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In-House Editor **Jo Stansall**

## Fire Woman The Extraordinary Story of Britain's First Female Firefighter

**Josephine Reynolds**

### Keynote

*Fire Woman* is the story of how a young woman brought up in rural Wales coped in the testosterone-fuelled world of the fire brigade, where even today 96 per cent of all staff are male.

### Description

**The inspiring true story of Josephine Reynolds, Britain's first full-time female firefighter.**

When Josephine Reynolds signed up with the Norfolk Fire Service in July 1982 at just seventeen years old, there was no such thing as a firefighter – only fire *men*. Set against the slate-grey backdrop of early 1980s Britain, *Fire Woman* is the story of how a young woman brought up in rural Wales coped in the testosterone-fuelled world of the fire brigade, where even today 96 per cent of all staff are male.

In a life packed with incident – where lethal forest fires, escaped zoo animals and unexploded bombs formed a background to the everyday toll of death and disaster – Josephine experienced both triumph and heartbreaking personal tragedy.

*Fire Woman* also provides a unique insight into the camaraderie that comes with risking your life on a daily basis and stands as the inspiring true story of an extraordinary young woman who took on a man's world and won, becoming Britain's first full-time firefighter.

### Sales Points

- An inspirational true-life account of Josephine Reynolds, Britain's first ever full-time female firefighter
- This book tells the tale of how a young woman overcame the odds to thrive in a traditionally male environment
- The moving story of Britain's first ever female firefighter, told in her own words

### Author Biography

Josephine Reynolds signed up as a trainee firefighter with the Norfolk Fire Service in the summer of 1982. At just seventeen years old, she was the first ever woman to join the fire service full time in the UK. After falling in love with fellow firefighter David Blakeney, an ex-French Foreign Legion fighter, the pair married and headed to the Amazon to continue their adventurous life together.

Michael O'Mara.

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