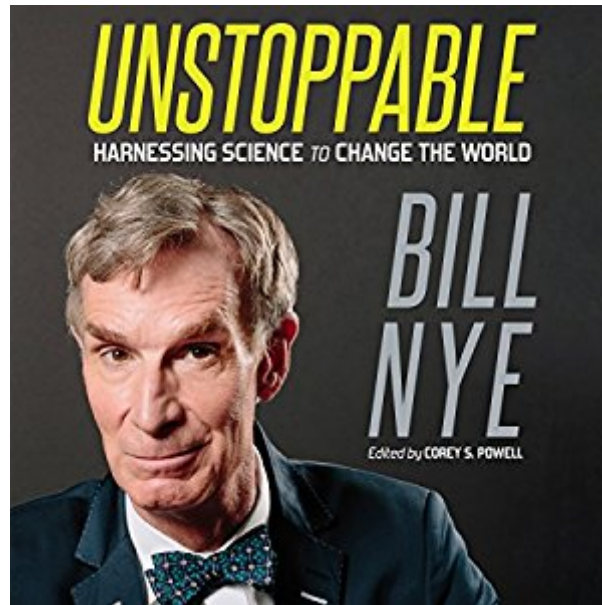


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Unstoppable: Harnessing Science To Change The World



Synopsis

Just as World War II called an earlier generation to greatness, so the climate crisis is calling today's rising youth to action: to create a better future. In *Unstoppable*, Bill Nye crystallizes and expands the message for which he is best known and beloved. That message is that with a combination of optimism and scientific curiosity, all obstacles become opportunities, and the possibilities of our world become limitless. With a scientist's thirst for knowledge and an engineer's vision of what can be, Bill Nye sees today's environmental issues not as insurmountable, depressing problems but as chances for our society to rise to the challenge and create a cleaner, healthier, smarter world. We need not accept that transportation consumes half our energy and that two-thirds of the energy you put into your car is immediately thrown away out the tailpipe. We need not accept that dangerous emissions are the price we must pay for a vibrant economy and a comfortable life. Above all, we need not accept that we will leave our children a planet that is dirty, overheated, and depleted of resources. As Bill shares his vision, he debunks some of the most persistent myths and misunderstandings about global warming. When you are done listening, you'll be enlightened and empowered. Chances are you'll be smiling, too, ready to join Bill and change the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World by Bill Nye's "Unstoppable" is a wonderful, upbeat plea to make a better world through science. It focuses on the many environmental challenges we face as a planet and provides hope through science and engineering

on what we can do to rise to address them. Mechanical engineer, science educator, and Emmy award-winning TV personality Bill Nye the Science Guy provides readers with yet another gem. This enjoyable 350-page book includes thirty-five chapters that cover a wide-range of topics pertaining to environmental issues.

Positives:

1. Entertaining, practical, well-written and well-researched book for the masses.
2. A great topic, how to harness science to change the world for the better. “To the Next Great Generation. Embrace science. Solve problems. Make things. Change the world.”
3. A pleasant, upbeat, engaging and sometimes even humorous tone throughout. Some of the topics are indeed alarming but Nye’s upbeat tone and practical knowhow emits confidence.
4. There is a love of science and engineering that is palpable throughout the book. Bill Nye loves the knowledge that science provides and the problem-solving attitude of engineering. “Engineers use science every day to build things and to solve problems, sometimes seemingly intractable problems.”
5. Many great topics discussed but this book revolves around climate change and its impact. “In recent years, you’ve probably heard a great many people speak about addressing climate change with lists of things we shouldn’t be doing—like burning fossil fuels, coal especially. That guidance is useful, but we need to focus more on the things we aggressively should be doing—like developing ways to store renewable energy.”
- 6.

Dealing with climate change requires a fundamental change in the way we think about and view our place on this planet—according to Bill Nye, we have to view our role as owners of this earth, rather than mere renters. The earth needs our constant attention and we have to be careful about what we put into the air, water, and land since we all share these resources.

In *Unstoppable*, Nye rejects the altruistic notion that we have to “save the earth”—the Earth isn’t going anywhere. It was here long before us humans, and will be here long after us. Also rejected is the notion that climate change has always occurred, will always occur, and that we shouldn’t worry about it. The truth, as is often the case between two such extremes, lies somewhere in the middle. The Earth doesn’t need saving. Rather, we need to keep the earth habitable for us! If we’re not good stewards, or responsible owners, then we run the risk of making our planet inhospitable and hostile to our continued survival. The goal, then, is to try and mitigate the effects of the global disaster that we have already created. With the amounts of carbon emissions that we are pumping into the atmosphere every second of every day, and the long-term trends that demonstrate the warmth and expansion of Earth’s waters, leading to changes in air and water currents, we’ve already created what amounts to an irreversible situation, or one that, if reversed, would take many, many hundreds of years. Hence the book’s title, *Unstoppable*. Rapid climate change is occurring, and

the havoc that it will wreak on our entire ecosystem is a force to be reckoned with.

When I first purchased this book I thought it strictly about climate change, global warming. Although the issue of climate change is clearly the main motivator of the text, more emphasis is placed on methods of efficiency, which for the most part mediates climate issues. That being said, I do not recommend this book to anybody who expects to read it and get a comprehensive summary on what climate change is and the evidence for it. Many ideas to improve the earth are covered and proposed, such as: carbon-free vehicles, efficient production of clean water, clean energy generation and use, and effective energy storage to name a few. Certain other things were interesting: I found it fascinating that Bill officially took a side on GMOs: he's pro GMO now. If anyone follows it closely, you might know that before he was unsure and skeptical of the benefits of GMOs when compared to possible unintended consequences. After visiting a few Monsanto and research facilities (and going to an anti-GMO rally), his mind changed. Most of the resistance he has seen to genetically modified foods has less to do with the perceived safety of the food or ecosystems but with a basic mistrust in large corporations. An interesting fact: about 30 percent of the earth is land for us plants and animals; humans farm about 11 percent of that dry land area; and yet 1 and 7 people are hungry. It's not that we don't have enough food he says, because experts estimate only about 55 percent of the calories we produce on farms get successfully incorporated into a human's diet. The only one other species with the power to change the climate of an entire planet, that's the cyanobacteria better known as the blue-green algae.

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