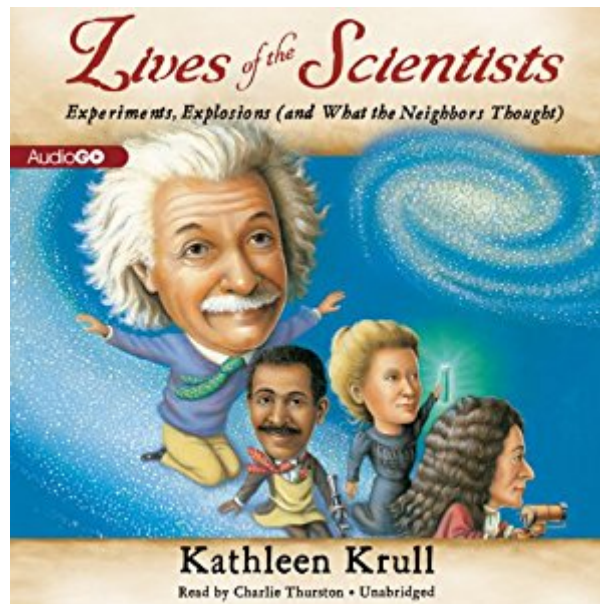


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# Lives Of The Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What The Neighbors Thought)



## Synopsis

Scientists have a reputation for being focused on their work - and maybe even dull. But take another look. Did you know that it's believed Galileo was scolded by the Roman Inquisition for sassing his mom? That Isaac Newton loved to examine soap bubbles? That Albert Einstein loved to collect joke books, and that geneticist Barbara McClintock wore a Groucho Marx disguise in public? With juicy tidbits about everything from favorite foods to first loves, the subjects of Kathleen Krull and Kathryn Hewitt's *Lives of the Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought)* are revealed as creative, bold, sometimes eccentric - and anything but dull.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wonderfully captivating read for my 4th grader. Homosexuality reference totally overblown - even if your child picks up on this (a one liner in the extra credit section) who wouldn't rather explain this to their child than lynching. Please.

This is a HORRIBLE BOOK FOR KIDS. Maybe kind of interesting for adults. I got this book for my 2nd grader at his scholastic book fair and read about Einstein first. It exposed the fact that he had a child he put up for adoption, left his wife & married his cousin, who he had an affair with. The author also discussed the fact that Einstein slept nude. To be completely honest, I was expecting to hear more about his accomplishments and have them explained in childlike terms. It seemed like an illustrated version of the tabloids. No thanks! Wish I could get my money back.

My 8 year-old son received this book as a present last week. He was quickly attracted by the quirky and engaging artwork. Within minutes, he had his nose buried in it and finished the book the next afternoon. Along the way, he peppered me with a host of just the sort of questions you want your kid to ask, such as "Why is DNA shaped like a double helix?" and "Why aren't they sure when George Washington Carver was born?" This book offers a very smart mix of biography and history. And let me say that as a University Historian, I'm generally unhappy with the level of history presented in kids' books. But Krull manages to highlight her subject's talents without presenting them as one-dimensional heroes or geniuses. Instead she presents these scientists as often quirky and flawed but nonetheless important and creative people. Very well done, indeed! Got a smart son or daughter? They need this book.

Borrowed from the library for my 7 year old to read about Louis Pasteur (which was a good one). I read the rest of the book to see if I could use any of the other biographies in the future. There are other biographies in here that are worthwhile, however, the inclusion of the following does not stick to my personal morals: GALILEO, whom we are to admire as a scientist, called his mother an idiot, and was verbally abusive (to a severe degree) to most everyone around him. DARWIN wrote that "a wife was better than a dog anyhow". Including unproven rumors (as already brought out by other reviewers) cheapens the validity of the entire book (especially since it has nothing to do with Carver's accomplishments). MARIE CURIE was humiliated by her love letters to a married man (okay, not cool, but then...) to which her friend Einstein played consoling friend to her face but condescending of her behind her back. Either to be admired? EINSTEIN's girlfriend had a baby out of wedlock, he treated his wife like a servant while beginning an affair with his cousin. The person who drew up the first sketches of the DNA strand usually drew nudes. JAMES WATSON "arranged for a bikini-clad woman named Fifi to jump out of the cake" at FRANCIS CRICK's 50th birthday party. I would not purchase this for a 10 year old. Perhaps a person in high school who has more discernment, but do I really want my 7 year old (who can read at this level) to ask why women are treated poorly by scientific heroes, or my 10 year old to think that it is just fine to be a back-stabbing friend because a renowned scientist was? Yes, humanizing those who have made fantastic advancements in science is a wonderful way to encourage children to participate in science, but let's be discerning about how much to include, especially in the impressionable years. I had to come back and add that Krull and Hewitt's writing styles are superb, and quite engaging. The illustrations are delightful and worthy of framing.

The authors felt the need to include that there were "unproven rumors" that a particular scientist was homosexual. I teach elementary students and, with that one unnecessary line, I now cannot include this book in my classroom library as it is not my place to explain homosexuality to my students. Why they felt compelled to print that bit of unrelated trivia in a CHILDREN'S book about scientists is beyond me. Do not purchase this book for your classroom!

My Grandson loves this book!

way cool book with big pictures and good facts. fun to read as an adult or with your child. nice price and others in series make this a sure hit with all readers.

This book is beautifully illustrated and the stories are beautifully told. I think it's very appealing to children and would make a great gift.

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