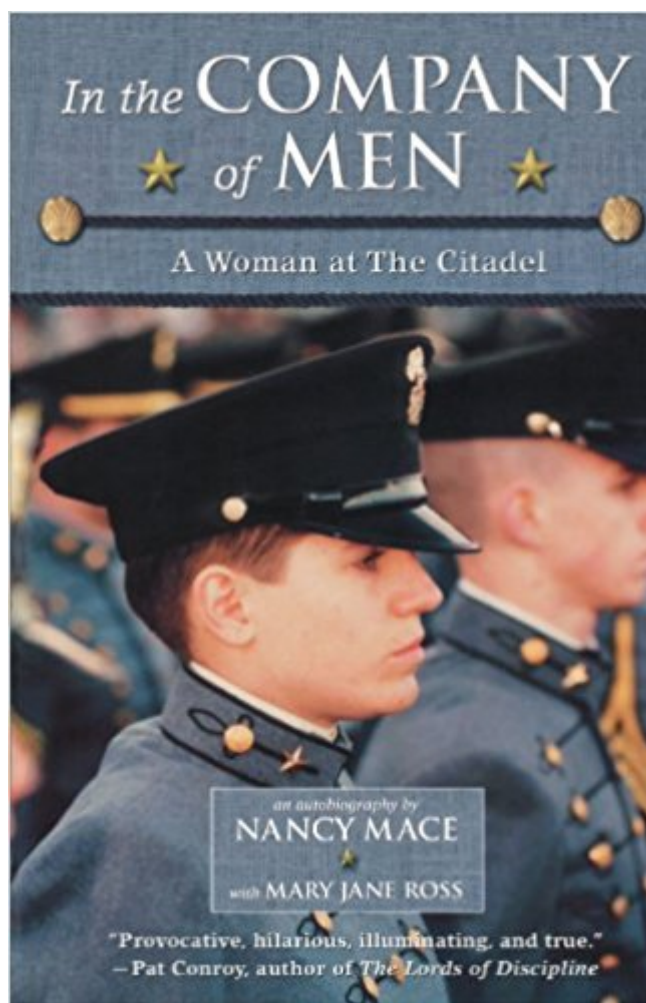


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# In The Company Of Men: A Woman At The Citadel



## Synopsis

When Nancy Mace entered the Citadel, the United States government had just recently overturned the ruling that women were not allowed to enter the "Corps of Cadets." Having grown up in a military family, Nancy was not unfamiliar with the harsh realities of military life. But upon entering those imposing gates, Nancy soon found out that she wasn't just fighting the tradition of the corps, but the culture and city that surrounded it. Steeped in tradition and lore, the grand bastion known as El Cid is considered one of the South's most infamous and controversial institutions. Built in 1842, it has turned out a unique brand of Southern man -- and now woman. This is the true account of one young woman's battle to be a part of the long gray line.

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

PW called the chronicle of Mace's experience as the first female cadet ever to graduate from the Citadel a "narrative studded with hard-hitting details. Ultimately a story of triumph." All ages. (Sept.)  
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Gr 9 Up-In this autobiographical account of one of the first two female graduates of The Citadel, Mace relives both the grueling emotional experiences and occasional supportive moments of her undergraduate years. She struggled through her youth with attention deficit disorder and

depression. The daughter of "The Citadel's most decorated living graduate," the young woman was determined to prove herself by breaking the gender barrier at the college. She never grew accustomed to the media attention focused on her, extending from freshman Hell Week to the senior Ring Ceremony. Although threats from outsiders and harassment by fellow male cadets followed her for the three years of her compressed college experience (1996-1999), she stoically faced the dissenters, achieved noteworthy standing, and refused to withdraw. The book is written with clarity and energy. Black-and-white family photographs, personal memorabilia, and letters are included. Mace is a survivor who seems to have had more to prove to herself than society. Nonetheless, readers interested in women's firsts may be interested. Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NCCopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As someone who lives in Charleston, it is very interesting to see inside this school. Nancy was courageous to enroll in this school, but I was very surprised at her attitude towards the hazing. Did she really think they would all welcome her? She was very naive. When ever she complained about her treatment, all I could think was, "well, what did you expect???" Why anyone would go to this school, who wasn't planning on a military career, is beyond me. I think you have to have a large streak of sado/masochism. Now that she is running for Senate, I really wonder what drives her. It was never made clear in the book as to WHY she went to the Citadel.

This book covers the time Nancy Mace spent at The Citadel and the difficulties she encountered and overcame. I didn't know anything about The Citadel and was not even much aware of this story until I read that Ms. Mace is or was considering a run for the US Senate. That fired up my curiosity. Now, after reading this very well written book, I am informed about both. What other reason did I have for reading this book? Thanks to the exceedingly interesting fact that the governor of South Carolina is a female of Indian ethnicity, this can't be the South Carolina I last read about in the many books I've read on the Civil War. I saw this book as a potential source of insight. And it was. Best wishes to Nancy Mace in whatever she decides to do about running for office. And, I might add, best wishes to Governor Nikki Haley, our future first female president. Now I need to find an equally good book about my state's military institute, VMI.

I've read this book several times and I enjoy it every time

EVEN THE INTRODUCTION CAPTURED MY HEART AND MY INTEREST. AS I CONTINUED THROUGH THE BOOK, I SHARED LAUGHTER, TEARS, ANGUISH, AND A WONDERFUL, UPLIFTING FEELING OF VICTORY AT THE END. AS A FORMER U.S. INFANTRY OFFICER OF WW II, I HAD NO NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD NANCY...OR ANY WOMAN WHO CAN CUT IT! I STILL OBJECT STRONGLY TO WOMEN IN ACTIVE COMBAT, HOWEVER...FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WHICH ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE CAN FIGURE OUT.

The author tells her story as do all members of the long grey line of Citadel graduates - with a perspective that is at the same time individual and corporate. It's funny and sad, inspiring and illuminating. All 'knobs' can identify with these tales about the hilarity and the loneliness, the frustration and the exhilaration.... as can anyone who meets the challenges of life with an adventurous spirit.(...) Nancy is not the first cadet to be the child of the commandant nor is she the first cadet to be at the cutting edge of change in an institution whose values have withstood the test of time... a century and a half of it! Over the decades many cadets have been suspected of favoritism. In the end, they've proven the truth or falseness of that charge by the evidence of their own lives. Look in the annals of history and you will find many Citadel graduates who have served this nation with courage and honor. Nancy's character is about far more than mere gender, as are theirs. She's a great young lady and takes her place beside many great men. In my opinion she's earned her place in the line. (written by one of her professors)

This book superbly demonstrates what life can be like for a female at a military college. I would highly recommend this book to anyone (male or female) interested in attending a military college/academy whether it is The Citadel, USMA, USNA, or USAFA. The stories told throughout the book are relevant to each of the academies as well as other military colleges. It captures the spirit, comraderie, and challenges inherent to military colleges. It will prepare a young adult for the "unknown" trials they will face upon entering one of these schools. Additionally, adults who have had this experience will find humor in the stories related.

This is a good story about Nancy's time at The Citadel. Not a great work of literature by any means but it does a good job of telling the story of the first female cadet to graduate from this Military College.

The book arrived sooner than expected. It will be a great addition to my library.

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