

## New from Island Press

### Lake Effect

Two Sisters and a Town's Toxic Legacy

**Nancy A. Nichols**

Praise for *Lake Effect*:

“A chilling indictment of how government and big business prized profits over health and a moving tale of one woman’s struggle to understand why.” —*People* magazine (3 stars)

“Nichols constructs a fast-moving, urgent narrative that catalogues the evidence of the many different forms of pollution and the likelihood that they contributed to the cancers, documenting the choices and treatment she must face as a cancer patient.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

“A thoughtful examination of the risks faced by bodies made by nature in a world fabricated by technology.” —*Pittsburgh City Paper*

On her deathbed, Sue asked her sister for one thing: to write about the connection between the industrial pollution in their hometown and the rare cancer that was killing her. Fulfilling that promise has been Nancy Nichols’ mission for more than a decade.

*Lake Effect* is the story of her investigation. It reaches back to their childhood in Waukegan, Illinois, an industrial town on Lake Michigan once known for good factory jobs and great fishing. Now Waukegan is famous for its Superfund sites: as one resident put it, asbestos to the north, PCBs to the south.

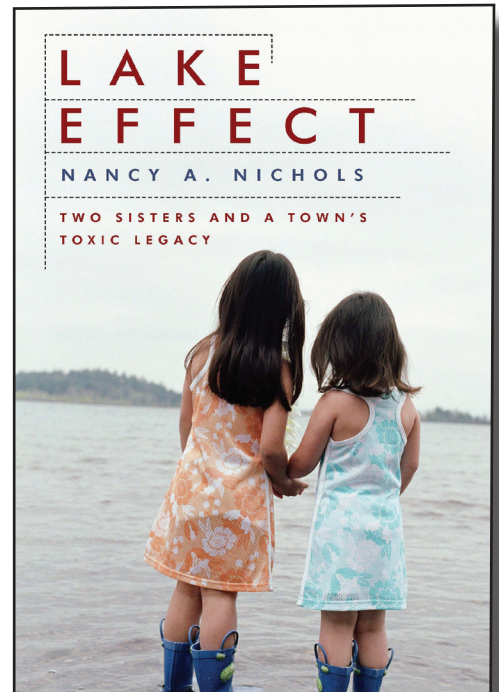
Drawing on her experience as a journalist, Nichols interviewed dozens of scientists, doctors, and environmentalists to determine if these pollutants could have played a role in her sister’s death. While researching Sue’s cancer, she discovered her own: a vicious though treatable form of pancreatic cancer. Doctors and even family urged her to forget causes and concentrate on cures, but Nichols knew that it was relentless questioning that had led to her diagnosis. And that it is questioning—by government as well as individuals—that could save other lives.

*Lake Effect* challenges us to ask why. It is the fulfillment of a sister’s promise. And it is a call to stop the pollution that is endangering the health of all our families.

**Nancy A. Nichols** is a journalist, editor, and broadcaster whose writing has appeared in *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Harvard Business Review*, and *The Nation*, among other publications.

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