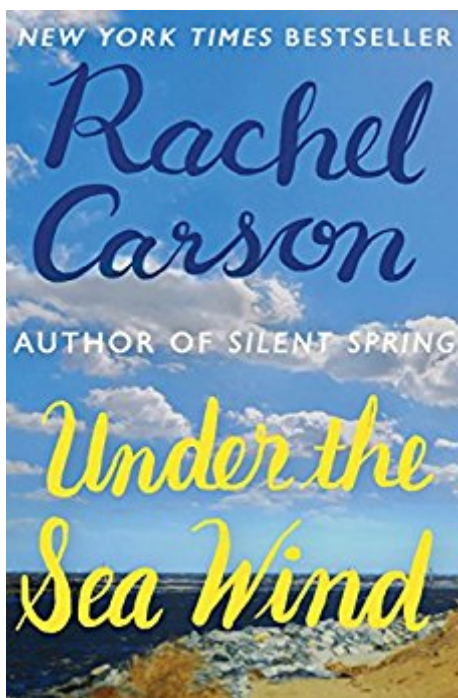


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Under The Sea Wind



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller: Silent Spring author Rachel Carson's early masterwork brings to life the elegiac, subtle beauty of birds and the sea, blending her natural storytelling ability with clear-eyed science. In her first book, preeminent nature writer Rachel Carson tells the story of the sea creatures and birds that dwell in and around the waters along North America's eastern coast and the delicately balanced ecosystem that sustains them. Following the life cycles of a pair of sanderlings, a mackerel, and an eel, Carson gracefully weaves scientific observation with imaginative prose to educate and inspire, creating one of the finest wildlife narratives in American literature. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Rachel Carson including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

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Customer Reviews

I give all of Rachel Carson's books high praise. She was a woman way ahead of her time. Her writing is beautiful and challenges us to keep our world alive and well. After reading her books I can

see creation with new eyes. Very good reading. Thank you, Diane

What a wonderful book! Rachel Carson delights us with a tale of the creatures that live at the edge of the sea. The interaction of all the birds, animals and sea life is fascinating. There is so much going on every minute of every day - so much more than a casual observer of the seaside would ever notice. Ms. Carson makes us aware of the dependence all creatures have upon one another and how human interference can have a negative impact on nature. Her writing is beautiful, poetic, and moves us to care about the environment.

This is a very unusual nature book. Most nature books are based on first-hand experience and observations (e.g. see Henry David Thoreau, Edward Abbey, Robert Finch's books). While Rachel Carson certainly studied and observed the animals she describes in this book, she did not dive under the sea, thus a lot of the narrative is based on imagination (educated imagination, no doubt). The personification of the animals -- to give them human names and describe their feelings -- is also very unique in nature books. Nonetheless, these do not detract from the scientific accuracies of Carson's descriptions. As an literary book, these in fact make the book very much more readable. Reading it is like watching a Discovery channel documentary. I deduct one star not because of the book itself, but because of this Penguin edition. I believe there is another edition of the book with illustrations by Bob Hines, I think those illustrations are fantastic. This book contains the illustrations by Howard Frech, the same as the first edition. These illustrations are fine, but there are very few of them (I am not sure if the Penguin edition even includes all of the original Frech works). The edition with Bob Hines' illustrations are infinitely more fun to read, why did Penguin not use those? Actually, why not use both??

I had never heard of marine zoologist Rachel Carson. I bought her book 'On The Edge Of The Sea' in a 2nd hand bookshop in a bunch of other random Natural History because I liked the cover. After OTEOTS I read 'The Sea Around Us', and most recently 'Under the Sea Wind', the subject of this review. As with both her other books, Ms Carson's intelligence and heart leave glittering wakes through this overview of mid-twentieth century research on the sea, particularly its animal life. This is such a juicy book. Each creature she gives us, from whale to worm, is treated with a personal glee that endears them to us. She makes small stories of each of their singular lives. I now care personally about annelid worms. Who knew? Drawing back from the individual she then illuminates the ways in which each life is dependent on the whole, and the whole on each life. She writes like

an angel about the world of the mundane; simply, in gorgeously structured, shiny prose and all the while informed by her own massive research. Her love for her subjects leads the way, and refreshes itself at every turn. Her sense of detail is immersive, and her sensibility of the marvel of forms is catching. There is something other than her brilliance that struck me about the above three books. Because Rachel Carson was writing in the years just before the spread of environmentalism, they are touchingly non-political in tone; no warnings, no fretting. They were followed by her last book, the enormously influential 'Silent Spring', a warning text that documents the ways in which the sea was suffering from human activity. Her love for the sea and its shores, so beautifully written in her first three books, is transformed into political awareness and activism. It's a good and lovely thing to witness. This author died in 1964 so we only have four books to fall in love with. Shame.

I bought this book for an environmental literature class I was taking at IU. I wasn't expecting much but it turned out to be one of my favorite reads that semester. The book is enjoyable and follows the lives and stories of several animals of varying species as they interact with the sea. Now I could go into great detail of the plot and everything else involved but I don't care for reviews like that. Instead know that after the class was done, it was one of 3 books that I kept from the 8 or so that I bought for this class. It sits on my bookshelf at home in proud display because I really think more people should read it. Is it the best book ever written? No. Is it worth reading? Absolutely. Carson tackles some heavy issues in nature and how we as humans are hurting the environment. This is not a "hippie" book, but it does show humans in a negative light a couple times because the fact is to a lot of these animals we are their worst enemies and the thing they need to fear most. Overall, get this book. It's a great read and very enjoyable and makes you see nature in a different light than we are used to.

It is a perfect mix of creative characterization that brings ecology into an engaging and delightful reading experience. Literally about the creatures that migrate and inhabit the area round the seas.

Fabulous! Carson's book need to re- introduced to the general public. Especially today when there is so much environmental consciousness.

Gift for friend.

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