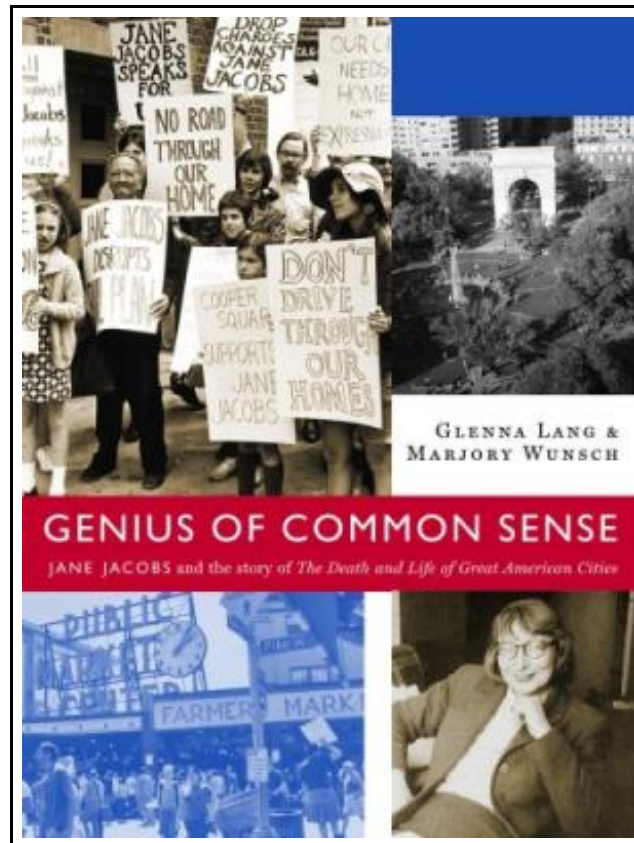


## Genius of Common Sense: Jane Jacobs & The Story of The Death & Life of Great American Cities



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## GENIUS OF COMMON SENSE: JANE JACOBS & THE STORY OF THE DEATH & LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES



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David R. Godine, 2009. Hardback/Cloth. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. 128pp Illustrated. [In stock in Australia, for immediate delivery] Three books, all written by women in the early 1960s, changed the way we looked at the world and ourselves: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, and Jane Jacobs's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. All three books created revolutions in their respective spheres of influence, and nothing affected city planning and architecture - or the way we think about how life is lived in densely packed urban centres - more than Jane Jacobs's far-sighted polemic. This was an era when the urban renewal movement was at its most aggressive, and Jacobs correctly perceived that the new structures that were being built to replace the aging housing of our older cities were often far worse, in both their impact on society and their architectural sterility, than what urban planners identified as the problem. She was ridiculed and pilloried by the establishment, but her ideas quickly took hold, and no one ever looked at what made for liveable and viable neighbourhoods the same way again. This is the first book for young people about this heroine of common sense, a woman who never attended college but whose observations, determination, and independent spirit led her to far different conclusions than those of the academics who surrounded her. Illustrated with almost 100 images, including a great number of photographs never before published, this story of a remarkable woman will introduce her ideas and her life to young readers, many of whom have grown up in neighbourhoods that were saved by her insights. It will inspire young people - and readers of all ages - and demonstrate that we learn vital life lessons from observing and thinking, and not just accepting what passes as conventional wisdom!....



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