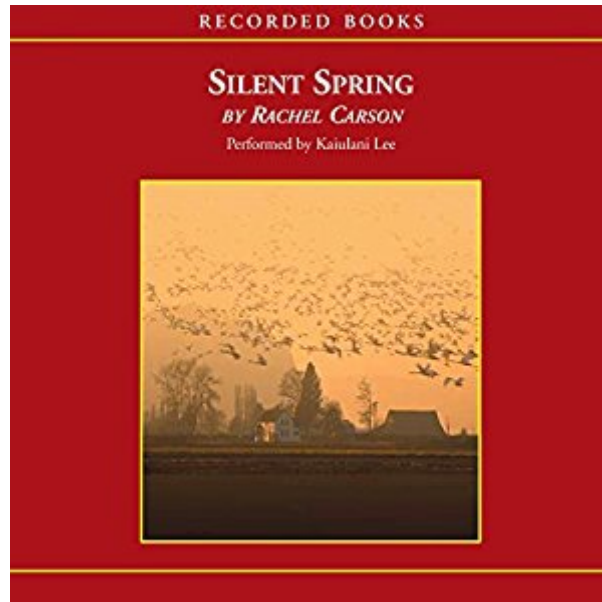




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# Silent Spring



## Synopsis

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. This Penguin Modern Classics edition includes an introduction by Lord Shackleton, a preface by World Wildlife Fund founder Julian Huxley, and an afterword by Carson's biographer Linda Lear. Now recognized as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century, *Silent Spring* exposed the destruction of wildlife through the widespread use of pesticides. Despite condemnation in the press and heavy-handed attempts by the chemical industry to ban the book, Rachel Carson succeeded in creating a new public awareness of the environment which led to changes in government and inspired the ecological movement. It is thanks to this book, and the help of many environmentalists, that harmful pesticides such as DDT were banned from use in the US and countries around the world. Rachel Carson (1907-64) wanted to be a writer for as long as she could remember. Her first book, *Under the Sea Wind*, appeared in 1941. *Silent Spring*, which alerted the world to the dangers of the misuse of pesticides, was published in 1962. Carson's articles on natural history appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest* and *Holiday*. An ardent ecologist and preservationist, Carson warned against the dumping of atomic waste at sea and predicted global warming. If you enjoyed *Silent Spring*, you might like John Christopher's *The Death of Grass*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics. 'Carson's books brought ecology into popular consciousness' *Daily Telegraph* 'Very few books change the course of history. Those that do include *Silent Spring*' Linda Lear, author of *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Silent Spring is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. Our ground, our air, our food and we are bombarded with chemicals, carcinogens, products of all sorts to kill weeds and bugs and are capable of killing us. Rachel Carson, a biologist and talented writer, walks us through a litany of misuse and overuse of chemicals that have never been tested for safety to humans. Laws are on the books requiring this testing to be done, but it is disregarded because they make our grass greener, our bugs keel over dead and a lot of people rich. Carson is known best for revealing the reason that Bald Eagle eggs had such thin shells that they broke well before the required incubation before hatching. The drastic reduction in successful Eagle births was DDT. Because this is our national bird and is supported by activists in and out of government, DDT was banned and the eagles began producing young again. We have not been so lucky. This book is factual in a clear and understandable way, and it informs us of the human actions and choices that put us all at risk. No alarmist language is employed, but facts lead us to conclusions that are concerning. The stunning fact to me is that the book was written fifty years ago, and the same risks to humanity and our future are being taken today when we could find better ways of solving problems, more cautious ways of using chemicals and restricting their use in sensible ways. As I talk to people about the issues raised in this book, they have not heard of Rachel Carson and have heard nothing of the assured negative effects on our own health from the chemicals we expose ourselves to daily. We knew so much back then when Carson wrote this book. Why hasn't more been researched and shared with us, so we can have current knowledge of the facts and risks. It is important that Carson's writing not be buried on a dusty shelf. It is a real mystery story and we are the cast.

I bought this book on recently in order to reread a classic I had already read many, many years ago. This book should be read by all those who believe climate change due to man's neglect and abuse of the environment is a hoax. It should also be a must read by today's young people.

A nice review of the history of what our environment has seen. From my perspective, of course it's very dated but following the research over the years has validated her and our worst fears. A must reread. Cactus Ken

Anyone who believes the environment should be respected MUST read this book. It's beautifully

written in a very gentle style. The facts surrounding DDT contamination are clearly and carefully laid out, and the reader is allowed the freedom to draw personal conclusions. Reading "Silent Spring" was an interesting experience: I was reminded several times that this single book changed the world by raising public awareness of chemical pollution. This new awareness in turn gave rise to the modern environmental movement. I grew up in the 60s; what people take for granted now was revolutionary then, and Rachel Carson was a key initiator of those changes.

I am enjoying this book so much. Learning so much from it . I wish I could afford to buy one for everyone I know. It should/could be required reading for every student.

Absolutely brilliant -- beautifully written and remarkably prophetic. As someone who is not scientifically minded, I found it very informative and user-friendly in its explanations. Certainly a must-read.

Amazing book. I wish more people would read it to understand the consequences of what a toxic world is around us.

There are few books better. If you have Silent Spring and Sand County Almanac (Aldo Leopold), you are in the best of company.

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