

The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us

By Diane Ackerman

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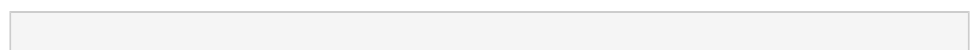
Winner of the 2015 National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History Literature and the 2015 PEN New England Henry David Thoreau Prize.

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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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:

Robert Johnson:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one having theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us* is kind of book which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Linda Henderson:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to the book. One of them is this *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us*.

Sandy Reid:

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expertise or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book than can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be study. The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us can be your answer since it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

Karen Delamora:

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