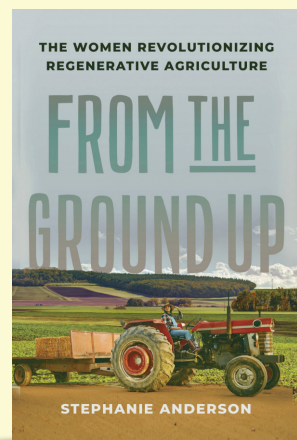


# CLIMATE CHANGE



## From the Ground Up The Women Revolutionizing Regenerative Agriculture

Stephanie Anderson, The New Press (NOV 19) Hardcover \$27.99 (256pp), 978-1-62097-894-8, WOMEN'S STUDIES

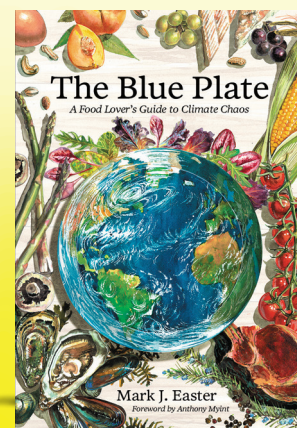
Stephanie Anderson's fascinating essay collection *From the Ground Up* is about the women who are pioneering change in the field of regenerative agriculture.

Recalling how the US's food system collapsed during the early days of COVID-19, this book first establishes how food systems involve all the participants and activities of the food industry. Thinking about how to prevent similar downfalls in periods of turmoil, Anderson turned to consider regenerative agriculture in greater depth; these farming and ranching practices "restore organic matter and biodiversity in soil." The book delves into what women are doing to implement this type of agriculture in a time when sustainability and holistic approaches to food are more important than ever.

The book dedicates each of its nine chapters to different areas of the food system, showing how specific women are influencing them. Many of the subjects are women of color, and the enormous influence of BIPOC people on regenerative agriculture is emphasized. Kelsey Scott is Native American and a fourth-generation rancher, while Chinese American Wen-Jay Ying owns Local Roots NYC, a CSA multifarm shop based in New York City. Scott's family uses a process called "disturbance" or regenerative rotational grazing in order to encourage the cattle to graze evenly, while Ying ensures that farmers can sell their products at a fair price. Stories about Anderson's life factor in as well, and such tales humanize what might otherwise be an esoteric topic. Technical information is also conveyed, as with statistics from the 2017 Census of Agriculture, revealing that beginning farmers make up 27 percent of the country's 3.4 million producers.

The essay collection *From the Ground Up* is a fascinating introduction to the world of regenerative agriculture.

CAROLINA CIUCCI



## The Blue Plate A Food Lover's Guide to Climate Chaos

Mark J. Easter, Patagonia (SEP 17) Hardcover \$30 (400pp) 978-1-952338-20-5, ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Ecologist Mark J. Easter's book *The Blue Plate* proposes means of creating sustainable food systems to address the challenges of climate change.

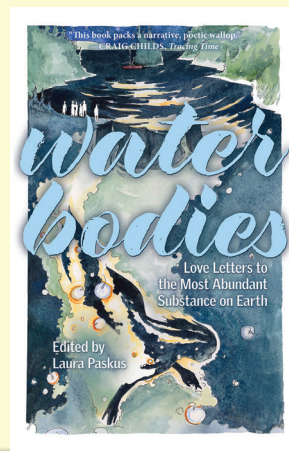
Divided into sections based around common favorite foods, each chapter highlights a type of ingredient, including beef and corn. At the macro level, the chapters address how the ingredients cause harm to the planet; then, they zoom in for a micro-level look at how their focal ingredients get from earth to table. Following the experiences of farmers, processors, and others in the food supply chain, the book argues that no current food systems exist without some element of ecological harm.

In addition to its doomsday elements, the book proposes hopeful solutions, with instructions on how to keep eating while taking steps toward a brighter environmental landscape. Its proposed solutions include cattle farms creating pastures for cows to graze on rather than relying on the fuel-intensive process of shipping in feed. Indeed, whether it's covering how to choose more sustainable alternatives or showing how farms and companies might create lower-carbon initiatives, the book highlights small solutions that work toward a future in which people are kinder to the environment.

The prose is clear and structured, following a distinct pattern throughout. It first names issues, then says why these are problems, and then illuminates first steps toward solutions. While it's easy to follow, the structure also becomes repetitive. Still, it serves the purpose of making the book educational without being preachy.

*The Blue Plate* is an excellent primer on where food comes from—with a reminder that if people are what they eat, they need to be conscientious about that consumption.

CHLOE CLARK



## Water Bodies Love Letters to the Most Abundant Substance on Earth

Laura Paskus (Editor), Torrey House Press (OCT 1) Softcover \$21.95 (150pp) 979-889092007-2 LITERARY COLLECTIONS

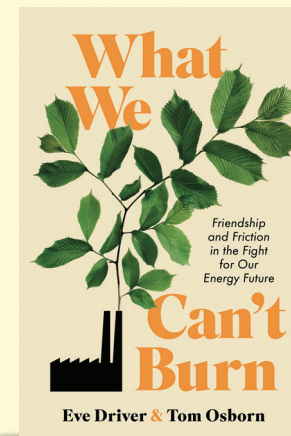
*Water Bodies*, edited by reporter Laura Paskus, is a mixed-genre anthology that serves as a paean to bodies of water.

"In this climate-changed world," the introduction intones, "we live in an ever-tightening present." It's a warning that hangs over the essays and poems, which focus on what different bodies of water mean. They are places of immense life, sanctuaries, and fierce forces of nature. Herein, though, each cool jump into the lake carries a reminder that the water used to be deeper.

Focused on the waterways of the American West, the essays jump between a dam in New Mexico, the Blackfoot River, and a dive from a cliff into a Wyoming lake. The water bodies in these entries are described in vibrant, grace-filled detail, as in Daniel Rothberg's "Lightweight," an ode to the Truckee River and the ecosystems it serves, and Kate Schimel's "What We Talk About When We Talk About Water," which asks whether water can be defined at all. And Sarah Gilman's standout poem "Surfacing" is entrancing, its visuals revealing how universal water is, including in the human body: "when I catch those snowflakes in my mouth, their melt water makes my throat a subterranean creek, feeds countless tributaries, fans through every delta in my flesh." The book does not dwell on the long-term effects of climate change but still leaves impressions of dwindling rivers and drying lake beds. Beyond their functions as resources, it implies, these waters are also dying because of a lack of human memory and imagination.

A reminder of how personal bodies of water are to those who inhabit and remember them, *Water Bodies* is a breathtaking and heartbreaking anthology focused on defining features of the American West.

CHLOE CLARK



## What We Can't Burn Friendship and Friction in the Fight for Our Energy Future

Eve Driver, Tom Osborn, Westwood Press (AUG 30) Hardcover \$27.95 (182pp), 978-1-958510-03-2 AUTOBIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

Eve Driver and Tom Osborn's spirited, conversational book *What We Can't Burn* concerns how activism and entrepreneurship might interact in the struggle to mitigate the climate crisis.

Driver and Osborn met as Harvard classmates. They shared a passion for environmentalism and social justice but took different approaches to these issues. Kenyan Osborn cofounded GreenChar straight out of high school to promote clean-burning household cooking fuels and limit tree felling; Driver's perspective was that of a protester and future policy advisor. Still, they joined forces in the college's divestment

movement, which met with success in 2021.

Driver and Osborn acknowledge their privileges related to race and wealth, as well as the challenges posed by cultural differences. For instance, when Driver first visited Kenya to volunteer with a gender violence prevention program, she stayed with members of Osborn's devout family, who panicked when they learned she was vegetarian.

The short chapters alternate between Driver's and Osborn's engaging perspectives. Their setup as an exchange of ideas and personal experiences resembles a Socratic dialogue, advancing toward harmony and modeling friendship rather than competition. They muse through the advantages and limitations of innovation and activism; they represent different foci, yet both of their perspectives are afforded respect. And although "measuring impact remains tricky," Driver and Osborn express hope that responsible funding and conscientious action can go hand in hand. The book's final section on resources lists reinvestment strategies, complementary nonprofits, and related literature.

*What We Can't Burn* is a practical activist's text that proposes a symbolic shift from duality to teamwork in the ongoing work of ensuring climate justice.

REBECCA FOSTER



## Landing the Paris Climate Agreement How It Happened, Why It Matters, and What Comes Next

Todd Stern, The MIT Press (OCT 8) Hardcover \$32.95 (264pp), 978-0-262-04914-6, POLITICAL SCIENCE

US Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern's insightful environmental history *Landing the Paris Climate Agreement* covers how the groundbreaking global pact came to be, explains its significance, and outlines the next steps.

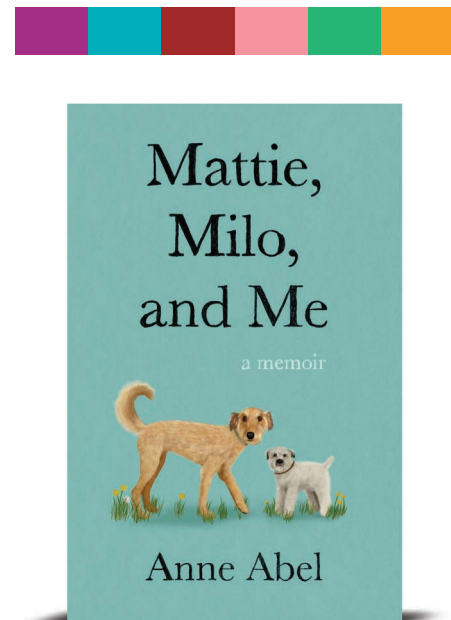
Stern, who served as the US's chief negotiator at the 2015 Paris Agreement, reveals the struggle to reach a consensus on containing climate change. This daunting feat required widespread cooperation and multifaceted action. Negotiations between ministers from across the globe are captured in this text, conveying the urgency of the climate crisis and the complexity of addressing it.

Stern covers White House strategy sessions and conference room discussions with figures including Denmark's environment minister; it's a fascinating look at diplomacy in action. Those who negotiated the agreement are sketched in with descriptions of the relationships they leveraged behind the scenes. There are memorable characterizations, including of a large, walrus-mustached negotiator who would hold forth "at inordinate length" on any subject. The tactics for getting developing countries on board, and the issues that China would or would not budge on, are also covered.

In addition to defending the agreement itself—reviewing the science, rebutting naysayers, and issuing a stirring call to action—Stern also contextualizes it by outlining the history of international efforts to tackle greenhouse gas emissions, recapping what happened afterward, and making it clear what is still left to be done. He's a candid narrator who addresses the logistical challenges involved in cleaning up energy and agricultural production too. Practical obstacles, including inertia and political and business interests, also receive space.

A legacy project, *Landing the Paris Climate Agreement* is an incisive history text covering one instance of world leaders coming together to combat climate change. ♥

JOSEPH S. PETE



Nonfiction—  
Autobiography & Memoir

## MATTIE, MILO, AND ME A Memoir

Anne Abel

288 pages, \$17.95,  
9781647426224

"A warm memoir about a woman's connection to—and transformation because of—her dog."

—Foreword Clarion Reviews

"A gorgeous meditation on unconditional love."

—Inga Glodowski, *The Moth*

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