

The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us

By Diane Ackerman



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The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us By Diane Ackerman

Winner of the 2015 National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History Literature and the 2015 PEN New England Henry David Thoreau Prize.

A dazzling, inspiring tour through the ways that humans are working with nature to try to save the planet.

Ackerman is justly celebrated for her unique insight into the natural world and our place in it. In this landmark book, she confronts the unprecedented reality that one prodigiously intelligent and meddlesome creature, *Homo sapiens*, is now the dominant force shaping the future of planet Earth.

Humans have "subdued 75 percent of the land surface, concocted a wizardry of industrial and medical marvels, strung lights all across the darkness." We tinker with nature at every opportunity; we garden the planet with our preferred species of plants and animals, many of them invasive; and we have even altered the climate, threatening our own extinction. Yet we reckon with our own destructive capabilities in extraordinary acts of hope-filled creativity: we collect the DNA of vanishing species in a "frozen ark," equip orangutans with iPads, and create wearable technologies and synthetic species that might one day outsmart us. With her distinctive gift for making scientific discovery intelligible to the layperson, Ackerman takes us on an exhilarating journey through our new reality, introducing us to many of the people and ideas now creating—perhaps saving—our future and that of our fellow creatures.

A beguiling, optimistic engagement with the changes affecting every part of our lives, *The Human Age* is a wise and beautiful book that will astound, delight, and inform intelligent life for a long time to come.



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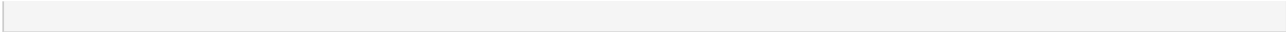
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Editorial Review

Review

“An ode to the planet we’ve created for ourselves... Rarely grim, and the overwhelming spirit is one of relentless optimism.” (Nathanial Rich - New York Times)

“[Ackerman] raises the bar for her peers...her penetrating insight is a joy to behold.” (Publishers Weekly, Starred review)

“Ackerman has established herself over the last quarter of a century as one of our most adventurous, charismatic, and engrossing public science writers...she has demonstrated a rare versatility, a contagious curiosity, and a gift for painting quick, memorable tableaux drawn from research across a panoply of disciplines. *The Human Age* displays all of these alluring qualities...*The Human Age* is a dazzling achievement: immensely readable, lively, polymathic, audacious.” (Rob Nixon - New York Times Book Review)

“Diane Ackerman’s vivid writing, inexhaustible stock of insights, and unquenchable optimism have established her as a national treasure, and as one of our great authors. You’re now about to become addicted to Diane Ackerman.” (Jared Diamond, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *The World Until Yesterday*)

“In this amazingly illuminating book, Diane Ackerman explains our future with her typically intoxicating blend of scholarship, wisdom, grace and humor.” (Siddhartha Mukherjee, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*)

“Diane Ackerman writes with brilliance, zest, and high style. In a difficult time, we need to hear this voice of human affirmation. It's important. It matters. I read *The Human Age* and thought, Yes! This is the way to look ahead.” (Jonathan Weiner, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Beak of the Finch* and *Long for this World*)

“*The Human Age* allows us to consider whether or not we will accept destruction or restoration as our legacy. I cannot imagine a richer text of image and insight, rendered with grace, intelligence and stamina.” (Terry Tempest Williams, author of *When Women Were Birds*)

“With this stirringly vivid, darkbright manifesto, Diane Ackerman summons us to the wager of sheer possibility: life against death, delight still (if only just barely) trouncing despair.” (Lawrence Weschler, author of *Everything that Rises*, Pulitzer Prize finalist)

“A book to dip around in?skimming some parts and perusing others with care?as your interest guides you, enjoying Ackerman’s profound sense of mind play as you go.” (Ben Dickinson - Elle)

“A hard look at the impact that humans have had on Earth... thought provoking.” (Kyle Anderson - Entertainment Weekly)

“Fascinating... Ackerman offers a cross-cultural tour of human ingenuity ... Her words invite us to feel the hope she feels.” (Barbara J. King - Washington Post)

“Part immersion memoir and part journalism... *The Human Age* is also many parts poetry.” (Beth Kephart - Chicago Tribune)

“[A] thought-provoking analysis of our connection to the earth... A lens that magnifies and clarifies the fascinating, far-reaching effects humans have had on our planet and ourselves.” (Lee E. Cart - Shelf Awareness)

“Ackerman is a gorgeous writer and perceptive observer. Here she writes with great empathy about the human plight.” (Kate Tuttle - Boston Globe)

“A humdinger of a book... Ackerman is optimistic, even exhilarated, and frequently giddy about the future of humanity.” (Jon Christensen - San Francisco Chronicle)

“Exquisite and startling.” (Tim Flannery - Harper's Magazine)

About the Author

Diane Ackerman has been the finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction in addition to many other awards and recognitions for her work, which include the best-selling *The Zookeeper's Wife* and *A Natural History of the Senses*. She lives in Ithaca, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Ellis:

Here thing why this kind of *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us* are different and trusted to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content than it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us* giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no reserve that similar with *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us*. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us* in e-book can be your substitute.

Kori Pierson:

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Bernice Cofield:

Typically the book The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Margarita Culbertson:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This book The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading that.

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