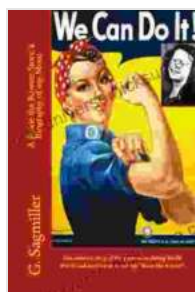


# We Can Do It! Rosie the Riveter: The Story and Biography of My Mom, a One-Woman Story of Resilience and Determination



**We Can Do It! A Rosie the Riveter Story. A Biography of my Mom. One woman's story of her generation during World War II and working as a real-life "Rosie the Riveter"** by Gordon Corera

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1491 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 304 pages  
Lending : Enabled



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The iconic image of "Rosie the Riveter" has become an enduring symbol of women's empowerment and resilience during World War II. However, beyond the iconic poster, there are countless real-life stories of women who made significant contributions to the war effort. One such story is that of my mother, Mary Doyle Keefe, a young woman who left her small town in Pennsylvania to work as a riveter in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

### **Mary Doyle Keefe: A Profile:**

Born in 1921 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mary was the youngest of eight children. With limited opportunities in her hometown, she eagerly embraced the call for women to support the war effort. In 1943, at the age of 22, she boarded a train to New York City, ready to take on a new challenge.

### **Arrival at the Brooklyn Navy Yard:**

The Brooklyn Navy Yard was a bustling hub of activity, where ships were being constructed at a record pace. Mary joined the workforce of over 50,000 women, primarily responsible for welding and riveting the massive steel plates that formed the ships' hulls. Her daily routine involved lifting heavy equipment, working in harsh conditions, and enduring long hours.

### **Challenges and Triumphs:**

Like many other women who left their traditional roles to work in heavy industry, Mary faced numerous challenges. She had to overcome stereotypes and prove her capabilities in a male-dominated field. She also had to endure physical discomfort and demanding work schedules. However, her determination and resilience shone through, as she excelled at her job and earned the respect of her colleagues.



**The Birth of "Rosie":**

In 1942, the iconic "Rosie the Riveter" poster was created to motivate women to join the war effort. While the image was based on a real-life woman, it inadvertently became a symbol for all women contributing to the war industry. Mary's story, along with countless others, became part of the larger narrative of women's contributions to the victory.

### **Post-War Life:**

After the war, Mary returned to her hometown, where she married and raised a family of six children. However, her experiences as a riveter never left her. She became an active advocate for women's rights and a proud member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. Mary remained a source of inspiration to her family, friends, and the many people who knew her story.

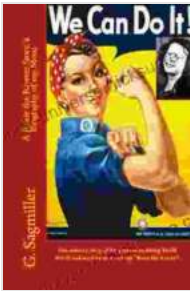
### **Legacy:**

Mary Doyle Keefe passed away in 2015 at the age of 94, but her legacy as a "Rosie the Riveter" continues to inspire generations. Her story serves as a reminder of the countless women who played a vital role in the war effort, challenging gender roles and paving the way for greater opportunities for women in the workplace.

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The story of Mary Doyle Keefe, the real-life Rosie the Riveter, is a testament to the resilience, determination, and contributions of women during World War II. Her journey as a riveter in the Brooklyn Navy Yard not only helped shape the outcome of the war but also inspired countless others to embrace their potential and break down barriers. Mary's legacy

continues to serve as a source of hope and empowerment for women everywhere.



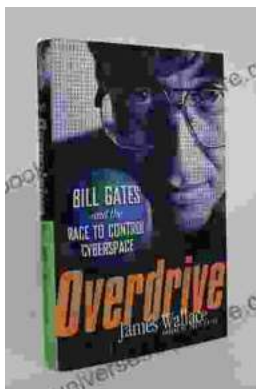
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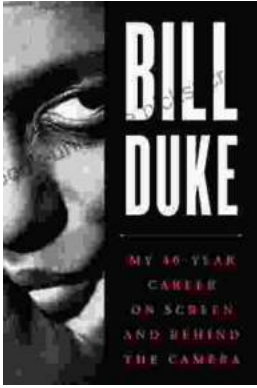
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