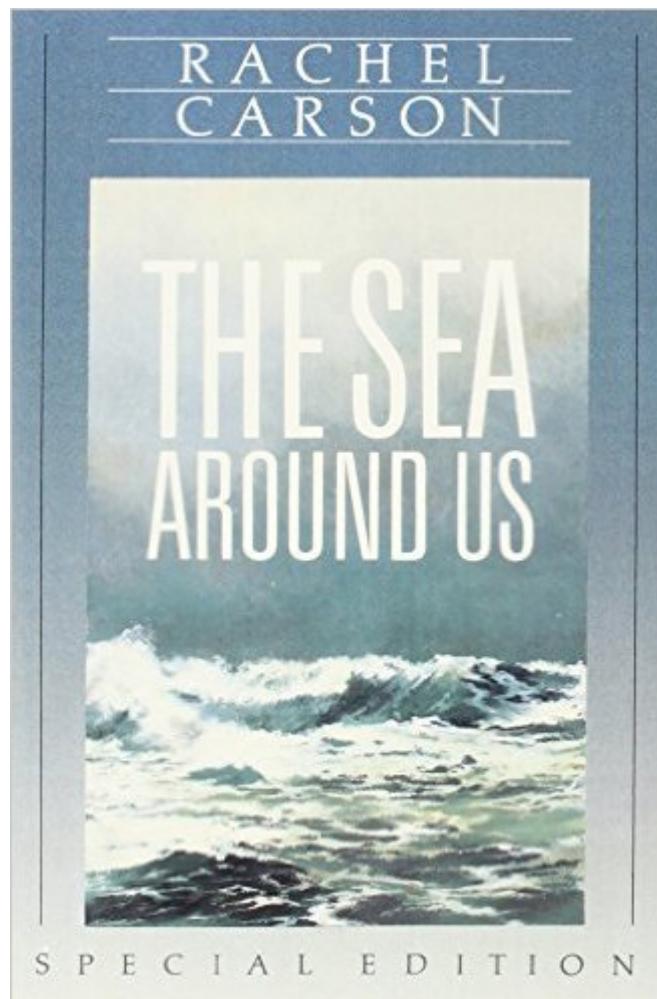


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The Sea Around Us, Special Edition



Synopsis

Published in 1951, *The Sea Around Us* is one of the most remarkably successful books ever written about the natural world. Rachel Carson's rare ability to combine scientific insight with moving, poetic prose catapulted her book to first place on The New York Times best-seller list, where it enjoyed wide attention for thirty-one consecutive weeks. It remained on the list for more than a year and a half and ultimately sold well over a million copies, has been translated into 28 languages, inspired an Academy Award-winning documentary, and won both the 1952 National Book Award and the John Burroughs Medal. This classic work remains as fresh today as when it first appeared. Carson's writing teems with stunning, memorable images--the newly formed Earth cooling beneath an endlessly overcast sky; the centuries of nonstop rain that created the oceans; giant squids battling sperm whales hundreds of fathoms below the surface; and incredibly powerful tides moving 100 billion tons of water daily in the Bay of Fundy. Quite simply, she captures the mystery and allure of the ocean with a compelling blend of imagination and expertise. Reintroducing a classic work to a whole new generation of readers, this Special Edition features a new chapter written by Jeffrey Levinton, a leading expert in marine ecology, that brings the scientific side of *The Sea Around Us* completely up to date. Levinton incorporates the most recent thinking on continental drift, coral reefs, the spread of the ocean floor, the deterioration of the oceans, mass extinction of sea life, and many other topics. In addition, acclaimed nature writer Ann Zwinger has contributed a brief foreword. Today, with the oceans endangered by the dumping of medical waste and ecological disasters such as the Exxon oil spill in Alaska, this illuminating volume provides a timely reminder of both the fragility and the importance of the ocean and the life that abounds within it. Anyone who loves the sea, or who is concerned about our natural environment, will want to read this classic work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wow!!! It is amazing that this book is over 50 years old. As a high school student, I had to read this book for Ecology. Rachel Carson's book is an eye-opener. It was some 50 years ago. And, it still is. "The Sea Around Us" is truly a classic. Carson gives us all an insight on what would happen if we mistreat the natural environment -- especially the oceans around us. Sadly, today, some of these prophecies are becoming a reality. I agree with a fellow reviewer. This book should be mandatory reading for all students. Maybe if more people read this book, we would all respect nature just a little better.

Rachel Carson, a scientist by trade, writes beautifully about the ocean in this book; it was worthy of the National Book Award, which it won in 1951. Carson takes the time to describe generally what was known about the sea at the time of her writing, and is prophetic in her comments about human impact to the world's oceans. While providing the reader with a general scientific discussion of the sea, she also gives us some magical moments: questions about the lost continent of Atlantis, mysteries about the nature of the deepest ocean bottoms, descriptions of luminescent creatures surfacing in the remotest areas of open ocean. This book is simultaneously great science and great literature, and is essential reading for anyone interested in marine biology or geology, even decades since its original publication.

This was a surprise read for me. I knew that this work was out of date when I ordered it, but I was willing to overlook mistakes of fact if Ms. Carson could give me insight. Good call. This book is a great book. If one has any feelings for the sea at all, she or he will enjoy this book immensely. Forget about continental shift or any other fact that one might find missing or incorrect when Ms. Carson wrote this book. We have Wikipedia nowadays for the finicky. Ms. Carson's love of the sea is timeless. Immediately upon finishing "The Sea Around Us", I had to call up Conrad's, "The Mirror of the Sea" (mentioned by Ms. Carson as one of the most moving books she had read). Two great books, especially if one reads them back to back. What a great experience!

It is difficult to believe that this book is over 50 years old. The recommendations are still valid and

elusive today. Only when the general public accepts the need to protect the environment will things change. That is why this book should be required reading for all students.

Rachel Carson's work is still a great place to get insights on the workings of the ocean. Even with the advancement of oceanography and marine biology, the ocean is still a source of wonder and mystery, and still in need of our protection from abuse. Vast as the oceans are, their ecosystems can still be altered by human activity.

The Special Edition is a small paperback that does not include any of the pictures in the original ---- only the text, with an updated introduction and afterward written in 1989 by other authors. While the text is worthy of 5 stars, this edition is being rated at 3 because it does not include the pictures. Those seeking the text and pictures of The Sea Around Us would be advised to buy another edition, perhaps the 2003 one.

This landmark book was for many the first glimpse of the underwater world of our vast oceans. While there have been many discoveries since it was written, Carson's writing is captivating and worth diving into.

It was amazing. It has a section first off about the person giving more information on what we have discovered from what Rachel knew to now. There's sections on almost every page giving more detail. Rachel's writing is amazing it gives a sense of wonder about the ocean as it gives you information, it inspires you to get behind the cause of saving our ocean or at least to care about it more.

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