

The Famous Naturalist – Profiled for Children



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Maja Nielsen
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Maria Sibylla Merian – Journey into the Hidden World of Butterflies

64 pages, fully coloured
21.5 x 30 cm, hardcover
EUR 20.00

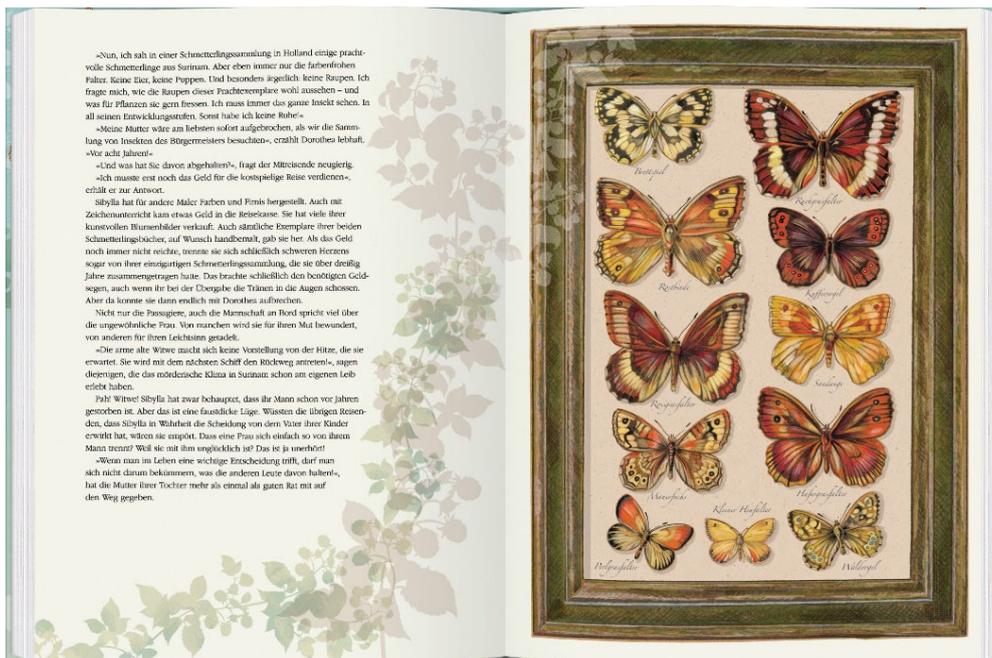
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In 1699 Maria Sibylla Merian travels to the tropical rainforest in Surinam. Accompanied only by her daughter Dorothea, she commences her great ambition: observing and drawing insects in every stage of their development. For years, Sibylla has been fascinated by the way caterpillars transform into gorgeous butterflies. This book recounts the childhood of the famous artist and naturalist; of her courageous journeys into ancient forests, and of the origin of her stunning books that even today have no equal.

Simple text boxes contain facts and background details appropriate for young readers. Lively illustrations stimulate our interest in the magical world of insects and the life of an unusual, self-confident woman.

Sophie Schmid studied communication design at the Munich University of Applied Sciences and painting at the Munich Art Academy. She has been a full-time freelance illustrator since 1995. She has penned many successful children's books. www.schmidsophie.de

Maja Nielsen's stories have been released as books, audiobooks, and radio features. Her hit series *Adventure!* With Gerstenberg Verlag has garnered numerous awards.



Maria Sibylla Merian (2 April 1647 – 13 January 1717) was a German-born naturalist and scientific illustrator. She was one of the earliest European naturalists to observe insects directly, and because of her precise observations and illustrations of the metamorphosis of butterflies, she is considered an important pioneer of modern entomology. She received her artistic training from her stepfather, Jacob Marrel, and published her first book of natural illustrations in 1675. She had started to collect insects as an adolescent, and at age 13 she raised silkworms.

In 1679, Merian published the first volume of a two-volume series on caterpillars; the second volume followed in 1683. Each volume contained 50 plates that she engraved and etched. Merian documented evidence on the process of metamorphosis and the plant hosts of 186 European insect species. Along with the illustrations Merian included descriptions of their life cycles. In 1699, Merian traveled to Dutch Surinam to study and record the tropical insects native to the region. In 1705, she published her most important work *Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium*.