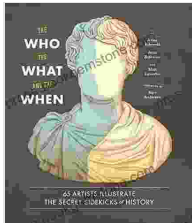


# 65 Artists Illustrate the Hidden Heroes of History: The Secret Sidekicks



## The Who, the What, and the When: 65 Artists Illustrate the Secret Sidekicks of History by Jenny Volvovski

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 43407 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 167 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Throughout history, iconic figures have captured our attention with their remarkable achievements. But behind every great leader, scientist, or artist, there often stood a dedicated ally, an unsung hero who played a crucial role in their success.

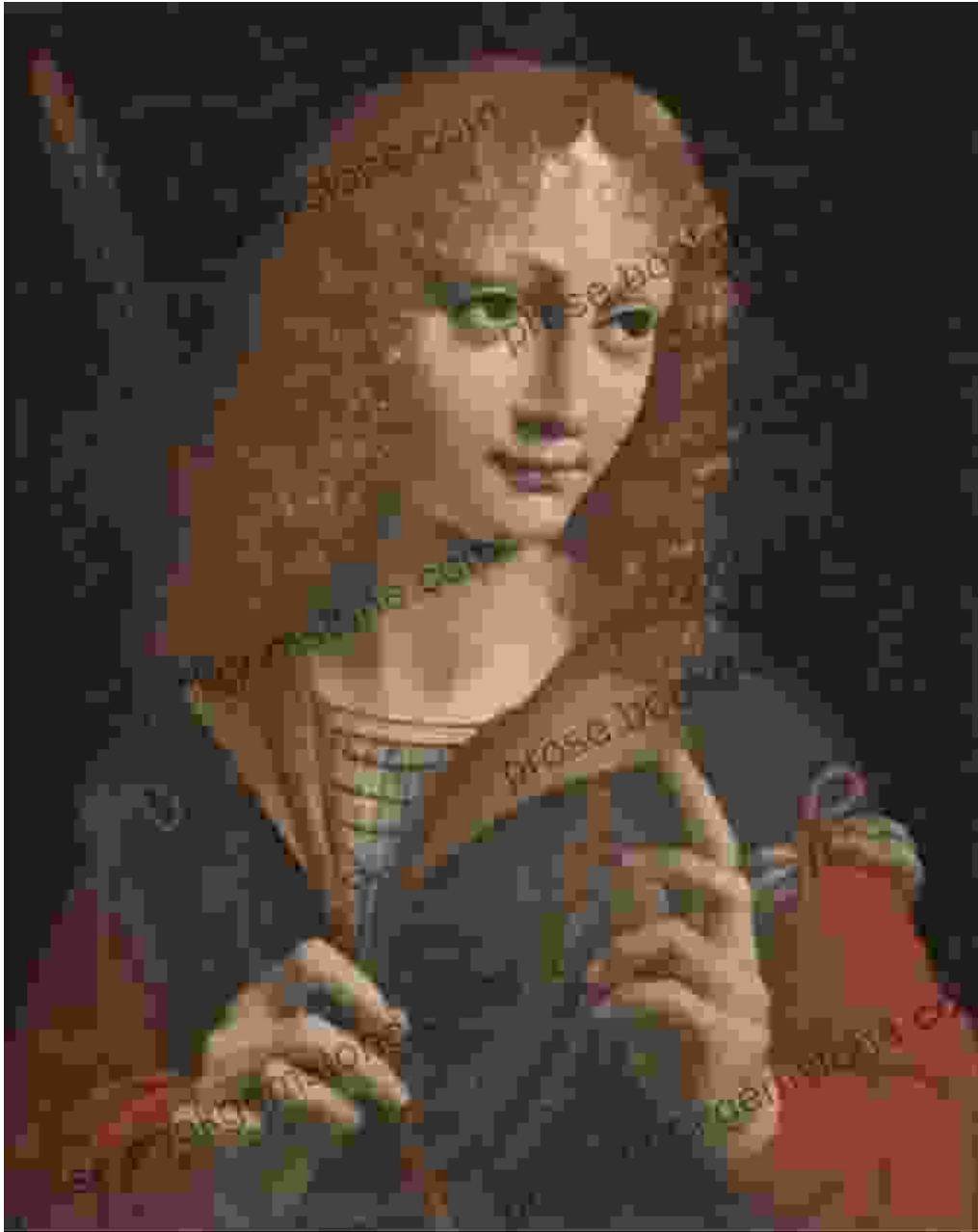
Now, a group of 65 talented artists have come together to shed light on these extraordinary individuals, the secret sidekicks of history. Through their vivid illustrations, they bring to life the stories of those who worked tirelessly in the shadows, providing support, inspiration, and expertise to the icons we know so well.

## Marie Curie's Dedicated Sister: Bronisława Skłodowska



As Marie Curie's devoted sister, Bronisława Skłodowska played an instrumental role in her scientific career. She left her own aspirations aside to support Marie's education and research. She managed the household, raised their children, and assisted in the laboratory, enabling Marie to focus on her groundbreaking work on radioactivity.

## Leonardo da Vinci's Enigmatic Assistant: Gian Giacomo Caprotti da Oreno



Gian Giacomo Caprotti da Oreno, illustrated by artist Alberto Carpinteri

Known as Salaì, Gian Giacomo Caprotti was Leonardo da Vinci's enigmatic assistant and pupil. His role extended beyond serving as a model for Leonardo's masterpieces. Salaì played a crucial part in the execution of

Leonardo's ideas, assisting in the creation of drawings, sculptures, and inventions.

### **Florence Nightingale's Fierce Defender: Mary Seacole**



While Florence Nightingale is celebrated as the "Lady with the Lamp," Mary Seacole was an equally remarkable nurse who defied societal norms to provide aid during the Crimean War. Born in Jamaica, Seacole established

her own hospital in Scutari, Turkey, offering care to soldiers regardless of their race or nationality.

### **Alan Turing's Brilliant Codebreaker: Joan Clarke**



Joan Clarke, illustrated by artist Laura Carlin

During World War II, Alan Turing's Enigma code-breaking machine played a pivotal role in Allied victory. Alongside Turing was Joan Clarke, a brilliant mathematician and codebreaker who played a key role in deciphering German communications. Her contributions went largely unnoticed until decades later.

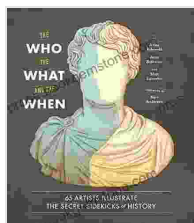
### **Neil Armstrong's Unsung Hero: Gene Kranz**



As the flight director of NASA's Apollo 11 mission, Gene Kranz was responsible for guiding Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin safely to the Moon and back. His冷静 under pressure and quick decision-making ensured the success of the historic lunar landing.

These are just a few examples of the extraordinary secret sidekicks who have helped shape the course of history. Through their illustrations, the 65 artists involved in this project have not only brought these unsung heroes to light but also reminded us that behind every great achievement lies a network of support and collaboration.

The exhibition showcasing these artworks is currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. For more information, please visit the gallery's website.



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