those opportunities a reality. Elva Resa Publishing is based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Its mission is to make a positive difference in people’s lives. For more information, visit www.elvaresa.com.