

Girl  
power

# Concepción Arenal

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# Who was Concepción Arenal? (Ferrol, January 31, 1820–Vigo, February 4, 1893)

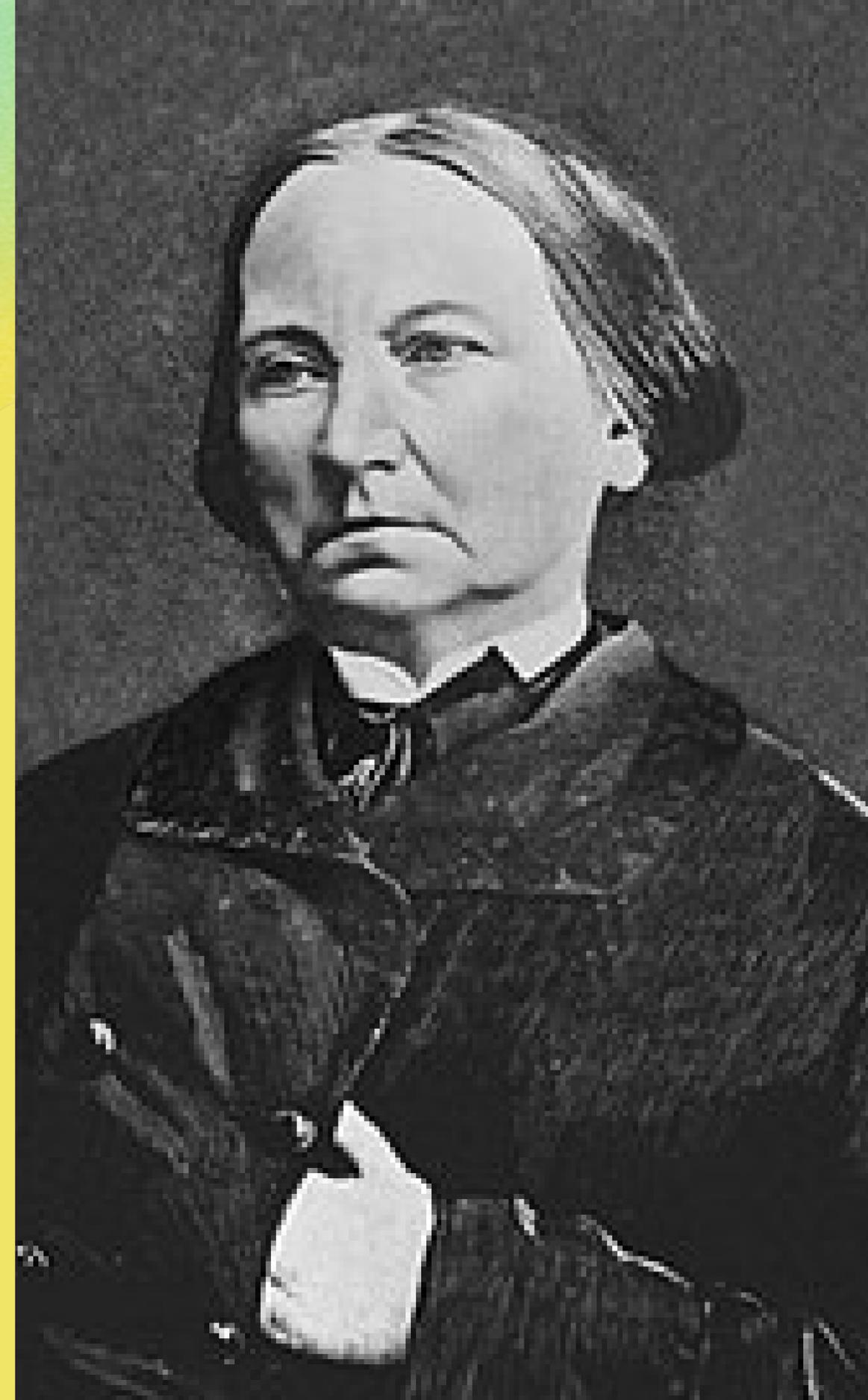
She was a writer, journalist, and pioneer of feminist movements for gender equality throughout the 19th century.

She always stood up to established norms and made her revolution influence the lives of other women.

# A college woman

**(At that time it was impossible to see a woman in a university because it was forbidden)**

Concepción had the means and the initiative to start a career, but what prevented her from doing so was her gender. She went to college dressed and characterized as a man, but having peculiar features one day they caught her. She struggled to stay, so they gave her an exam to see if she could stay or not. Finally they allowed him to stay but simply listen to the classes, she could neither obtain any title or socialize, since she was prohibited from talking to anyone.





01

At the university, Concepción Arenal met Fernando García Carrasco, a man 15 years older than her whom she married in 1848. They established an equal marriage. Arenal recovered her men's clothes to be able to accompany her husband to political and literary gatherings in Madrid. They had two children: Ramón and Fernando.

02

Arenal decides to become a writer. He publishes her first works: theater, poems, zarzuelas, a lost novel. In 1855 her first articles appeared in La Iberia, an influential liberal newspaper. Her prose is clear, expository. Her husband writes the editorials.

03

In 1859 she created, with the help of Monasteries, a female section of society. Concepción published an essay in 1860 with her son's name, but when she was caught they were going to take away the award from the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences that she had won. they finally gave it to him after having fought a lot.

1863

First woman to receive the position of female prison visitor. She used his experience to analyze the prison system in essays

1866

She was awarded by the Abolitionist Society of Madrid.



She participates in the creation of the Association for the Teaching of Women and the School of Governesses.

1869

She publishes *La mujer del porvenir*, a feminist book, which defends the free access of women to education and demolishes theories that promote the superiority of men based on biological criteria.

1893

The rest of her life she fought for the rights of women at work until in 1893 she died in Vigo.

an incredible woman



Thanks to women like her, today I have access to education and freedoms that I would not have had.