



Gentle Giant Octopus

By Karen Wallace

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Describes the physical characteristics and behavior of a Giant Octopus and how she searches for a home at the bottom of the ocean, lays her eggs and protects them from predators until they can hatch.

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Gentle Giant Octopus By Karen Wallace Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #598877 in Books
- Published on: 1998-10-07
- Released on: 1998-10-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .42" h x 10.01" w x 10.99" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Giant octopus's tentacles can grow to 150 feet, but in this graceful work the deep-sea creature seems tender and vulnerable. Wallace (previously paired with Bostock for *Think of an Eel*) uses two types of narrative. Facts are set in wavy lines of text, running concurrently with a story about a mother octopus's gestation, parturition and death. The story brims with poetic turns of phrase: a Wolf eel "darts from the shadows. His teeth strike like daggers. He rips off a tentacle. Then sinks like a nightmare deep into his den." The mother octopus defends herself through escape (shooting backward "by sucking in seawater and pumping it out"), camouflage (turning "very pale or very dark within seconds") and hiding ("Octopuses don't have any bones, and they can squeeze through the tiniest of holes"). Safe in her den, she lays eggs that "hang from the roof like grapes on a string." Bostock's thoughtfully composed watercolors are tactile, accurate and extremely attractive: rubbery tentacles undulate or creep on powerful suction cups; bubble-like babies swim up from their rock-bound nursery, out of which the mother's listless eye peers?their nursery will become her crypt. This seamless weave of text and illustration offers a welcome counterpoint to popular depictions (e.g., Verne's and others) of the octopus as deep-sea villain. Ages 5-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2-Brief text and watercolor paintings describe how a female giant octopus moves, protects herself, and lays her eggs. The illustrations have a sense of drama; in one picture, the octopus fills the whole page, her long tentacles flying behind her in the blue-green ocean. At one point, a crab attacks and an eel rips off a tentacle with its daggerlike teeth. Each page has just a few sentences in large print, but they provide a basic introduction to the animal and many interesting facts. Although this book is classified as nonfiction, the information is related as a story. With its striking artwork, it will make an enticing read-aloud for children interested in this fascinating sea creature and for primary-grade science lessons.

Adele Greenlee, Bethel College, St. Paul, MN

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Review

"* "A joy for the eye, ear and heart...mind opening, inspiring." Guardian * Also available in a library edition without CD (9781406312843)."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Streeter:

This book untitled Gentle Giant Octopus to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this publication from your list.

Ruth Brinkman:

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