

The Bodyguard Unit: Edith Garrud, Womens Suffrage, and Jujitsu

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATORS

LISA LUGRIN AND ALBERTINE RALENTI

TRANSLATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Secondary
(Language, Drug and Alcohol References)

SYNOPSIS

In the early 20th century, women in England were demanding the right to vote—and often faced violent retaliation. Rather than back down, suffragist group the Women's Social and Political Union formed an all-women security unit. Activist leader Emmeline Pankhurst asked Edith Garrud to train them. These 'jujitsu-suffragettes' fought against abuse and arrest while pursuing long overdue rights.

Edith Garrud was a pioneering instructor of women's self-defense and a pivotal figure in British women's suffrage. This graphic retelling of Garrud's life reveals the resilience and (sometimes physical) resistance of her era's voting-rights activists.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Clément Xavier is a writer based in France. In 2015, Xavier and illustrator Lisa Lugrin jointly received the prestigious Prix Révélation (Debut Prize) at the Angoulême International Comics Festival for their first French-language graphic novel, *Yékinj, le roi des arènes*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Lisa Lugrin is a comic book artist and author based in France. In 2015, Lugrin and Clément Xavier jointly received the prestigious Prix Révélation (Debut Prize) at the Angoulême International Comics Festival. She is co-founder of Na éditions.

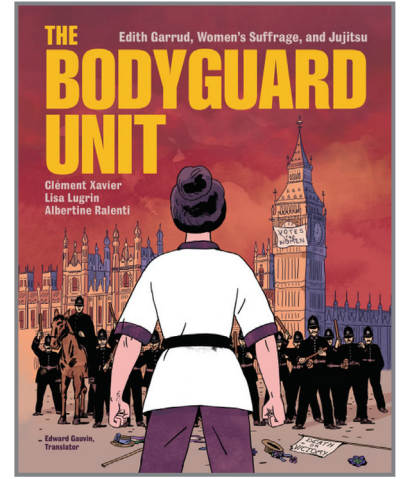
Albertine Ralenti is a graphic designer and colorist with over sixty comic books. She works with publishers on books, board games, role-playing games and illustration, and organises festivals around board games and comics. She is based in France.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Award-winning translator, Edward Gauvin, specialises in contemporary comics. He is the translator of more than 425 graphic novels and a contributing editor for comics at Words Without Borders. His collaborations with Lerner have been honored by the American Library Association and the Eisner Awards. He lives in California with his wife and daughter.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:



- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher
- The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Discuss the role of the author and the publisher.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- From the cover, what information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

WHILE READING

- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell?
- In groups, find examples of the language of opinion/feeling and factual reporting. What is the purpose of each type of language?

Layout

- Nonfiction can be presented in many different ways. How does the layout of this particular book affect the readability of this text? Consider the illustrations and headings.
- Design a page of nonfiction information. How will you keep your audience interested and engaged?

Content

- Think about the following sections in nonfiction books and see if you can locate any of these in *The Bodyguard Unit* and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?
 - Contents
 - Timeline
 - Index.
- What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?
- Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?
- Form small groups and pick your favourite topic from the book. Hold a discussion on the following:
 - What have you learnt?
 - What did you like most about how the authors presented the information?
 - How did the illustrations help your engagement with the topic?