



Remarkable Creatures: A Novel

By Tracy Chevalier

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Remarkable Creatures: A Novel By Tracy Chevalier

A voyage of discovery, two remarkable women, and an extraordinary time and place enrich this *New York Times* bestselling novel by Tracy Chevalier, author of *At the Edge of the Orchard* and *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

On the windswept, fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, poor and uneducated Mary Anning learns that she has a unique gift: "the eye" to spot fossils no one else can see. When she uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton in the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight. After enduring bitter cold, thunderstorms, and landslips, her challenges only grow when she falls in love with an impossible man.

Mary soon finds an unlikely champion in prickly Elizabeth Philpot, a middle-class spinster who shares her passion for scouring the beaches. Their relationship strikes a delicate balance between fierce loyalty, mutual appreciation, and barely suppressed envy, but ultimately turns out to be their greatest asset.

Remarkable Creatures is a stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever.

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Remarkable Creatures: A Novel By Tracy Chevalier Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The discoveries of fossils on the beaches of Lyme Regis, England, in the 19th century rocked the world and opened the minds of scientists to the planet's unimaginable age and the extinction of species. Though attributed to men of consequence, the first remarkable finds were made by the poor working-class Anning family—and their young daughter, Mary. Chevalier wraps the history with a tale of the friendship between Mary and Elizabeth Philpot, a gentlewoman also fascinated by the creatures of stone, in a time when women were thought to be ill-suited to the work or incapable of understanding the scope of their finds. Each of these two characters tells a first-person story, and Susan Lyons gives Elizabeth Philpot the diction, reserve, subdued tones, and poise expected of a gentlewoman and shades her with idiosyncrasies, passions, and palpable loneliness. Charlotte Parry is convincing as a callow, coarse Mary Anning, and listeners will witness her gradual maturing and refinement as the story unfolds. The quality audio production enhances Chevalier's picturesque historical novel. *A Dutton hardcover (Reviews, Sept. 28). (Jan.)*
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Review

'A stunning story, compassionately reimagined' GUARDIAN 'Chevalier recently stated that making fossils sexy was one of her chief aims in writing Remarkable Creatures. With this very entertaining book, she has certainly succeeded' DAILY TELEGRAPH 'An enthralling novel of female friendship and fossil hunting' WOMAN AND HOME 'Chevalier shows her skill for working history's lost individuals into far-reaching fiction' GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

About the Author

Tracy Chevalier is the author of five previous novels, including the international bestseller *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Virgin Blue*, *Falling Angels*, *The Lady and the Unicorn* and *Burning Bright*. Born in Washington, DC, she moved to London in 1984, where she lives with her husband and son. She has a website at www.tchevalier.com.

Users Review

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Patricia Ackermann:

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