

The Climate Change Generation Faces Life on a Changed Planet

Twenty-two young writers explore what it means to come of age in an environmentally damaged world

Coming of Age at the End of Nature

by Julie Dunlap and Susan A. Cohen

Coming of Age at the End of Nature explores a new kind of environmental writing. This powerful anthology gathers the passionate voices of young writers who have grown up in an environmentally damaged and compromised world. Each contributor has come of age since Bill McKibben foretold the doom of humanity's ancient relationship with a pristine earth in his prescient 1988 warning of climate change, *The End of Nature*.

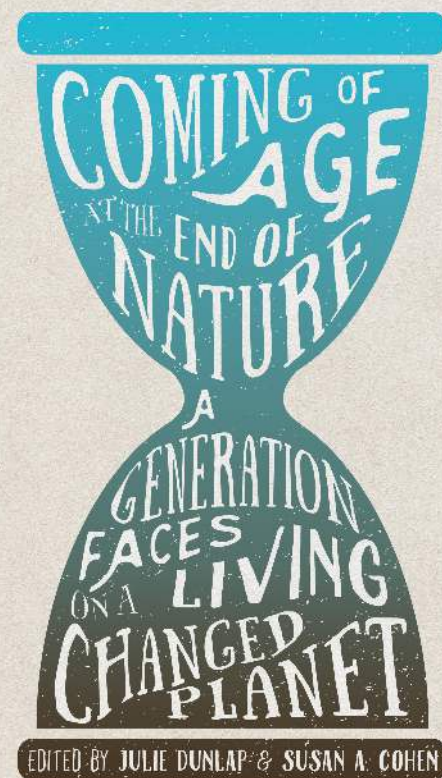
What happens to individuals and societies when their most fundamental cultural, historical, and ecological bonds weaken—or snap? In *Coming of Age at the End of Nature*, insightful millennials express their anger and love, dreams and fears, and sources of resilience for living and thriving on our shifting planet.

In the foreword for the book, Bill McKibben writes, “What was an abstract fear of climate change in the 1980s is, by the middle 2010s, a crisis so deep it’s possible to argue that we’ve simply waited too long to get started. I don’t quite believe that, which is why I spend my life as one in a great army of activists—a movement ably limned in these pages.”

Twenty-two essays explore wide-ranging themes that are paramount to young generations but that resonate with everyone, including redefining materialism and environmental justice, assessing the risk and promise of technology, and celebrating place anywhere from a wild Atlantic island to the Arizona desert, from Baltimore to Bangkok. The contributors speak with authority on problems facing us all, whether railing against the errors of past generations, reveling in their own adaptability, or insisting on a collective responsibility to do better. Their views, voices and expertise vary but their ultimate goal is the same.

CJ Goulding, an organizer at the Children & Nature Network, writes about what it means to be an African American nature leader and a role model for connecting children with outdoor spaces. Amy Coplen is a doctoral candidate at Portland State University who writes about cultivating an understanding of humans and non-human nature through food through the lens of making a tamale. Amelia Urry, a science and technology editor at Grist, uses her piece to sift through the changing memory and landscape of her grandfather's seaside home. Emily Schosid works at the Office of Energy and Sustainability at Virginia Tech and muses about how the way you choose to mop your floors can, literally, change the world.

Coming of Age at the End of Nature brings together twenty-two views that speak for the environmental leaders of the future. Taken as a whole, the work of these compelling young writers—some well published and others appearing in print for the first time—creates a space where everyone can listen and demand accelerated action for the future.



BOOK DETAILS

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ABOUT THE EDITORS

Julie Dunlap is a writer and researcher who teaches and develops environmental science and sustainability courses for the University of Maryland University College. She is a longtime board member of the Audubon Society of Central Maryland and the coeditor of *Companions in Wonder: Reflections on Children and Adults Exploring Outdoors Together*. She is the author of the children's books *John Muir and Stickeen*, *Louisa May and Mr. Thoreau's Flute*, and *Parks for the People: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted*, among others. She lives in Columbia, Maryland.

Susan A. Cohen is a professor of English and coordinator of creative writing at Anne Arundel Community College. She is the editor of *Shorewords: A Collection of American Women's Coastal Writings* and coeditor of *Wildbranch: An Anthology of Nature, Environmental, and Place-Based Writing*, and she is a founding member of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. She lives in Arnold, Maryland.

CONTRIBUTORS

Blair Braverman	Lisa Hupp
Jason Brown	Amaris Ketcham
Cameron Conaway	Megan Kimble
Elizabeth Cooke	Craig Maier
Amy Coplen	Abby McBride
Ben Cromwell	Lauren McCrady
Sierra Dickey	James Orbesen
Ben Goldfarb	Alycia Parnell
CJ Goulding	Emily Schosid
Bonnie Frye Hemphill	Danna Staaf
Lisa Hupp	William Thomas
Amaris Ketcham	Amelia Urry
Megan Kimble	



Julie Dunlap



Susan A. Cohen

Media Contact: Elena Meredith, 512-481-7096, elena@prbythebook.com

www.prbythebook.com