



Up Close: Rachel Carson

By Ellen S. Levine

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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.

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Up Close: Rachel Carson By Ellen S. Levine Bibliography

- Rank: #1751654 in Books
- Published on: 2008-01-10
- Released on: 2008-01-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.00" h x .60" w x 5.00" l, .33 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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*

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From [Booklist](#)

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 Engberg*

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Review

This is an excellent choice for those who want to learn more about the woman behind the legend. -- *School Library Journal, starred review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frank Craver:

Often the book Up Close: Rachel Carson has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research ahead of write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

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