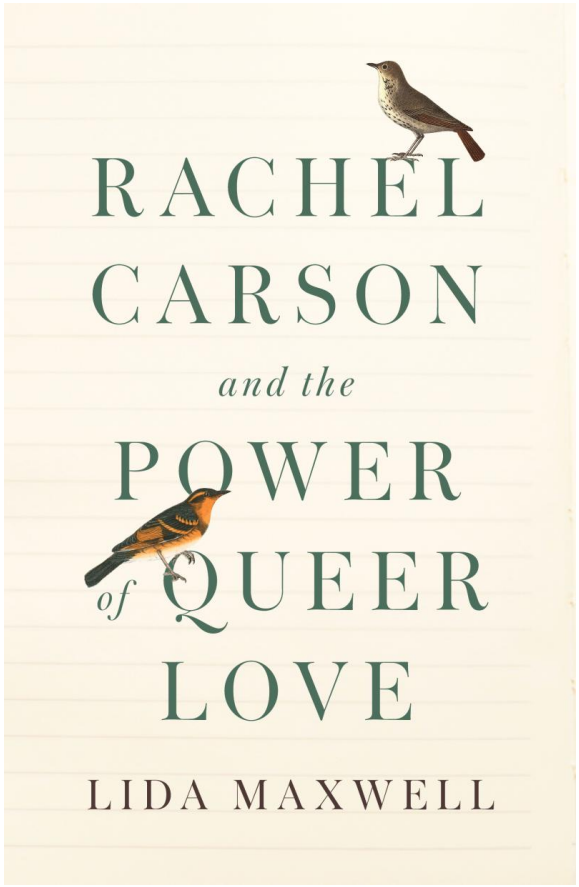
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Rachel Carson and the Power of Queer Love

Maxwell, Lida

Maxwell, Lida. *Rachel Carson and the Power of Queer Love*. Stanford University Press, 2025.



Rachel Carson and the Power of Queer Love. Cover.

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After the success of her first bestseller, *The Sea Around Us*, Rachel Carson settled in Southport, Maine. The married couple Dorothy and Stanley Freeman had a cottage nearby, and the trio quickly became friends. Their extensive and evocative correspondence shows that Dorothy and

Rachel did something more: They fell in love.

In this moving new book, Lida Maxwell explores their letters to reveal how Carson's masterpiece, *Silent Spring*, grew from the love these women shared for their wild surroundings and, vitally and increasingly, for each other. Carson had already demonstrated a profound environmental awareness by the time she purchased her home in Maine; Maxwell proposes that it took her love for Dorothy to open up a more powerful space for critique. As their love unsettled their heteronormative ideas of bourgeois life, it enabled Carson to develop an increasingly critical view of capitalism and its effects on nonhuman nature and human lives alike, and it was this evolution that made the advocacy of *Silent Spring* possible.

(Source: Stanford University Press)

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