



Ruth Kassinger Bio

Ruth Kassinger is an author and speaker who writes about the intersection of gardening, history, and science.

In addition to authoring three critically acclaimed books for adults and eight award-winning books for children, Kassinger has written for *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Health*, *National Geographic Explorer*, and other publications. She speaks regularly at conferences, bookstores, and with book groups.

Kassinger grew up in Baltimore, MD, and received a B.A. degree from Yale University and a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. She and her husband live in suburban Maryland.

Recent Books

Her latest book is "[Slime: How Algae Created Us, Plague Us, and Just Might Save Us](#)" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, June 2019). Algae created the Earth as we know it, with its oxygen-rich atmosphere, abundant oceans, and corals reefs. Crude oil is made of dead algae, and algae are the ancestors of all plants. Today, algae is big business, from seaweed snacks to biofuels to plastics. Kassinger takes readers on an around-the-world, behind-the-scenes, and into-the-kitchen tour of her subject, delighting and amazing with stories of the good, the bad, and the up-and-coming.

Kassinger is also the author of "[A Garden of Marvels: How We Discovered the Flowers Have Sex, Leaves Eat Air, and Other Secrets of Plants](#)" (Morrow/HarperCollins, February, 2014). Feeling frustrated by plants that fail to thrive, Kassinger sets out to understand the basics of botany and become a better gardener. To do so, she retraces the progress of the first botanists who discovered the basics of how plants work, and also visits modern gardeners, farmers, and botanists to discover the science behind extraordinary plants.