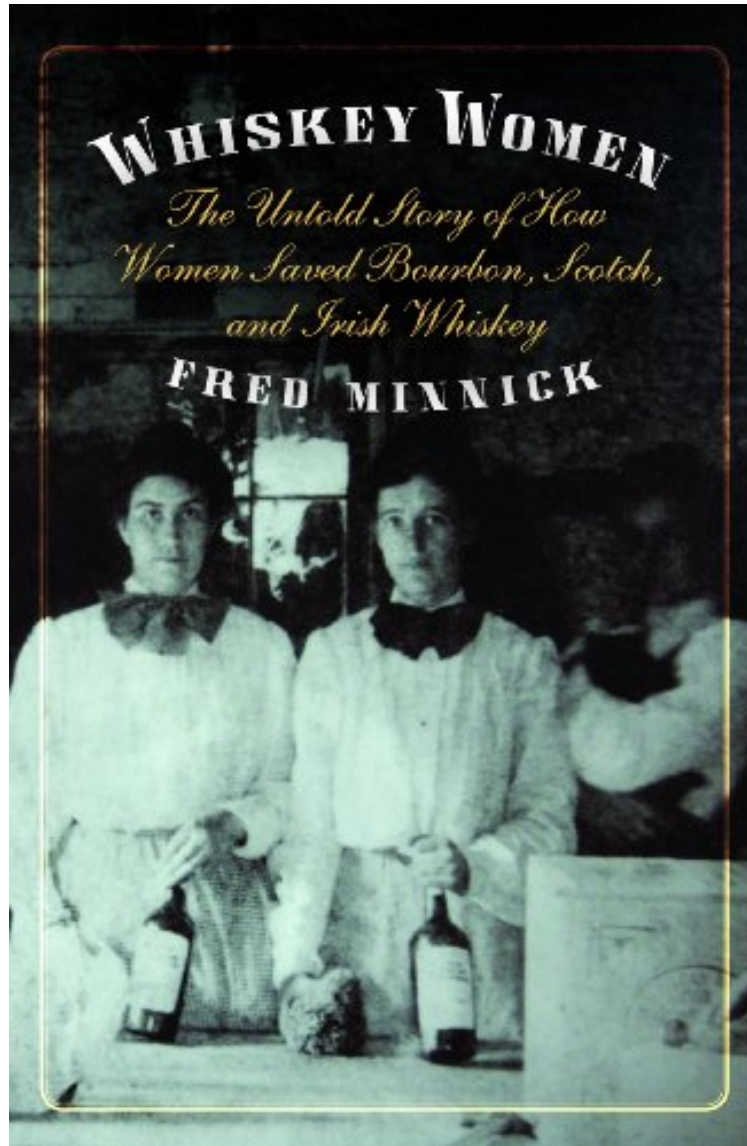


(Ebook pdf) Whiskey Women

## Whiskey Women

*Fred Minnick*

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**Fred Minnick : Whiskey Women** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whiskey Women:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If she was a manBy Anne PhillipsA book dedicated to women distilling whisk(e)y from the early times to modern times is an "incredibly vast subject matter ... the type of work scholars spend twenty years studying." Yes, indeed and maybe learn how to prune the miscellaneous tidbits from the other stuff. The book is full of interesting facts and factoids, but it misses the overall overarching something. Women distilling is just not enough. Several chapters stand out - the story of Prohibition, the political shenanigans, the

slogans! And the stories involving bootlegging would have made a great book all on their own. As it stands it is too much and tedious to read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. God Bless Women Whiskey! By M. Duffy I have quite an extensive collection of books on every type of whisky, but every once in a while a book comes along that shed a whole new light on a subject that I thought couldn't be explored any differently. Fred Minnick has explored and documented the history of spirit whisky, and has uncovered facts that even some of the featured whisky brands did not know about their own history, even though it was resting in their very archives. The writing is fun, succinct and fast paced. The passion that Mr. Minnick has placed in his writing and uncovering something that is long past over due. After you read his book, you will be asking yourself why whisky is not more associated with women than with men? Page after page gives evidence to the wonders of how women worked, created, sold, promoted and literally saved whisky, much to the relief of the rest of us. Speaking for the entire whisky drinking world... Thank You! 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An important work of scholarship that will change our understanding of whiskey's history. By Joshua G. Feldman "Whiskey Women: The Untold Story of How Women Saved Bourbon, Scotch, and Irish Whiskey" is so important that I own(ed) 3 copies of it. I have carried it around with me for months, inhabiting it. I have consumed a pre-release publisher's timed self destructing electronic edition (based on my reviewer status), a signed hard cover (destroyed in an accident), and finished with a kindle edition. I consider it an important book - the kind that can change your view of the world. Or at least of the whisky world - and, in my view, that counts for a lot. The particular view that "Whiskey Women" undoes is the notion that whiskey is a man's drink and that, after that fact, it's OK for women to like it too. The "it's OK, honey, I'll scoot over for you and make room for you on this bench on the whiskey express" notion that is embodied in such facts as whiskey marketing people developing extremely light whiskies to be marketed to women and developing flavored whiskies specifically to appeal to the women's market. For example: "Though industry officials don't like to talk about it, it's no secret that one initial aim of the [flavored whiskey] bottlings was to bring women into the whiskey fold. I do think it's a major effort to go after female drinkers in an aggressive way," Mr. [Dave] Pickerell said. -- from the 2013/06/26 Times article in the Dining section titled "Flavored Whiskeys Expand The Market". This point of view is nothing new. In fact it is very old and well nigh universal - but it doesn't square with a reality where women invented and were the ones to practice the art of brewing beer in the earliest eras of civilization and where women invented the art of distillation and where women were the first and traditional practitioners of the art. Whiskey was born as a home made agricultural product as an outgrowth of the kitchen, and as a medicine that emerged as part of a woman-centered tradition of folk healing. Fred Minnick documents all of this in Whiskey Women in a careful and authoritative way. He does so in a way that isn't all that common in whiskey books. Minnick takes us back to ancient source materials, Sumerian cuneiform tablets, medieval illuminated manuscripts, and a host of other source materials in a mature approach that melds scholarship with journalism. But, as Minnick takes pains to show, this feminine locus of domestic whisky production was a duel edged sword in the culture wars that raged around whiskey in its initial rise from locally produced agricultural product to highly political source of tax revenue and then focus of industrial revolution mechanization and economies of scale. In this era women distillers were demonized, hunted, exploited, and ultimately displaced. Women making whiskey as part of traditional folk healing became connected with witchcraft and women distillers were burned at the stake as witches. In the American culture that followed in the 19th century whiskey become intimately connected with prostitution and gambling and addiction. It was a culture that produced strife and the women-led temperance movement which gave rise to Prohibition. This movement portrayed whiskey as part of a complex of sinful anti-family activity on the part of men that included the image of whiskey bearing women as temptresses. This created the great trope of women in bars as lures to a dissipated and destructive path. This ultimately resulted in general banning of women from working in bars in many parts of the country for decades in the period from Repeal to the 1950s and 60s. Prohibition was a time of organized bootlegging and here women, once again, played a major role. Minnick is on solid ground here with the fantastic stories of lady bootleggers, both high and low such as Gertrude, "Cleo" Lythgoe, "The Queen of the Bootleggers". This stuff is fun. The next historical moment is the movement for Repeal which was also led by a woman, Pauline Sabin. And then the rise of single malt Scotch, greatly influenced by the woman who owned and ran Laphroaig, Bessie Williamson. Bourbon's resurgence is connected with a number of fascinating women, as is the current global explosion of whiskey popularity. We meet women master blenders, executives, brand creators, taste makers, and owners. This cast of characters will be familiar to many whiskey enthusiasts. There's plenty of #WhiskyFabric here. And so we end up in the current day and into the ironic situation where women are becoming leaders of the whiskey world and the bar and cocktail scene and it's presented as though it is a "new thing". Fred Minnick shows us this couldn't be further from the truth. We have it backwards. Women gave whiskey to the world and men took it from them, soiled it with big money, bloodshed, vice and greed and painted it as the very juice of the "Y" chromosome. This is a fictional recasting of what whiskey actually is - something originally made in a kitchen that is part of the attributes of hospitality, medical and emotional care, and social interaction and there is nothing inherently male about any of it. Get inside this idea and you'll understand why the Women In Academia Report listed this book on of the "Recent Books That May Be of Interest to Women Scholars" page. "Whiskey Women" will change the nature of scholarship on the subject and I cannot see how it will

not ultimately change the modern view of whisky's history and how it is told in the future.

Shortly after graduating from University of Glasgow in 1934, Elizabeth Bessier Williamson began working as a temporary secretary at the Laphroaig Distillery on the Scottish island Islay. Williamson quickly found herself joining the boys in the tasting room, studying the distillation process, and winning them over with her knowledge of Scottish whisky. After the owner of Laphroaig passed away, Williamson took over the prestigious company and became the American spokesperson for the entire Scotch whisky industry. Impressing clients and showing her passion as the Scotch Whisky Association's trade ambassador, she soon gained fame within the industry, becoming known as the greatest female distiller. *Whiskey Women* tells the tales of women who have created this industry, from Mesopotamia's first beer brewers and distillers to America's rough-and-tough bootleggers during Prohibition. Women have long distilled, marketed, and owned significant shares in spirits companies. Williamson's story is one of many among the influential women who changed the Scotch whisky industry as well as influenced the American bourbon whiskey and Irish whiskey markets. Until now their stories have remained untold.

"The necessary new book *Whiskey Women: The Untold Story of How Women Saved Bourbon, Scotch Irish Whiskey* tells us exactly why the pinky-in-the-air, fruity-drink cliché has never, ever been true. Forget umbrellas in cocktails: Kentucky journalist Fred Minnick shows us how the fairer sex established liquor techniques, culture, and tastes as we know it today." -- *Esquire.com* "This enjoyable book leaves readers feeling a way they're likely not accustomed to after such a wild, whiskey-soaked ride: enlightened." -- *American Way Magazine* "...fascinating..." -- *SeriousEats.com* "*Whiskey Women* is an entertaining and unexpected look at the role of women in the spirits industry. They were an integral part of this history and I'm delighted their story is finally being told." -- *Southern Foodways Alliance* "Ask even the most committed spirits aficionado about the contributions of women to the bourbon, scotch and Irish whiskey industry, and you'll probably draw a blank. Minnick, an elegant writer and fastidious scholar, not only fills in those blanks, but shows how women at Bushmills, Maker's Mark and Johnnie Walker owe much of their success, even salvation, to women like Bessie Williamson, who became the head of Laphroaig Distillery and the spokeswoman for the troubled scotch industry." -- John Mariani, *HuffingtonPost.com*