

# MR. GATLING'S TERRIBLE MARVEL

READ BY NORMAN DIETZ

JULIA KELLER

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"With a rat-a-tat pace and a wicked sense of humor, Keller uses the story of Gatling's famous machine gun to take us on an exuberant and entertaining tour through American capitalism in the nineteenth century."

—Debby Applegate, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Most Famous Man in America*

In 1862, with the Civil War lapping at his doorstep, an Indianapolis inventor and businessman named Richard Jordan Gatling created the world's first working machine gun. He naïvely hoped it would shorten or even eliminate war by reducing the number of soldiers needed to fight. The overwhelming effectiveness of a multiple-firing weapon would, he reasoned, cause opponents to throw in the towel. Instead, it kicked off a worldwide escalation in the armaments business and opened a path toward modern gunnery, one that leads all the way to the AK-47. The Gatling gun was the original weapon of mass destruction.

In *Mr. Gatling's Terrible Marvel*, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Julia Keller offers a riveting account of the Gatling gun's invention, its misunderstood creator, and its tremendous impact on American and world events. She also shows how the gun, in its combination of ingenuity, idealism, and destructive power, perfectly exemplified the paradox of America's rise as a world superpower.

Julia Keller is a cultural critic at the *Chicago Tribune* and winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. She was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and has taught at Ohio State and Princeton universities. She is a guest essayist on *The NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer and has been a contributor on CNN and *NBC Nightly News*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Norman Dietz was named one of *AudioFile* magazine's fifty Best Voices of the Century, and several of his recordings have been *AudioFile* Earphones Award winners. He has recorded over 100 audiobooks, including *Touch and Go* by Studs Terkel and *Peeling the Onion* by Günter Grass.



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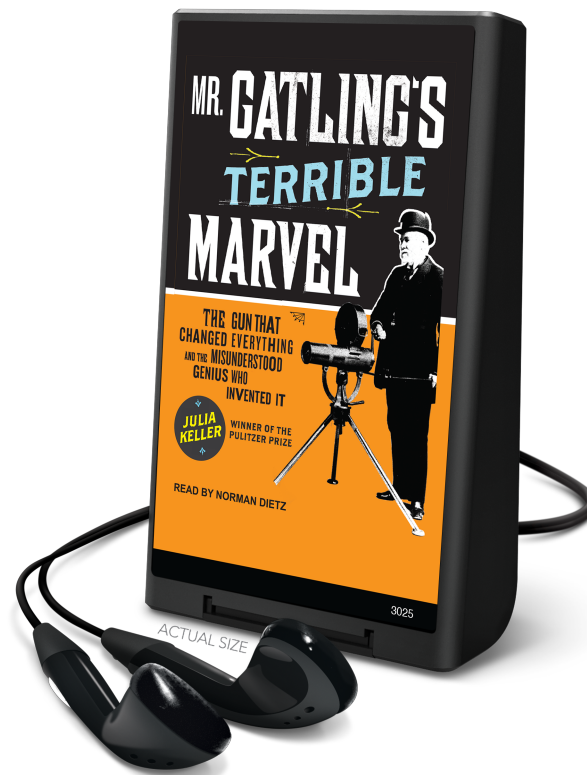
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