



The Secret Soldier The Story of Deborah Sampson Scholastic Biography

By Ann McGovern

Scholastic Paperbacks. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Harold Goodwin (illustrator). Paperback. 64 pages. Dimensions: 7.4in. x 5.1in. x 0.2in. When Robert Shurtliff enlists as a common soldier in the Continental army, no one suspects there is anything unusual about him. The new soldier serves bravely for a year and a half. It is not until he is hospitalized with fever that his secret is discovered. Private Shurtliff is really a woman - 23 year-old Deborah Sampson! Because her mother was too poor to take care of her, Deborah had been sent away from home at an early age. For ten years, she was a servant for the Deacon Thomas family in the Massachusetts Bay Colony town of Middleborough, looking after four growing children and doing chores. Deborah was too busy even to go to school. Besides, in the late 1700s people didn't think schooling was important for girls - girls couldn't even learn a trade as men could. Deborah longs for a life of her own. When she leaves the Thomas family at the age of eighteen, she is not ready to settle down and get married. She wants to see a bit of the world first - to travel...



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