



Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos

By William Poundstone

Download now

Read Online →

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone

In this compelling life of Carl Sagan, award-winning science writer William Poundstone details the transformation of a bookish young astronomer obsessed with life on other worlds into science's first authentic media superstar. The instantly recognizable Sagan, a fixture on television and a bestselling author, offered the layperson entry into the mysteries of the cosmos and of science in general. To much of the scientific community, however, he was a pariah, a brazen publicity seeker who cared more about his image and his fortune than the advancement of science. Poundstone reveals the seldom-discussed aspects of Sagan's life, the legitimate and important work of his early scientific career, the almost obsessive capacity to take on endless projects, and the multiple marriages and fractured personal life, in what *The New Yorker* called an "evenhanded guide" to a great man's career.

↓ [Download Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos ...pdf](#)

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos

By William Poundstone

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone

In this compelling life of Carl Sagan, award-winning science writer William Poundstone details the transformation of a bookish young astronomer obsessed with life on other worlds into science's first authentic media superstar. The instantly recognizable Sagan, a fixture on television and a bestselling author, offered the layperson entry into the mysteries of the cosmos and of science in general. To much of the scientific community, however, he was a pariah, a brazen publicity seeker who cared more about his image and his fortune than the advancement of science. Poundstone reveals the seldom-discussed aspects of Sagan's life, the legitimate and important work of his early scientific career, the almost obsessive capacity to take on endless projects, and the multiple marriages and fractured personal life, in what *The New Yorker* called an "evenhanded guide" to a great man's career.

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1573953 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Holt Paperbacks
- Published on: 2000-10-01
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.22" h x .89" w x 6.40" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages

 [Download Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Science writer William Poundstone (and biographer of game-theory guru *John von Neumann*) begins this book of deftly strung anecdotes from the life of pop-science demigod Carl Sagan with the following anecdote: four-year-old Carl, a Jewish kid growing up near the Jersey shore, rides piggyback on his dad's shoulders into the 1939 World's Fair and the "World of Tomorrow." Surrounded by mocked-up "rocketports," GM's "Futurama," and the promise of outlandish technology to come, it's easy to imagine the impact on this little guy who was to become one of our century's most visionary and visible scientists. A childhood friend tells Poundstone that "from an early age Carl was seized with the fabulous mission of searching for life on other worlds," a quest that would dominate his entire professional career.

Poundstone recounts how this quest drove the immensely intelligent, ambitious, and charismatic Sagan, from his discovery of Arthur C. Clarke to his predictable adolescent chemistry-set accidents to his colorful academic career and professional work on the *Viking* and *Voyager* missions, nuclear disarmament, the award-winning *Cosmos*, and Robert Zemeckis' *Contact*. What recommends this biography most, though, isn't its completeness but its style: Poundstone has divided the 500-plus-page book into over 200 easily digestible, addictive little sections, each an entertaining or illuminating (or, often, laugh-out-loud) anecdote from Sagan's life, with titles like "Pornography in Space," "Muskrats, Drunkards, Extraterrestrials," and "Sagan Versus Apple Computer." (The in-house name for the mid-range PowerMac 7100 was "Carl Sagan," the joke being that it would make Apple "billions and billions." But forced to change it by Sagan, Apple switched to "BHA," later revealed to stand for "Butt-Head Astronomer"--Sagan sued for libel.) --*Paul Hughes*

From Publishers Weekly

It is impossible to be neutral about Carl Sagan (1934-1996). Though supporters and detractors agree that he was one of the most brilliant and influential scientists of the 20th century, they argue about the ways he handled his gifts, fame and prominence. Poundstone (*Prisoner's Dilemma; Big Secrets*) does nothing to reconcile these disparities. Instead, he lays out the details of Sagan's life and work, revealing why some people idolized him and others disdained him. Sagan's overwhelming need for love and attention destroyed his first marriage to Lynn Margulis, Poundstone explains. Decades later, Margulis remains ambivalent, admiring Sagan the public figure but not the man. Second wife Linda Salzman could neither forgive Sagan nor understand his betrayal when he and their friend Ann Druyan announced that they were profoundly in love and planned to marry. Salzman is conspicuously missing from Poundstone's list of acknowledgments, just as Sagan's alienated best friend, Lester Grinspoon, was conspicuously absent from Sagan's deathbed. Sagan's scientific and public life is best known for its central quest and mission: searching for extraterrestrial life and sharing his love of science with the world. The so-far fruitless quest for ET continues, but Sagan's mission succeeded beyond all expectations. Because his greatest allegiance was to truth, Sagan would probably like this book. It tells readers why he chose to warn the world about "nuclear winter" despite weaknesses in the theory, and it includes the influence of marijuana highs on his work. Poundstone does not draw conclusions, but presents the evidence of Sagan's life and allows readers to develop their own theories of what that life might mean to their own. 16 b&w photos. Agent, John Brockman. (Oct.)
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Both of these books portray astronomer Carl Sagan as a man of immense paradoxes. A charismatic public persona, he could be arrogant and demanding in his personal life. Fiercely ambitious, he still had a powerful

sense of civic duty. An outspoken defender of scientific methods, he was also a UFO enthusiast and obsessed with the possibility of extraterrestrial life. In some ways, each of these books represents a different side of the man. First, the similarities. Both authors are respected science popularizers. Both books are quite substantial, relying to a large degree on interviews with those who knew Sagan. Thus, there is considerable overlap between them. Perhaps as much as 80 percent. Of the remaining, about 15 percent of Poundstone is totally unique material. His is the more exhaustive and detailed account, especially when discussing Sagan's original scientific work and influences. What Davidson may lack comparatively in content is more than made up for in style, though. While Poundstone plods in places, Davidson is lively, literary, and sometimes refreshingly speculative. Poundstone's version comes closer to being definitive and will probably have a longer shelf life, but Davidson's is more fun to read. Overall, Davidson's version seems truer to its subject, for with Sagan science and showmanship were inseparable. Let's split the difference and suggest that Poundstone's version is more appropriate for academic libraries, while Davidson's may find a larger audience in public libraries. A Gregg Sapp, Univ. of Miami Lib., Coral Gables
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Noah Cale:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a guide your ability to survive raise then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos book as nice and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Tameika Ahmed:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't determine book by its include, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Karon Hall:

You can obtain this Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos by go to the bookstore or Mall. Only viewing or reviewing it might to be your solve problem if you get difficulties for your knowledge. Kinds of this book are various. Not only by written or printed and also can you enjoy this book through e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose right ways for you.

Kelly Jackson:

Do you like reading a publication? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book ended up being rare? Why so many query for the book? But any kind of people feel that they enjoy intended for reading. Some people likes studying, not only science book but also novel and Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos as well as others sources were given information for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those guides are helping them to bring their knowledge. In other case, beside science book, any other book likes Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like here.

Download and Read Online Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone #INPBQU03KFZ

Read Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone for online ebook

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone books to read online.

Online Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone ebook PDF download

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone Doc

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone Mobipocket

Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone EPub

INPBQU03KFZ: Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos By William Poundstone