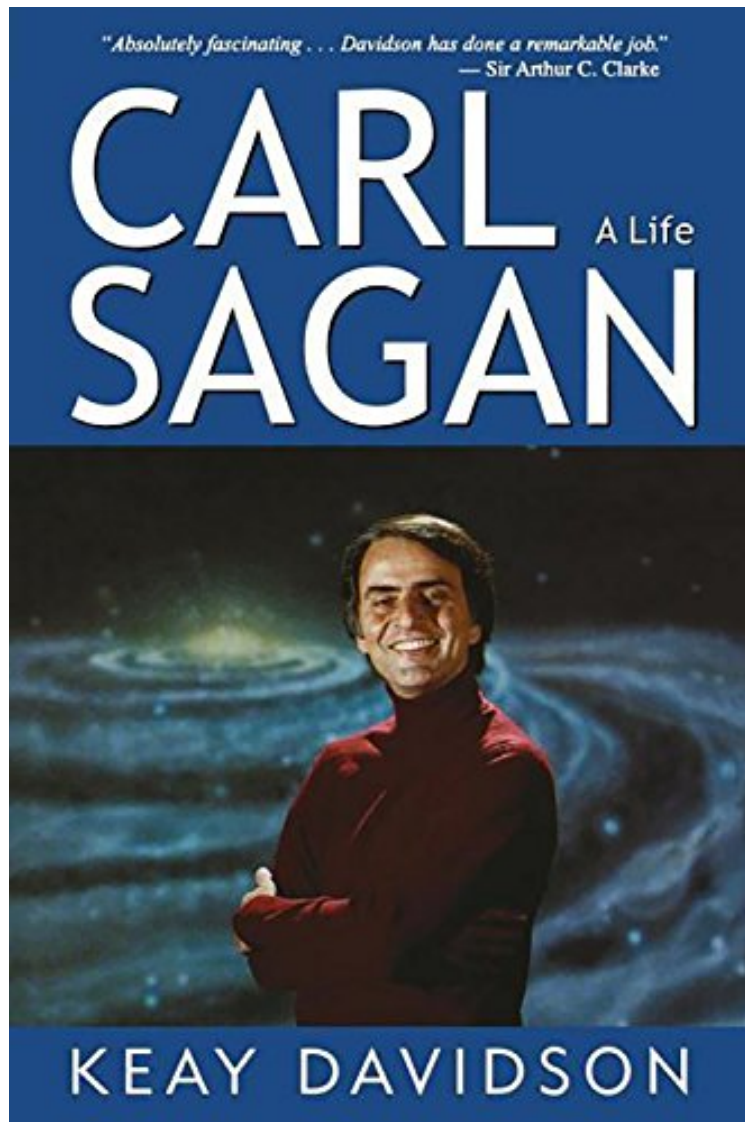


(Mobile pdf) Carl Sagan: A Life

Carl Sagan: A Life

Von Key Davidson

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Von Key Davidson : Carl Sagan: A Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carl Sagan: A Life:

KurzbeschreibungA penetrating, mesmerizing biography of a scientific icon"Absolutely fascinating . . . Davidson has

done a remarkable job."-Sir Arthur C. Clarke"Engaging . . . accessible, carefully documented . . . sophisticated."-Dr. David Hollinger for The New York Times Book "Entertaining . . . Davidson treats [the] nuances of Sagan's complex life with understanding and sympathy."-The Christian Science Monitor"Excellent . . . Davidson acts as a keen critic to Sagan's works and their vast uncertainties."-Scientific American"A fascinating book about an extraordinary man."-Johnny Carson"Davidson, an award-winning science writer, has written an absorbing portrait of this Pied Piper of planetary science. Davidson thoroughly explores Sagan's science, wrestles with his politics, and plumbs his personal passions with a telling instinct for the revealing underside of a life lived so publicly."-Los Angeles TimesCarl Sagan was one of the most celebrated scientists of this centurythe handsome and alluring visionary who inspired a generation to look to the heavens and beyond. His life was both an intellectual feast and an emotional rollercoaster. Based on interviews with Sagan's family and friends, including his widow, Ann Druyan; his first wife, acclaimed scientist Lynn Margulis; and his three sons, as well as exclusive access to many personal papers, this highly acclaimed life story offers remarkable insight into one of the most influential, provocative, and beloved figures of our timea complex, contradictory prophet of the Space Age..deCarl Sagan may have been one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. Then again, he may have been a relentless self-promoter who convinced everyone he was one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. Key Davidson, science writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, aims to explain this complicated man in his biography. One thing is clear: Sagan was an extremely difficult man to love, a scientist whose passion for astronomy and biology was unparalleled, but who had little ability to express basic emotions to his wives and children. Davidson looks for reasons for this emotional distance in Sagan's childhood, when his relationship with his mother was intense and sometimes difficult. She encouraged her bright young son to be an "intellectual omnivore," to be passionate about knowledge, but she didn't give him the tools to relate to humans as individuals. As his stellar science career developed, Sagan built a reputation as a leftist who believed that "science could serve liberal ideals," and as an arrogant man with an unshakable confidence in his own brain. Davidson writes that Sagan developed his famous skepticism as an undergraduate. Sagan suffered from a "troubling mix of intense emotion and stark rationalism," writes Davidson. He succeeded (mostly) in balancing passion with reason, a balance that made him a perfect popularizer of science, a trustworthy authority who preached that an open mind was the most valuable scientific tool. Davidson was influenced personally by Sagan's writings, and he sometimes works a little too hard at puncturing the myths surrounding Sagan, but this biography is one that deserves to be read by Sagan's fans and detractors alike. It's a compelling, very real assessment of an all-too-human god of science. --Therese LittletonPressestimmen"This biography is authoritative, interesting and entertaining. Every space enthusiast should read it." (Spaceflight, November 2001)"Davidson gets underneath the skin to expose the personal, emotional and intimate details of Sagan's life, showing him both as a scientist, husband, lover and father. Brilliant." (Yorkshire Post, 9th November 2000)"This biography is authoritative, interesting and entertaining. Every space enthusiast should read it." (Spaceflight, November 2001)