Gendered Justice in the American West: Women Prisoners in Men's Penitentiaries from 1865 to 1915, Anne M. Butler

In this study of women prisoners in men's penitentiaries from 1865 to 1915, Anne M. Butler shows that the women, already faced with distinct gender disadvantages, were subjected to sexual violence as well as a kind of "social rape," which Chase describes as the erasure of their identity... In the book, Richie details the deeply entrenched racist and misogynist systems that punish Black women both in and outside of prison walls. Reviewed by dorsey phelps, iowa city. In Gendered Justice in the American West, Anne M. Butler tells some wonderfully vivid stories about individuals from the small group of women who were sentenced to state penitentiaries between 1865 and 1915. The Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison opened in 1839 and the men's reformatory at Anamosa in 1871; Iowa also had separate training schools for boys (1868) and girls (1880) and, in 1915, established a women's reformatory, which opened at Rockwell City in 1918. Wyoming, on the other hand, opened its first state prison in 1902 and did not have a separate girls' training school until 1925, forty-five years after Iowa's began.