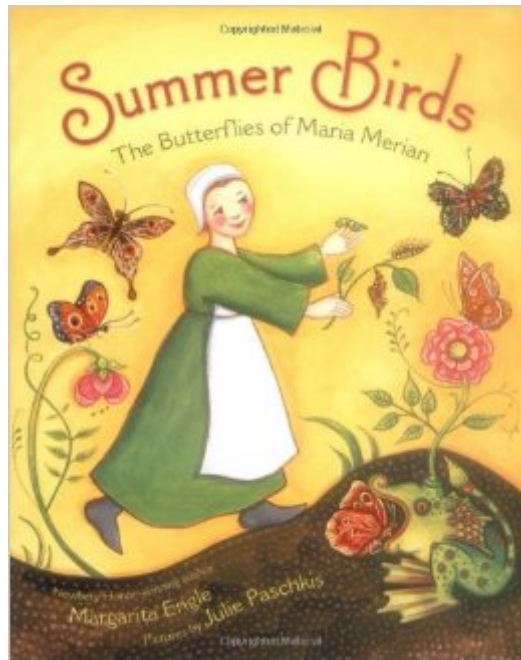


The book was found

Summer Birds: The Butterflies Of Maria Merian



Synopsis

In the Middle Ages, people believed that insects were evil, born from mud in a process called spontaneous generation. Maria Merian was only a child, but she disagreed. She watched carefully as caterpillars spun themselves cocoons, which opened to reveal summer birds, or butterflies and moths. Maria studied the whole life cycle of the summer birds, and documented what she learned in vibrant paintings. This is the story of one young girl who took the time to observe and learn, and in so doing disproved a theory that went all the way back to ancient Greece.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #74,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Reference > History > Medieval](#) #48 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Beautiful butterflies flitted from flower to flower sipping the nectar. Maria was thirteen-years-old and carefully watched them as they flew through the air and went about their work. People called them "summer birds" and felt they were "beasts of the devil" because they sprang from the muds of the earth. It was a sort of magic because in that day and age everyone believed in shape shifting and werewolves, but Maria knew differently. She carefully captured beetles, summer birds, and dragonflies so she could study them and learn their ways. It had to be a secret venture because she would be accused of witchcraft if anyone caught wind of what she was doing. She kept them in boxes and jars, fed them, and watched them grow. It was a secret, but she would soon discover the secrets these so called "beasts of the devil" held. She learned that "caterpillars are born from eggs laid by summer birds," that they ate leaves, later spun cocoons, and finally turned into those

marvelous summer birds. They slowly emerged from their cocoons and once again she watched their life cycle. No, they were far from evil and were "not born from mud," but would anyone believe her? She began to study them in earnest, paint them, and continued to learn. Perhaps one day she could make people understand. This is a stunning portrait of a young girl, Maria Sibylla Merian, who made the world realize that insects and summer birds were not evil. The presentation of this book was fascinating and young people will be able to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly in a very painless manner. Of course they will also learn about Maria Sibylla Merian, a young woman whose curiosity took her around the world in her quest for knowledge.

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