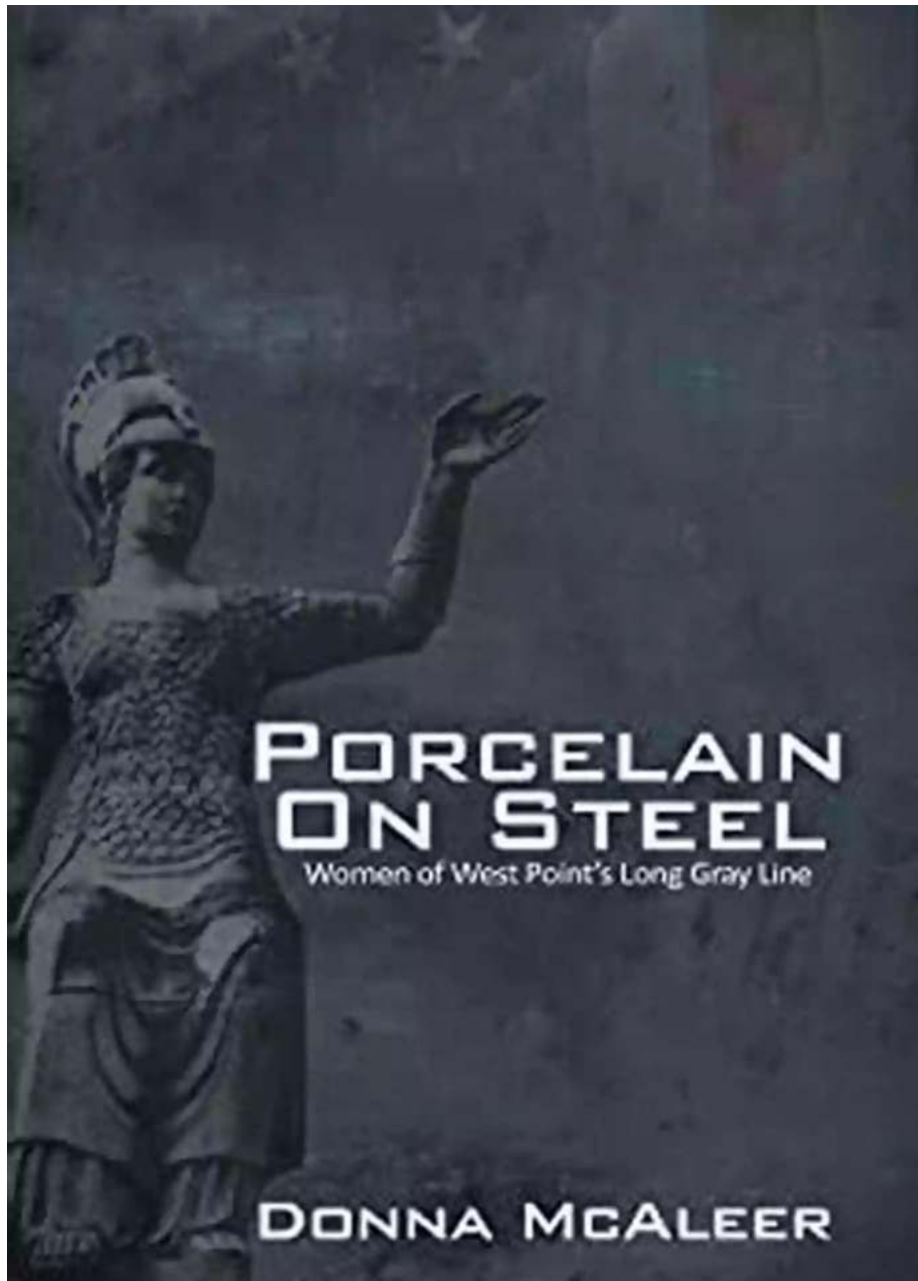
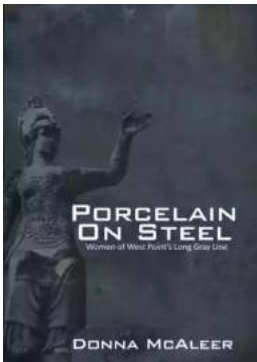


# **Porcelain on Steel Women of West Point Long Gray Line: Breaking Barriers and Shaping History**

When you think of West Point, the prestigious United States Military Academy, images of brave cadets in crisply pressed uniforms and rigid military discipline likely come to mind. But what if I told you that behind the fortress-like walls of this historic institution, a legion of porcelain on steel women have been shattering gender barriers and leaving an indelible mark on the Long Gray Line?



West Point has a long and storied history, dating back to its founding in 1802 by Thomas Jefferson. Throughout the years, it has produced countless leaders and heroes, but it wasn't until 1976 that the Academy opened its doors to women. This historic decision marked the beginning of a new era, one in which women would no longer be relegated to the sidelines but would play an active role in shaping the future of our nation's military.



## Porcelain On Steel I Women of West Point's Long Gray Line

by Donna M. McAleer (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2230 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 424 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### The First Trailblazers

When the first cohort of women arrived at West Point in 1976, they were met with both curiosity and skepticism. Could these "porcelain on steel" women survive the rigorous academic and physical demands of the Academy? They were about to prove that not only could they survive, but they could thrive.

Among these trailblazers was Colonel Linda McTague, a member of the Class of 1980. With her sharp intellect and unwavering determination, she broke down barriers and paved the way for future generations of women at West Point.



Colonel McTague's journey was far from easy. She faced discrimination and skepticism from some of her male counterparts, but she never let that deter her. She excelled in her studies, proving that women were just as capable as men in the pursuit of academic excellence.

As the first female graduate to achieve the rank of Colonel, Colonel McTague's success served as a shining example for future generations. Her legacy lives on

in the countless women who have followed in her footsteps and continue to make their mark on the Long Gray Line.

## **Breaking Down Barriers**

The decision to admit women to West Point was not without controversy. There were concerns about the impact on Academy traditions and the integration of women into a predominantly male institution. But over the years, the "porcelain on steel" women of West Point have proven time and time again that they belong.

From excelling in physical fitness tests to leading in combat and holding key leadership positions, these women have shattered glass ceilings and shown that gender is no barrier to success in the military.



One remarkable woman who has made her mark on the Long Gray Line is Major Lisa Jaster. In 2015, she became the third woman to graduate from the grueling Army Ranger School, a feat that few men can claim. Her determination and resilience serve as an inspiration to all, proving that women are just as capable as their male counterparts.

## **Shaping the Future**

The "porcelain on steel" women of West Point are not just breaking barriers; they are actively shaping the future of the military. With their unique perspectives and experiences, they bring a diversity of thought to the decision-making table.

These women are not just leaders; they are mentors and role models for future generations. They show young girls that they can achieve anything they set their minds to, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

One such role model is Lieutenant Colonel Kristen Griest. As one of the first two women to graduate from Army Ranger School in 2015, she has become a symbol of female empowerment and resilience. Her story has inspired countless young women to pursue their dreams and challenge societal norms.



## **The Long Gray Line Continues**

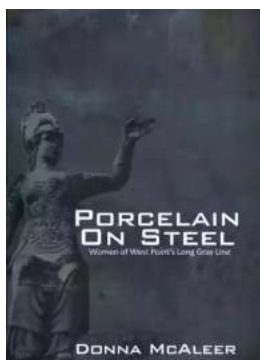
As West Point celebrates over four decades of admitting women, the Long Gray Line is stronger than ever. The "porcelain on steel" women who have walked these hallowed halls have faced immense challenges, but they have emerged stronger, more resilient, and determined to make a difference.

They are the embodiment of courage, perseverance, and dedication. Through their accomplishments, they are not just changing the face of the military; they are changing the world.

So, the next time you hear the words "porcelain on steel," remember the remarkable women who have defied expectations and broken down barriers at



West Point. They are the true heroes of the Long Gray Line, carving out a place in history and inspiring future generations to come.



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In an era where the American public is saturated with women selling sexuality, this book highlights those who, blessed with strong character traits, use them to make a positive contribution to society. Leadership is a matter of character; leadership is matter of how to be, not how to do it. Leadership is something that is instilled in you--and great leaders in turn instill the ability in others. The women in Porcelain on Steel exemplify this for all ages and wisdom for all time. Their qualities and strength of character would lead to success in any era but most importantly, their stories are especially relevant now, in today's times.

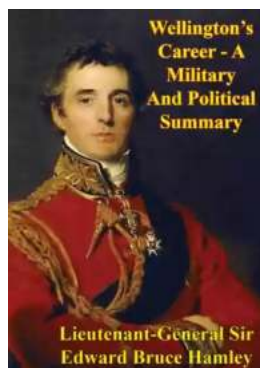
Porcelain on Steel is a book for your daughter, your sister, your best friend, and most of all, yourself. The women in Porcelain on Steel are genuine role models. America's youth, whether male or female, as well as parents in search of stories of inspiration, courage, loyalty, public service and leadership that set a positive direction for our young people, should read this book.



For more than 200 years, West Point has produced officers and leaders who have served our Nation in and out of uniform. Women have been part of the famous Long Gray Line of graduates for the last 30 years of this treasured history. As soldiers, athletes, wives, and mothers, as leaders in business, in non-profits and even the clergy, they have met challenges and overcome obstacles with strength and courage to lead. Theirs is a type of character that the heat of change and challenge could not destroy, instead forging a will as strong as steel. We can find courage in their courage, faith in their faith, and our own best selves in them.

#### About the Author:

Donna McAleer graduated from West Point in 1987 and served as an Army Officer. Actively involved in the West Point community, she serves as Class President and is an Admissions Field Representative. Donna was elected to the boards of directors of the West Point Association of Graduates, the West Point Women's Network, and is an advisor to West-Point.org. She is the co-founder of Bugle Notes, an on-line community for West Point graduates and cadets. She earned a master's degree from the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Virginia. An outdoor enthusiast with a particular passion for skiing, Donna lives in Park City, Utah with Ted, her husband, Carlyn Ann, their daughter and Col. (ret) Thayer, their dog. Porcelain on Steel is her first book.



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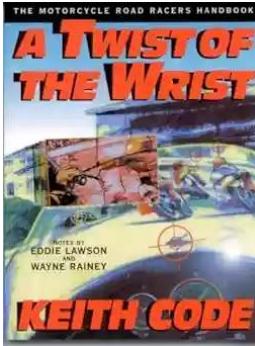
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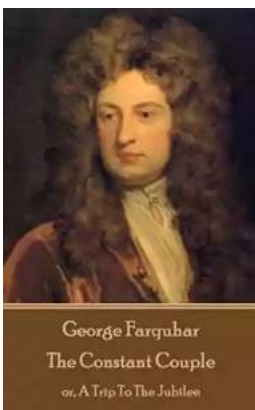
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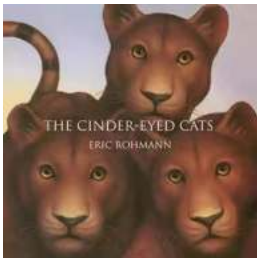
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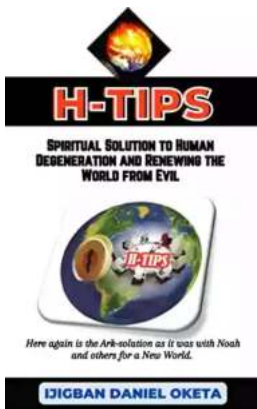
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