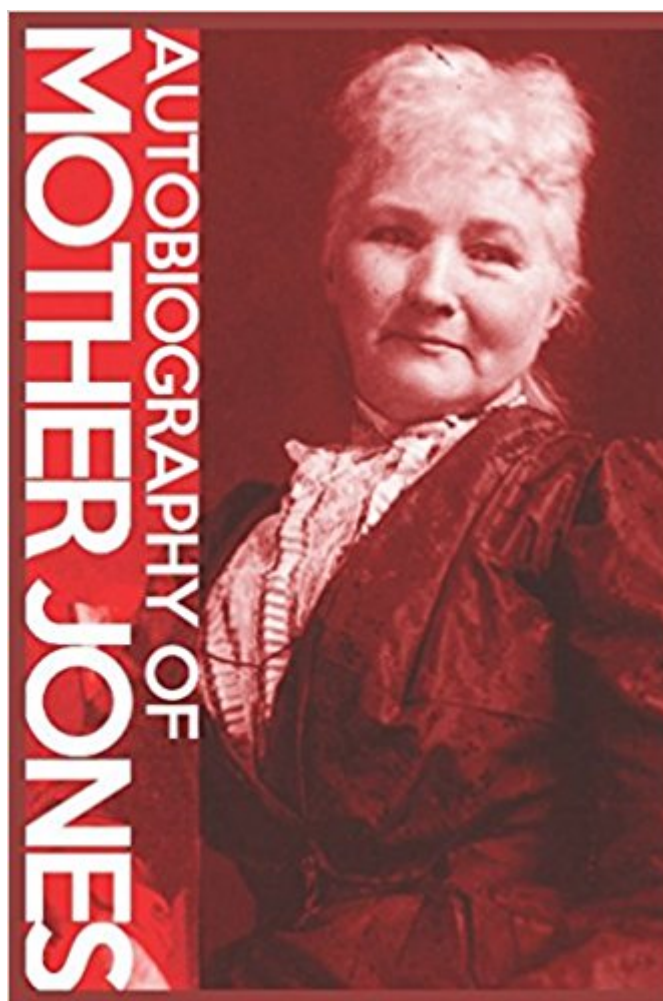


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# Autobiography Of Mother Jones



## Synopsis

“A story of a woman of action fired by a fine zeal. She defied calumny. She was not awed by guns or jails. She kept on her way regardless of friends and foes. She had but one love to which she was always true and that was her cause.” In this unique and compelling memoir, Mother Jones, the greatest labor organizer in US history details her long fight for labor’s liberation, workers’ rights, and her unswerving belief in industrial unionism as the key to that struggle. Mary Harris Jones was born approximately August 1, 1837 in Cork, Ireland. After moving to the United States as a child, she became embroiled in the controversial labor movement becoming one of its most effective and tireless organizers. Jones combined dynamic speaking skills and radical organizing methods to mobilize thousands of laborers and working-class families. She fought for the rights of laborers in the steel, railroading, metal mining, textiles industries but, above all, the coal-miners and their struggle held a special place in her heart. She played a significant role in organizing mining strikes in West Virginia and Colorado, as well as the Pittsburgh steel strike of 1919. She was instrumental in the formation of the United Mine Workers union (UMW) in 1890 and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in 1905. Widowed at the age of 30 when her husband and four young children died during a yellow fever epidemic, Mother Jones spoke out against child labor and her autobiography chronicles the harsh lives and early deaths of child workers in late nineteenth century America. Her autobiography also contains stories of her constant clashes with law enforcement, her innovative efforts to organize working women, her experiences in court and in jail, and her daring involvement in the Mexican Revolution. Mother Jones’ lively narrative is a cornerstone of the literature of American radicalism and the labor movement. “An important addition to feminist literature, the Autobiography of Mother Jones is also a great piece of working-class literature—probably the most readable book in the whole field of American labor history.” Clarence Darrow. Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1837 – 30 November 1930) was an Irish-born American schoolteacher and dressmaker who became a prominent organized labor representative and community organizer. She wrote *The Autobiography of Mother Jones* in 1925 at the age of 88. Mary Harris Jones died in Silver Spring, Maryland at the age of 93 on 30 November 1930.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a great piece of working-class literature--indeed, it is probably the most readable book in the whole field of American labor history.--from the Afterword by Fred Thompson"Mother Jones never quailed or ran away. Her deep convictions and fearless soul always drew her to seek the spot where the fight was hottest and the danger greatest." --from the Introduction by Clarence Darrow  
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What a fascinating woman! Here is a woman who, well into her senior years, was actively organizing labor strikes for the poorest of workers. In and out of jail. At personal risk to her safety. She was, for all intents and purposes, absolutely fearless. She does not mince words. The horrors of child labor in particular are described in meticulous detail. Some passages are difficult to read, as she recalls children permanently disfigured or disabled by work in the mills or coal mines. Her fierce spirit and determination shine through the pages of this autobiography. I have taken one of my favorite quotes of hers and claimed it as my own mantra: "I'm not a humanitarian, I'm a hell-raiser!" Definitely recommended for people who are human rights activists.

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones can always be counted on for hyperbole in her recounting of events during America's turbulent early labor struggles. She believed in her cause and would brook no words to the contrary. Whether you agree with her is beside the point, what makes this woman so amazing is that she reinvented herself and created the person "Mother" Jones in her 60's when

most people are slowing down and never stop till her death. She is an object lesson in the idea that true passion for a cause will energize you and keep you productive whatever your age!

This was a short book for a woman who had so much life to tell about. Only 3 pages are devoted to her early years. She doesn't even mention her husband's name. She has a sentence or two about her dad, Richard Harris. Her life, in her opinion, was clearly as a union activist. The book is a compilation of all the strikes she was active in. She was undoubtedly a daring and brave woman. Most interesting is how she managed to organize the women and children of the workers in such unique and adventuresome ways. She lived through a time when America was horrid for working people. She was a bright light for this country along with many other courageous and persecuted labor reformer types. Thus far in my research of the Labor Movement of the United States, she is only the second to mention Governor Hunt of Arizona and his unique methods for dealing with labor strikes in his state. Philip Foner was the other. Foner gives more detail of the Governor and the strike. Mother Jones is another "bigger than life character" in American history. This book is a quick read for anyone interested in past labor problems in America but it gives more insight into the labor movement and certain strikes and others involved than into the life of Mother Jones. Richard Edward Noble - The Hobo Philosopher - Author of: America On Strike - Labor History

One hundred years ago, Mother Jones was called in Congress "the most dangerous woman in America". We can thank her for America's child labor laws and worker protections like weekends, less than 12 hour work days and the right to organize. Mother Jones, an immigrant from Ireland, became a labor organizer when she was 50 in the coal fields and factories across America. She didn't stop to write this book until her 80s. It covers many of her campaigns and arrests, including her Childrens' Crusade. She was known to be plain spoken and that is how she tells her remarkable story of walking into strike areas where coal miners were being murdered in cold blood by militias hired by the "bosses." Wearing a black Victorian gown and a black hat, she often walked 8 - 10 miles to talk for hours to miners and their families. She met with them in fields and forests when company owned buildings were denied for meetings. She was arrested many times, threatened by armed thugs and law enforcement. She was recognized wherever she went and was the only hope for starving coal families. She wouldn't back down and she wouldn't shut up in her fight for justice. She loved the Constitution and her working "boys" and families. Mother Jones can give hope to anyone who feels powerless in America because her story shows how a person who has lost everything can make such a big difference in the lives of many people. And she did it most of it

before women had the vote. You can feel Mother Jones' grit, courage and love in this book.

Simple, direct and without self-promotion, this understated but compelling history of Mother Jones service to the labor movement's nascent days remains relevant to today's America and the struggles of its working people.

The crimes against labor have not been told often enough in our schools. This book is a great inspiration and also a great story of great tragedy

It was very interesting to read about the early years of coal mining industry. The hardships the miners and their families had to endure was very upsetting. Mother Jones was one strong and determined woman. She cared so much about the coal miners that she would put her own life in danger. My husband's family worked in the coal mines, he was a coal miner and now our son works in the coal mines. I hope the coal industry will stay strong and provide good jobs for our country.

Much of what Mother Jones wrote about still continues to this day. Working people are still oppressed, they just don't realize it. They are pacified with the belief that they are just temporarily embarrassed millionaires. We need mother today is much as they did 100 years ago. This is an excellent book, and easy read. I thoroughly enjoyed the book recommend it to anyone.

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