



**THE RIVETING, UNTOLD STORY OF THE BRAVE
YOUNG AMERICAN WOMEN WHO CRACKED
GERMAN AND JAPANESE CODE TO HELP WIN
WORLD WAR II!**

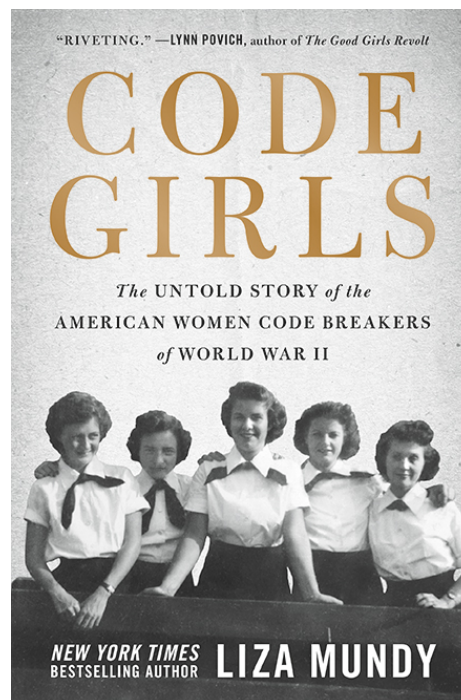
“I cannot overstate the importance of this book; Mundy has rescued a piece of forgotten history, and given these American heroes the recognition they deserve.”
—**Nathalia Holt**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rise of the Rocket Girls*

“A thrilling page-turner that illuminates the patriotism, rivalry and sexism of the code-breakers’ world.”

—**Lynn Povich**, author of *The Good Girls Revolt*

“*Code Girls* is an extraordinary book by an extraordinary author. Liza Mundy’s portraits of World War II codebreakers are so skillfully and vividly drawn that I felt as if I were right there with them—mastering ciphers, outwitting the Japanese army, sinking ships, breaking hearts.... I am an evangelist for this book: You must read it.”

—**Karen Abbott**, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Sin in the Second City* and *Liar, Temptress, Solider, Spy*



In 1942, reeling from Japan’s devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States military launched a secret program to recruit young, female college graduates to serve as code breakers in the newly ramped up war effort. In **CODE GIRLS: *The Untold Story of the American Women Code***

***Breakers of World War II* (Hachette Books; on-sale October 10, 2017; \$28.99; ISBN 9780316352536)** award-winning journalist and bestselling author Liza Mundy, reveals for the first time the revolutionary achievements and patriotic service of these remarkable young women. As Mundy shows, their astonishing code breaking triumphs against the Germans and Japanese helped secure an Allied victory, before their vow of secrecy nearly erased their vital contributions from U.S. history.

Recruited from settings as diverse as elite women's colleges and small Southern towns, more than ten-thousand young American women served as codebreakers for the U.S. Army and Navy during World War II. While their brothers, boyfriends, and husbands took up arms, these women went to the nation's capital with sharpened pencils--and even sharper minds--taking on highly demanding top secret work, involving complex math and linguistics. Running early IBM computers and poring over reams of encrypted enemy messages, they worked tirelessly in a pair of overheated makeshift code-breaking centers in Washington, DC, and Arlington, Virginia, from 1942 to 1945. Their achievements were immense: they cracked a crucial Japanese code, which gave the U.S. an acute advantage in the Battle of Midway and changed the course of the war in the Pacific Theater; they helped create the false communications that caught the Germans flat-footed in the lead-up to the Normandy invasion; and their careful tracking of Japanese ships and German U-boats saved countless American and British sailors' lives.

Through extensive archival research and numerous interviews conducted with the surviving code girls (now in their nineties), Mundy has constructed a dazzling narrative that expertly conjures up the war years--the battles abroad and the uncertainty and excitement on the home front. Mundy hones in on the lives and labors of several exemplary code-breakers, including Ann Caracristi and Agnes Driscoll, while providing a broader portrait that celebrates the entire cohort of talented women, whose top secret has went without public recognition for nearly seventy years. She expertly weaves the story among the larger events of the war and the daily activities of the codebreakers, anchoring the story to the figure of Dot Braden, a schoolteacher recruited by the Army, who--before her arrival at Arlington Hall--had scarcely left Virginia (Dot is still living today at age 96 and open to doing limited publicity alongside Mundy). For many of these young women, breaking codes was one of the most thrilling times of their lives: they were engaged in stimulating, truly essential work--enjoying challenges and opportunities that had never been open to them before--while, in many cases, getting their first taste of big city life, falling in and out of love, amid the excitement and heartbreak of wartime.

Ordered by military officials never to reveal the scope of their war work, these women and their incredible stories and accomplishments were all but written out of history until Mundy discovered a cache of recently declassified documents at the archives of the NSA. Based on these documents, other rich archival sources, and interviews with the women themselves, **CODE GIRLS** offers a page-turning narrative of broad popular appeal while establishing a vital new historical record; and it brings to life this riveting story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

Liza Mundy is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners Is Transforming Sex, Love and Family* and *Michelle: A Biography*. She was a long-time reporter at the *Washington Post* and has contributed to numerous publications including *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, and *Politico*. She is a frequent commentator on prominent national television shows, radio, and online news outlets. A senior fellow at New America, Mundy is one of the nation's foremost experts on women and work issues.

CODE GIRLS

The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II

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**For more information on CODE GIRLS, or to interview Liza Mundy, please contact
Joanna Pinsker @ Joanna.Pinsker@hbgusa.com or 212-364-0562.**

Additional Praise for CODE GIRLS:

“Liza Mundy’s *Code Girls* reveals one of World War Two’s last remaining secrets: the true tale of the young American women who helped shorten the war and saved thousands of lives by breaking the codes of the German and Japanese armed forces. But it’s also a superbly researched and stirringly written social history of a pivotal chapter in the struggle for women’s rights, told through the powerful and poignant stories of the individuals involved. In exploring the vast, obscure and makeshift offices of wartime Washington where these women performed seemingly impossible deeds, Mundy has discovered a birthplace of modern America.

—**Glenn Frankel, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *High Noon***

“Code Girls is not just a great slice of history--one that would have been lost to us without Liza's storytelling and the work of some heroic archivists --but a story relevant to every discussion we have now about America's security agencies and how they came to be. I am delighted readers will finally know about these pioneering women and their incredible contributions to America.”

—**Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and New York Times-bestselling author of *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* and *Ashley's War***

"Mundy is a fine storyteller.... A sleek, compelling narrative.... The book is a winner. Her descriptions of codes and ciphers, how they worked and how they were broken, are remarkably clear and accessible. A well-researched, compellingly written, crucial addition to the literature of American involvement in World War II."

—***Kirkus* (starred review)**

"Similar to Nathalia Holt's *The Rise of the Rocket Girls* and Margot Lee Shetterly's *Hidden Figures*, this is indispensable and fascinating history. Highly recommended for all readers."

—***Library Journal* (starred review)**