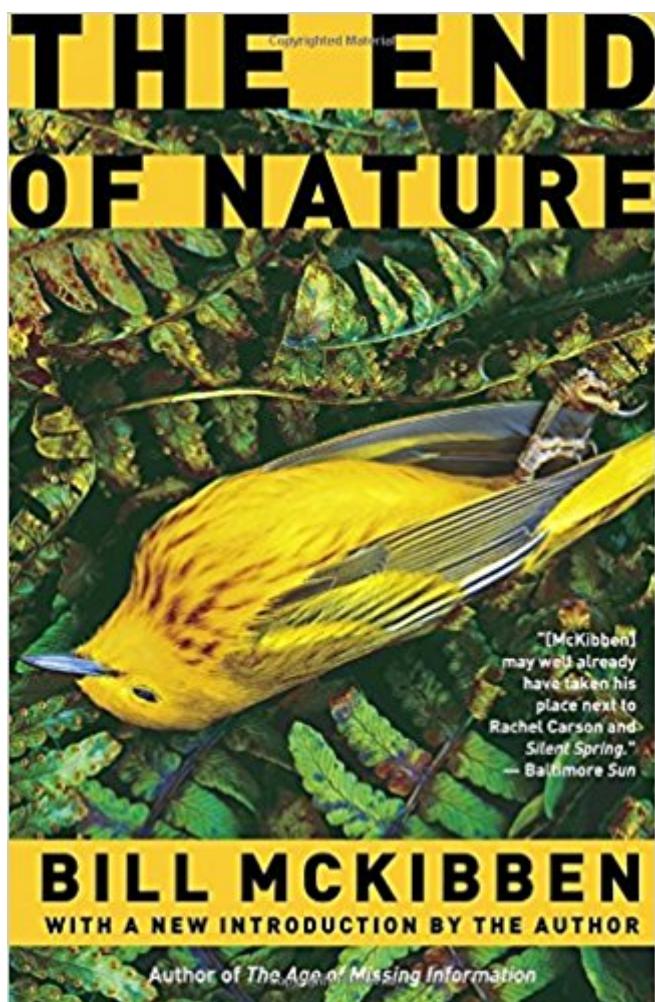


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The End Of Nature



Synopsis

Reissued on the tenth anniversary of its publication, this classic work on our environmental crisis features a new introduction by the author, reviewing both the progress and ground lost in the fight to save the earth. This impassioned plea for radical and life-renewing change is today still considered a groundbreaking work in environmental studies. McKibben's argument that the survival of the globe is dependent on a fundamental, philosophical shift in the way we relate to nature is more relevant than ever. McKibben writes of our earth's environmental cataclysm, addressing such core issues as the greenhouse effect, acid rain, and the depletion of the ozone layer. His new introduction addresses some of the latest environmental issues that have risen during the 1990s. The book also includes an invaluable new appendix of facts and figures that surveys the progress of the environmental movement. More than simply a handbook for survival or a doomsday catalog of scientific prediction, this classic, soulful lament on Nature is required reading for nature enthusiasts, activists, and concerned citizens alike.

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Customer Reviews

"Whatever we once thought Nature was--wildness, God, a simple place free from human thumbprints, or an intricate machinery sustaining life on Earth--we have now given it a kick that will change it forever. Humanity has stepped across a threshold. In his free-ranging and provocative book, Bill McKibben explores the philosophies and technologies that have brought us here, and he shows how final a crossing we have made." --James Gleick, author of Chaos

More than simply a handbook for survival or a doomsday catalog of scientific prediction, *The End Of Nature* is a groundbreaking plea for radical and life-renewing change. The author argues that for the world to survive, we must make a fundamental philosophical shift in the way we relate to nature.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bill lays out in no uncertain terms the choice before us. It's not extinction vs permanence, it's accepting limits vs forever managing the planet's life support systems ourselves. I was clearly born to be an engineer and as a teenager told my mother we would one day control the Earth. It would happen gradually, the way my great grandmother had a pace-maker to assist her ailing heart. We'll do the same to nature, gradually replacing its function with our own design. Think genetic engineering, then in its infancy when he wrote this book, now widely practiced in our food production, despite many objections. Bill's not optimistic about our ability to avoid this fate. Neither am I. But if you agree that it's worth trying, even in the face of failure, to preserve the mystery and power of nature, this book may give you some inspiration to keep trying.

Mr. McKibben's book demonstrates clearly how humans have rushed headlong into "improving" our mode of living and created massive injury to our homeplace: Earth. Hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis larger, more numerous and more destructive than we have ever seen before are showing us - if we are not too blind to see - that we are creating crises with ever-increasing speed. Earthquakes in places we have never seen before, huge oil and sludge spills that are killing our wildlife, destroying our vegetation, making neighborhoods unlivable in the foreseeable future: all are eloquent signals that we have no choice but to change our thinking and our behavior. This destruction did not begin in our century. It has merely picked up increasingly more speed as we go. Nature has been reliable in spite of our unreliability toward nature. We've never seen a living passenger pigeon, because it was made extinct by hunters more than a hundred years ago. Our salmon, trying to swim upriver to spawn, are running into dams that stop them. Some of us remember DDT. It was banned in this country decades ago, but we are still living with the consequences, with some birds' eggs with such thin shells that they are crushed before they can be hatched. Soon after WWII pregnant women were giving birth to deformed babies. Many of those babies died. The time has come to recognize our failing condition and change now. Mr. McKibben has spoken, eloquently .

Very interesting to read and learn about the beginning of our understanding of climate change.

Brings the scientific evidence to the forefront whether one chooses to believe or not. Obviously this was written some 25 years ago or so , so our science today is better informed. Still worth the time to read this to understand what all the controversy is about.

So, I am finally reading The End of Nature; one of my sisters who doesn't even read that much raved and told me to read it. I remember being so impressed by Bill McKibben when he published it (in the New Yorker I think), as he is the same age as me, and I admired such eloquence, scholarship and great writing from someone in their late twenties. And now, finally reading this book, I am thinking, well, I am even more impressed, because I am so struck by how beautiful the writing is in this book, on nature itself, and on man's view or idea of nature. The ideas of separateness, boundaries, limits, and humility, and that these are good things, run through my mind as I read this book. The problems existing in 1989 from global warming make me think that the book was written only recently. Anyway, I recently read Eaarth, Deep Economy, and Enough (another REAL eye-opener for me), and I surely appreciate this man (and his concern, and care, and action, to get us cracking on this big, big problem).

Quite a bit "out of date" at this time and a bit depressing though somewhat "optimistic" given present reality as perspective on its original release date. Still, the End of Nature is useful in its comprehensive treatment of the subject and remains what I believe to be an important read.

Having foresight on a whole list of issues is difficult and the future envisioned in this book is not far off the mark. The question Bill asks is whether the human race is able to be humble and to cut back, keeping the population at a manageable level, and to preserve the sacred and mystique aspects of nature that were envisioned by Thoreau and Muir. Humans have altered the planet past any resemblance that any child or grandchild will understand. It is littered by DDT and other toxic chemicals that speak to the work of men. It is full speed ahead, with a future of augmentation, biotechnology, virtual reality, and other transhumanist artificial heartbeats that are created as tools of men to fix all of the problems that we made for ourselves. And so like Bill, this isn't a world that I wish to be a part of and hopefully, I will be long dead before that happens, although I suspect that won't be the case. So in another hundred years, where great grandchildren stare at a virtual reality cyberspace in a world of terminal sin, where everything you do, say, think, or act is managed, tracked and controlled by mechanical implants where one is always distracted, controlled, and ON, is an escape to the wilderness to heal. Trees will be genetically altered to be straighter, people will

have virtual avatar bodies, nano-spores may be in the air, neural implants will be in skulls, and genetic engineering (decided to disregard eugenics with that one) may be the reality. Too bad, that people aren't as addicted to saving the environment like their Internet, gadgets, and other materialistic needs. Something, tells me that no one will be mad at Bill if he is proven right. A landmark book.

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