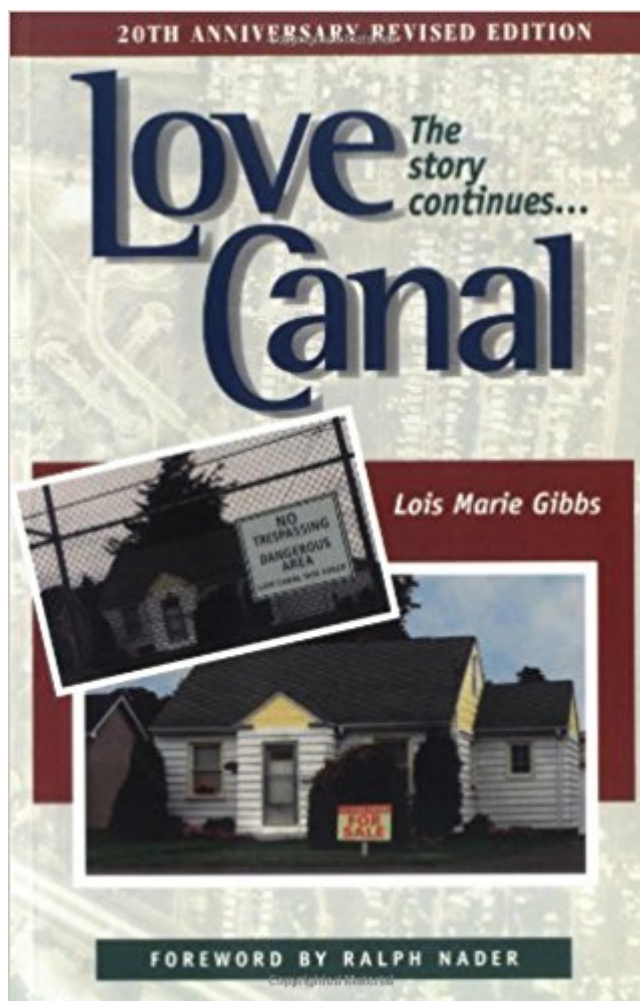


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Love Canal: The Story Continues...



Synopsis

The young housewife who organized the residents of the Love Canal neighborhood to publicize their plight and protest to state and federal officials updates the struggle to persuade government officials to act.

Book Information

Paperback: 223 pages

Publisher: New Society Publishers; Anv edition (April 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0865713820

ISBN-13: 978-0865713826

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.5 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Science & Math > Environment > Recycling #189 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental #235 in Books > Science & Math > Environment > Environmentalism

Customer Reviews

"Love Canal: The Story Continues... is a small book with a big story. ...Lois Gibbs is a role model for people struggling for social justice around the world. At Love Canal, with the nation watching, Lois proved that an 'average' person could become empowered enough to change not only her life, but also the lives of others... and the course of environmental policy across the country." -Ralph Nader, excerpt from forward -- Publisher Comments

Lois Gibbs, known as the Mother of Superfund, is the Executive Director of the Center For Health, Environment and Justice. She is the recipient of over 20 prestigious awards including the Goldman Environmental Prize for North America (1990), and an Honorary Doctorate at the State University of New York at Cortland. Gibbs has been featured on many television and radio shows including Oprah, the Bill Moyers Show, 60 Minutes, and the MacNeil-Lehrer Report.

I was disappointed when I compared this book to the 1978 book, "Love Canal", My Story" by Lois Marie Gibbs because I found that the books were identical except that this one has a forward by

Ralph Nadar and an epilogue. If you are researching Love Canal, then this book contains a factual journal of events chronologically as they happened. The writing is so poor it is almost distracting (and the original book actually names a co-author). But the story of what one dedicated person can do to bring about change in their life, their community's life, the local government, the national government and even the law is as important today as it was in 1978.

great product!!

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As a native Western New Yorker who lived in suburban Buffalo during the Love Canal era, I found Gibbs' account both accurate and inspiring. (I'm also a Ph.D. historian and am a stickler for evidence.) This book demonstrates that even one person can make a difference -- a lesson we need to hear today more than ever. The evidence of Love Canal's danger to residents is overwhelming. The book to which another reviewer refers as counterevidence (*The Skeptical Environmentalist*) has been widely panned in the scientific and scholarly reviews such as the journal *Science* as a highly flawed book which used secondary sources out of context. I invite you to visit Love Canal the next time you are in Niagara Falls, and you will see (and smell) for yourself the physical evidence of the chemicals which bloop and seep in the areas covered by a massive clay cap right across from the elementary school -- like some terrible modern-day burial mound. Currently the NY State Dept. of Health is conducting both a massive cancer cluster study and an autoimmune disease study in Western New York in the area codes downwind from Niagara Falls plant sites. The cancer clusters, which in some cases have shown an incidence well above average (60%+), may be linked to a combination of low-level ionizing radiation from a WWII Manhattan Project plant near Niagara Falls, along with decades of pollution. (The studies are ongoing.) A new toxic brownfield where residents are living has been discovered in Buffalo in the last year. In the last six months, retired employees seriously ill with heavy metal contamination have admitted to the illegal dumping of heavy metals and other toxic chemicals into the water source during the 1970s. The fact is that hardworking families scrimped and saved to buy houses in an area that both the developer and the city knew was heavily contaminated by chemical pollutants. Lois Gibbs, a concerned mother and housewife with little education, realized that something was terribly wrong. Illness rates had skyrocketed, especially for childhood cancers. Foul-smelling chemicals pooled in the school playground and residential backyards; children's sneakers which came in contact partly dissolved

as a result. Gibbs shared her concerns with her neighbors, and became a self-taught grassroots organizer in the process. She and her neighbors carried out the simple data collecting which the DoH refused to do. Armed with files of evidence, Gibbs lobbied local officials, the city, the state, and even the company for help for her neighborhood -- and she didn't give up until -- finally -- President Carter did the right thing and relocated those families to safety. If you still think an individual can't make a difference in today's world, you need to read this book. It is truly inspiring.

Gibbs' book is important to the history of the grassroots environmental movement. It helps us understand where we came from and why it's so important to have programs like Superfund. It also reminds us that citizens must be diligent in their fight against polluting industry and the politicians who share their beds. While she often repeats herself, it's still a quick (and powerful) read.

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