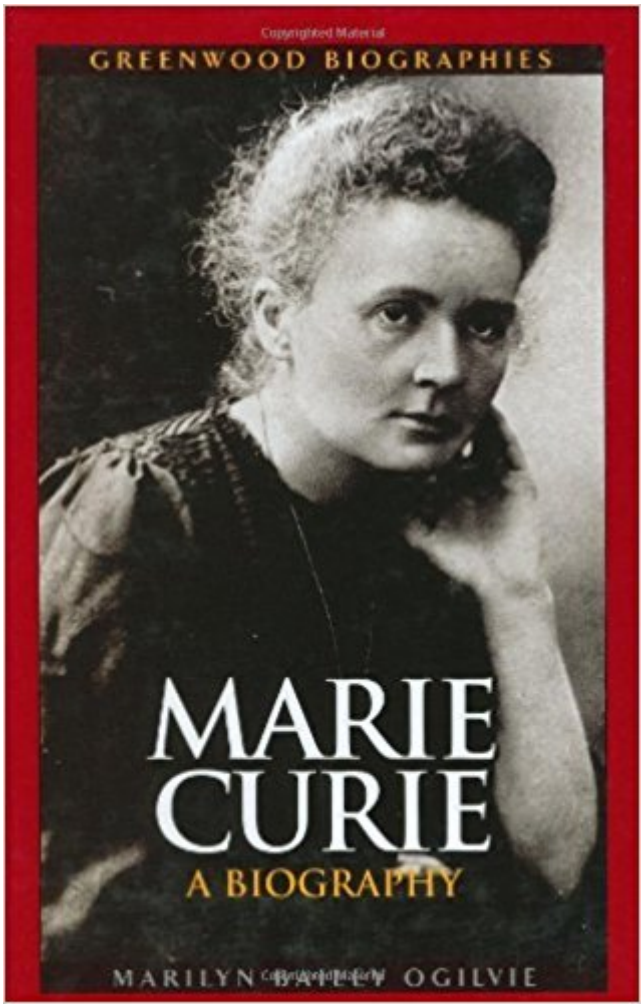
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Marie Curie: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies)



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Synopsis

Marie Curie (1867-1934) was one of the most important woman scientists in history, and she was one of the most influential scientistsÃ¢â ¬â •man or womanÃ¢â ¬â •of the 20th century. Curie postulated that radiation was an atomic property, a discovery that has led to significant scientific developments since. She was also the first person to use the term radioactivity. Her perseverance led to the discovery of two new elements, polonium and radium. This combination of creativity and perseverance netted her two Nobel Prizes, one in physics and the second in chemistry. This book, however, looks at more than her scientific achievements. While Curie is often portrayed as a stern, one-dimensional woman so totally committed to her science that she was incapable of complex emotions, the truth is that the opposite is the case.Marie Curie: A Biography covers her entire lifetime, beginning with her early life and education in a Poland under the oppressive rule of the czar of Russia. The book discusses all aspectsÃ¢â ¬â •both personal and scientificÃ¢â ¬â •of her fascinating life: Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Her education at the Sorbonne in Paris, where she earned the equivalent of two master's degreesÃ¢â ¬â •one in physics and a second in mathematicsÃ¢â ¬Â¢ Her marriage to Pierre Curie, with whom she collaborated on much of her scientific workÃ¢â ¬Â¢ The personal scandal that surrounded Marie in the aftermath of Pierre's tragic deathÃ¢â ¬Â¢ The Nobel Prize awards, and the detractors who believed that her work was actually performed by her husbandCurie's work in establishing mobile X-ray units during World War I, and the establishment of radium institutes to study radiationRunning throughout there is the much of the book is the tension between radium as a positive discovery and, on the other hand, the health risks that working with it presents. The book includes a timeline of important events in Curie's life and a bibliography of important primary and secondary sources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would recommend this book highly,especially for a non scientist. It is very readable . My whole family read it and it gave us all a better understanding of radioactivity.I especially liked knowing that she also had a family life,and an amazing husband.

I'm a biology major and chemistry is not my best subject. I know that they go together, but I have a tough time with it. I read this book to go along with an assignment from my chemistry class last semester. As a woman, I really respect and admire what Curie went through to get where she's at. I think of this book daily. It was an interesting read, and it really brought my interest level with chemistry way up. Suddenly I want to know more about nuclear chemistry. And, if you knew me, you would know that this is a very new development. Anyhow, I love this book! I think it's a good and easy read. It gives a good background of nuclear chemistry. And, finally, it is a great biography of Curie-- it really details her struggles to become who she was as well as her determination to become who she became.

After watching the movie Madame Curie on TCM I wanted to learn more about her, Pierre and her children. Fascinating book about a brilliant and complicated woman. Author did an excellent job of research and made Marie come alive for me. Not just the facts, but real insight into her personality and relationships with others.

She really inspire me and thank you...

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