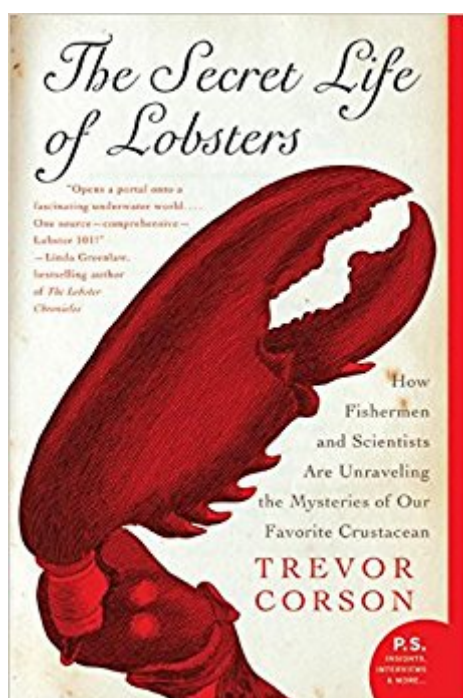


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The Secret Life Of Lobsters: How Fishermen And Scientists Are Unraveling The Mysteries Of Our Favorite Crustacean (P.S.)



Synopsis

In this intimate portrait of an island lobstering community and an eccentric band of renegade biologists, journalist Trevor Corson escorts the reader onto the slippery decks of fishing boats, through danger-filled scuba dives, and deep into the churning currents of the Gulf of Maine to learn about the secret undersea lives of lobsters. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the 1980s, the lobster population in the waters off the coast of Maine was declining, threatening disaster for the state's lobster fishing industry. Government scientists attributed the drop-off to overfishing and recommended raising the minimum legal size of lobsters that could be harvested. Lobstermen disagreed, contending that their longstanding practice of returning oversized lobsters to the sea as brood stock would take care of the problem. In this intriguing and entertaining book, Corson, a journalist who has reported on such diverse subjects as organ transplants and Chinese sweatshops, brings together the often conflicting worlds of commercial lobstermen and marine scientists, showing how the two sides joined forces and tried for 15 years to solve the mystery of why the lobsters were disappearing. He brings the story to life by concentrating on the lobstermen and their families who live in one Maine fishing community, Little Cranberry Island, and alternating narratives of their lives with accounts of the research of scientists who, obsessed with the curious

life of lobsters, conduct experiments that are often as strange and complex as the lobsters themselves. Corson provides more information about the lobster's unusual anatomy, eating habits and sex life than most readers will probably want to know, but he makes it all fascinating, especially when he juxtaposes observations of human behavior and descriptions of the social life of lobsters. However, by the end of the book, the answer to the puzzle remains elusive. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Some like their lobster dipped in drawn butter; others prefer their lobster laced with electronic monitors. Plunging into its cold North Atlantic home, a prizewinning alternative-press writer sheds the light of investigative journalism on a crustacean attracting as much attention in recent years from curious biologists as from hungry diners. As deftly as a lobsterman handling the coiled ropes of his trap buoys, Corson knots into a single brisk narrative the differing--often conflicting--perspectives of the fishermen who catch and sell lobsters, the marine scientists who track and explain the creatures, and the environmentalists who lobby for increased legal protections for the species. The narrative focuses particularly on the growing tensions between Maine fishermen, who harvested record numbers of lobsters in the nineties, and federal officials interpreting disputed demographic data as evidence of overfishing. The story of how these tensions intensify will teach readers a great deal about a species that deploys more than mere claws when it wages war over profits and seafood. A lively yet conceptually sophisticated work. Bryce Christensen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Okay, so this does indeed tell you about lobsters, but just American lobsters (as expected, I guess). He gives a single long paragraph about the diversity of lobster forms and that's it. He also talks way too much about this one family of lobsterpeople (lobsterpersons?). I didn't think that was necessary. Anyway, it has a few maps in the front and the paperback edition has a post-script with a few lobster diagrams illustrating anatomy. No photos or index and only a tiny further reading section. While I did learn plenty about one kind of lobster, I think I could've done without all the people stuff. I discovered lobsters are disgusting and lack refined ethical practices.

Unless you think you can work up a proper "give a darn" about the bedroom habits of lobsters, buying this book is probably a mistake. If you can picture yourself spending a few hours perusing

the matter, however, it's a pretty good read. I should note in passing that I paid considerably less for this book than the currently asked Kindle price of \$11.99, and will never pay more than \$9.99 for an electronic download that costs the publisher practically nothing to store and deliver. At a reduced price, however, it's a good read. The author has a pleasant voice, and did his homework.

This is the second time I read this life cycle of lobsters and those hardy folks who catch them for a living. Sometimes it becomes a little too technical, however the alternating between science and the lives of the families who spend their lives trying to sustain and make a living in the most adverse conditions makes it an easy read (which is why I read it cover to cover again).

I enjoyed this. I think the mixing of the fishermen's narratives and the scientists makes this accessible to a lot of people. I did want more science, though. For me, there was too much story and not enough science. I felt like my takeaway was more about how the lobster populations were studied than actual lobsters, and that wasn't quite what I was looking for even though it was very well written and presented.

If you ever wanted to know about lobsters and lobster fishing, this is the book. The book goes into every detail of this industry. The book is well written with both technical and personal experiences of the lives of the fishermen. It is really an informative book, and is well written.

This book showed up on as a suggestion in non-fiction. I did not know what to expect but I enjoyed it very much. The science was at an understandable and the subject matter was surprisingly interesting. I especially enjoyed the insight into the workings on how government scientists impact the livelihood of people without ever interacting with those very people. A good read

The author lived and worked with the lobster catchers for two years. He knew the environmental and scientific experts. He studied the reports from governmental workers; therefore he gave an unbiased "report" of the secret life of lobsters. However, being from Southwest USA, I learned more than I wanted to know about lobsters. My favorite portions were about the family life of the people who are isolated on an island for years.

Trevor Corson did a fantastic job with this book. Although the end of the novel still leaves some questions unanswered (which, I believe, is more a sign of the state of our understanding of the

seas), the stories within are wondrous and fascinating. Weaving a tale from the lives of lobster men, to the satellites that observe oceanic currents, the quest to understand, catch, and conserve lobsters has many actors and takes many interesting turns. I loved this book, and would gladly recommend it to anyone.

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