

*The War Librarian*, Addison Armstrong

In this dual timeline story the reader is introduced to Emmaline Balakin, a timid, shy young woman working in the USPS Dead Letter Office in 1918. When a letter passes in front of her bearing the information of a young man she once knew, Emmaline determines her life needs a change and she makes it in the most dramatic way when she accepts a job on the European frontline as a war librarian. One of her first contacts and soon to be one of her dearest friends, Emmaline meets Nellie who works as a driver, a position that relieves men so they can then move onto military frontline positions. Nellie is much of what Emmaline is not- outspoken, strong and ready to accept the challenges that surround them on the frontline, especially as women in a totally male dominated world.

Kathleen Carre, 1976, finds herself in many of the same situations, nearly 60 years later. Her desire has always been to serve in the military, not in a support role, but as a graduating member of the Naval Academy class of 1980. It would be the first class that would graduate women alongside of men and it went without saying, it would be one of the most difficult situations Kathleen could ever place herself in. It was her goal, her dream, her entire focus. The stories of these two women are woven together in a surprising way. Eureka Public Library owns a copy of *The War Librarian*.