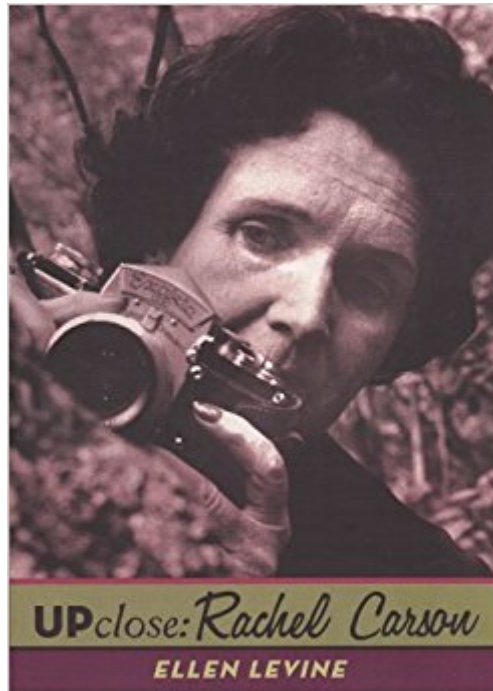




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Up Close: Rachel Carson



Synopsis

Rachel Carson combined her love of science and writing in her award-winning and controversial book *Silent Spring*. Revealing the dangers of pesticide use, it brought readers a new awareness of humankind's contamination of the environment and ultimately led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Book Information

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Series: Up Close

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (January 10, 2008)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,876,573 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Environmental Conservation & Protection](#) #123 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Ecology](#) #123 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Social Activists](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6-9 • Levine describes how Carson's childhood, strong relationship with a supportive mother, and lifelong love of nature influenced her decision to become a biologist and later made her an environmental pioneer. The author draws on numerous primary sources to document the scientist's life and provides considerable information about her education and early career as well as the work that made her famous. She details how Carson's determination helped her overcome many obstacles, including financial struggles, gender discrimination, and family crises, and describes her long and courageous battle with the cancer that ended her life. Levine also analyzes how the woman's work contributed to a greater public understanding of the dangers of pollutants and became the impetus for the environmental movement and related federal

laws. Levine is admiring of her subject; she includes a quote comparing the impact of Carson's work with that of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which President Lincoln credited with starting the Civil War. Average-quality black-and-white photos supplement the text and there are extensive notes and an annotated bibliography with a wide variety of sources. This book provides more detail about Carson's personal life than George Shea's *Rachel Carson: Founder of the Environmental Movement* (Gale, 2005), which is shorter and more focused on her career and impact on environmentalism. This is an excellent choice for those who want to learn more about the woman behind the legend.

•Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, MO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Direct, eloquent, and precise, this biography in the Up Close series offers an intimate portrait of environmental pioneer Rachel Carson. In well-paced chapters filled with relevant quotes, Levine traces how Carson's passion for the science of living things, which began during her rural youth, developed into an astonishing career that helped make careful stewardship of Earth a national issue. Throughout, Levine emphasizes the prevailing attitudes toward women's roles and how Carson was able to overcome those limiting expectations to break ground and become such an effective voice for environmental concerns. A few of the scattered black-and-white photos and drawings show Carson in the field; source notes and a bibliography close. A balanced, thoroughly researched introduction to an original scientist whose work remains of urgent importance today.

Gillian EngbergCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Every American should know Rachael Carson! Well written, beautiful story.

I really enjoyed this book, which gives a very personal and engaging portrait of Rachel Carson and also conveys the challenges she faced as a woman scientist in her time and the personal challenges as well. I'm glad I read it.

Very good

Up Close:Rachel Carson is really a good book. She was an amazing individual. This book really brings her to life and explains her lifes work.... Love of the natural world and writing about it.

I ended up checking this book out from the library because it seemed to be the only decent biography on Rachel Carson. I didn't realize until I got home that it was written for middle schoolers. I read it anyway because I hadn't read any biographies on her. This is a great introduction to Rachel Carson, especially for children and young adults who have more than a passing interest in marine biology or environmental issues and who might even be considering devoting their lives to one, the other or both. If nothing else, it would be a good source for a paper or report that needs to be written. This book was written in a way that reminds the reader that women weren't always treated as first class citizens - even after we got the vote. Ellen Levine does a great job illuminating Rachel Carson as a person, scientist and author of her generation without providing a history lesson or going into details that her audience might find boring. The book contains many excerpts of Rachel Carson's work so you get an idea of how she wrote if you haven't read any of her books yet. There are also excerpts from letters to and from Rachel. (If you're interested in reading more of Rachel's letters, *Always, Rachel: The Letters of Rachel Carson and Dorothy Freeman, 1952-1964 - The Story of a Remarkable Friendship* (Concord Library) is a fabulous book of letters written between Carson and her best friend, Dorothy Freeman.) There is a helpful bibliography at the end of the book that will point you in the right direction if you want to read more about Rachel Carson - and this book should really whet your appetite when it comes to learning more about the woman who pretty much single handedly sparked the environmental movement. Update: I finally got a comprehensive biography on Rachel Carson that is simply awesome! *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*

Very happy with the purchase.

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