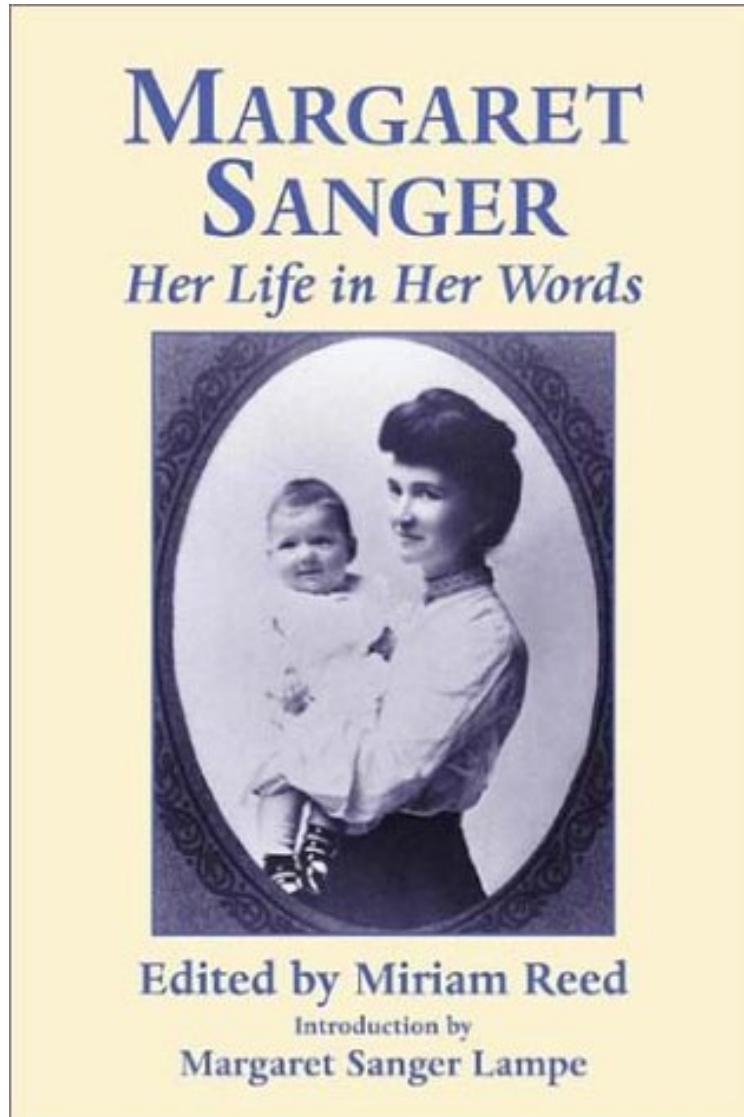


Margaret Sanger: Her Life in Her Words

Miriam Reed

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Miriam Reed : Margaret Sanger: Her Life in Her Words before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Margaret Sanger: Her Life in Her Words:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a woman who tried to help other womenBy Margie RiendeauThis book gives such insight into how the people lived; the gap between the rich, poor, educated, ignorant and men and women. A must read for anyone doing womens studies.12 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Vivid account of the incredible courage of Margaret SangerBy Launa HuffinesMiriam Reed's biography of Margaret Sanger is a book that is hard to lay aside until the last page and hard to forget. Reed details the most dramatic episodes of

Margaret Sanger which are enriched by private papers from Sanger's family. How I would love to see author/actress Reed on stage in a monologue as Margaret Sanger! This is an honest and inspiring biography of a woman who literally changed the attitude of the world toward planning a family, inspired research, and established centers. Perhaps this book could help clear up the emotional reactions of current religious and political forces against planned births. Reed presents Margaret Sanger's life in "her own words" using letters and other papers revealing the passion with which Sanger attempted to give birth control information to desperate American wives and mothers. Such mothers as those who had up to 15 children, half of whom were still living, begged Mrs. Sanger for help. M. Sanger was sent to prison over and over for demanding the right to discuss birth control at a time when the Dutch had had birth control clinics for 30 years and the French enjoyed the most modern birth control methods. I highly recommend this biography for anyone who is even vaguely aware of the pathetic situation of thousands upon thousands of home abortions so common before Sanger's work, many of which resulted in death. This practice is still widespread in countries without the funds for planned parenthood clinics. 4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Not enough Sanger
By A Customer
This selection of Sanger documents is odd and not made with the best of care. While Reed claims that this is Sanger's "Life in Her Words" there is probably more of Reed than Sanger in the book, if you counted words. Each document is introduced by a lengthy and not all that well written essay, and equal weight (and space) seem to be given to Sanger's views on race and eugenics and her recipes for chicken curry. There is some very sloppy research here as well, with no attribution. Reed's biographical sketches are incomplete and in one case, "Oliver" Johnson instead of "Olive" Johnson, downright embarrassing. The fact that Reed disputes Sanger on the name and gender of her British associate would be laughable if it didn't raise so many questions about her other identifications. Reed claims a Ph.D. on the cover, but I don't think it could be in history.

This book includes Sanger's writings on marriage and children, the labor movement, socialism, prison reform, pacifism, eugenics and sex education.

From Publishers Weekly
Sanger, the controversial fighter for legalized birth control and a key player in the development of Planned Parenthood, has been the subject of numerous biographies and, in 1938, penned an autobiography. Now actress Reed, who writes one-woman performances, has assembled a broad selection of Sanger's letters, articles and speeches to present a historical and personal look at the influential 20th century woman. Reed divides the book into three sections: "The Rebel," in which she introduces Sanger and presents information on early sex education and the first birth control clinic; "The Reformer," which includes Sanger's writings from the 1920s and '30s on birth control in China and Japan and her thoughts on meeting Gandhi in 1935; and "The Conservative Radical," a compact portion covering the advent of the birth control pill and Sanger's 1960 letter to the New York Times on overpopulation. The book deftly showcases Sanger's grit and determination and will be a welcome addition to feminist literature. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
Sanger became committed to sex education and birth control (a term she coined) after watching her mother die at age 50 after enduring 18 pregnancies and witnessing the suffering of poor women and children as a nurse on New York's Lower East Side. A radical first, then a reformer and mother of three, Sanger devoted herself to helping women take charge of their bodies and their lives in the hope that every child would then be wanted and cared for. She fought courageously against the Comstock laws, which made it illegal to talk openly about contraception, then launched an international family planning campaign. Sanger is, in short, a great but overlooked hero. Reed, a creator of one-woman performances, including one based on Sanger's life, seeks to revitalize our appreciation for Sanger in this invaluable collection of her seminal, intelligent, and compassionate writings, which are accompanied by Reed's vibrant and illuminating commentary and a charming introduction by Sanger's granddaughter, Margaret Sanger Lampe, who remembers her red-haired, "small and soft-spoken" grandmother as an animated and giving woman who loved champagne, parties, and life itself. Donna Seaman
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About the Author
Miriam Reed is an actress and writer of one-woman performances. Her one-woman performances include Louisa May Alcott: Living Little Women, Talking Abortion, Oscar Wilde's Women, and most importantly, Margaret Sanger: Radiant Rebel.