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Seashells



Synopsis

Artist Josie Iselin celebrates the diversity and beauty of nature with her exquisite portraits of seashells. Like her extremely popular *Beach Stones* and *Leaves & Pods*, *Seashells* is not a field guide but an artful and informative portrayal of a beloved part of our natural world. The book balances the exotic with the familiar, from tropical corals and rare fossils to everyday clamshells and barnacles. In her introduction and captions, marine geologist and paleontologist Sandy Carlson introduces the reader to seashells in all their variety, explaining why they look as they do. Both an art book and a contemplation of nature, *Seashells* combines aesthetic delight in natural things with scientific fact and philosophical wonder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was recently on vacation at a seacoast resort and every bookstore and gift shop in the area had a small book, almost a mini coffee table book, entitled SEASHELLS. The book contains both photographs and text regarding shells. Customers picked up the book, leafed through the pages and were amazed. The amazement was a reaction to the stunning photography of Jodie Iselin. The shells are arranged in a variety of settings from natural to artful and we see the grandeur and beauty of these objects that we often take for granted. The text is somewhat perfunctory, explaining the type of shell and where it can be found, but it serves more as an aid to the photographs rather than giving specific scientific information about the shells. It's a perfect gift for anyone who loves shells,

and judging from what appeared to be brisk sales, many people purchased it either as a gift for someone else or themselves, but when I purchased it, it was not as a gift. I am an amateur photographer, and I love photographing shells. It's not as easy as it looks. The shells often have rich textures which makes can make them difficult to photograph, or at least difficult to get sharp photos. For me, the book is more inspiration than anything else and while it may be a long time if ever that my photos will be even close to those in the book, it gives me something to work toward and ideas of how to arrange shells, and I'm sure come Christmas, I'll find it will be a gift idea too.

I needed to find a well-illustrated book on Seashells for an overseas friend. I know nothing about seashells, so I was a bit apprehensive how my first purchase with would turn out. I need not have worried. The book was delivered within 48 hours and I was able to read it myself, before it went to Thailand with me. I was delighted with the book. The recipient, a government Marine Biologist was thrilled. I thoroughly recommend this book to anybody and everybody.

Great photography and interesting text that is easy to read. Anyone who loves seashells will love this book. I'm so glad I got it. Well worth the price.

This is a very interesting little book that is more art than science. It is hard cover and 143 pages. There is no table of contents, no chapter headings or index nor are they needed. The beauty of seashells speaks for itself and needs no introduction. Instead, many of the world's most interesting seashells are presented in full color photographs. Most of them are photographed on satin black back grounds which highlight the shells and make them stand out more clearly. Shells are presented in clusters, groups or as individual specimens. They are named, however, no attempt has been made to classify them scientifically or use scientific names. Besides photographing specimens currently alive in the earth's oceans today, the author has included photographs of fossil forms of mollusks living millions of years ago. The accompanying text is brief which says a little something about each presentation and where it can be found. The photographs are very well done showing sometimes only a particular and interesting part of certain shells. The paper is high quality heavy stock and coffee table book printing. This book is a collaborative effort of photographer, Josie Iselin and text by Sandy Carson. This book is a must for every lover of nature's intrinsic beauty.

This book is just that. What do you expect for beachcomers? What will you find laying around on the beach? This book doesn't explain too much in detail about those nature-made objects washed

ashore(nothing like man-made things turned into something else like sea glass), but just tells what they are called, and what exactly are they or scientifically, how they are made or how they got that way. It does explain the little details of why certain shells or urchins have unusual textures and forms. It explains somewhat where they come from or where they are found. Most of the shells, urchins, sea fossils among other things mentioned in this book are from North America. It doesn't say the size, or the depth in the sea, or in more details like that. This is not really a field guide. However, it is a little bit like one. But it does give some interesting and educational information about seashells and how they are formed and what they are made of. Calcium Carbonate. Still, an ok book. I like it. I really am especially looking for a field guide, and this book came to me from UK, so I did not want to go through the trouble of returning it and I bought it used, quite cheap in a "NEW" condition. So I will treasure it among my other seashell books next to my large seashell collection!-Rehana(Chicago, IL)

If you're looking for a large coffee table book, this just isn't it. When I ordered it I was expecting photos of a variety of shells but what I received was a small book (about the size of a half-sheet of regular paper) with a mostly black/white/brown color palette. There are a lot of interesting and colorful shells out there and I was expecting to see them here. Instead the author is more interested in arty angles and black and white--the opposite of what I was after. It also includes photos of fossilized shells which to me were boring and took space away from more interesting choices. Look at the cover of the book--it gives you a good idea of the colors and angles that you will find inside.

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