



A STORY OF THE FUTURE

In less time than it will take to pay off a mortgage signed this year we'll see:

Climate change is the fundamental condition of life in the 21st century.

This isn't something that's going to happen: it's happening now. 500 year events – floods, fires – are daily news. We think these events might be it, but the change has only just begun – and while we can rein it in, climate change can no longer be stopped.

This is the biggest story in the world.

It is an existential crisis – a drama we're now haphazardly improvising between two hellish poles, in which our best-case outcome is death and suffering at the scale of 25 Holocausts and the worst-case outcome puts us on the brink of extinction.

So why don't we pay it more attention – intellectual, emotional, political?

David Wallace-Wells – author of the only article on climate change ever to go viral – tells us a story of this new world, one that will change your inner life even as it destroys your external realities.

The Uninhabitable Earth

DAVID WALLACE-WELLS

Heat Death

As many as 970 major cities will have average summertime temperatures of 35°C and the number of people exposed to that deadly heat could grow to 1.6 billion.

Hunger

As many as 150 million people in the developing world will be at risk of protein deficiency as a result of nutrient collapse.

Drowning

As soon as 2050 Jakarta could be entirely underwater; by 2100, 5% of the world's population will be flooded every single year.

Wildfire

Destruction from American wildfires will double, and in some places the area burned could grow fivefold.

Disasters No Longer Natural

By 2070, Asian megacities could lose as much as US\$35 trillion in assets due to storms, up from just \$3 trillion in 2005.

Freshwater Drain

5 billion people could have poor access to fresh water.

Dying Oceans

Ocean warming and acidification will threaten 90% of all reefs. By 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

Unbreathable Air

By the 2090s, as many as two billion people globally will be breathing air above the threshold of safety established by the WHO.

Plagues of Warming

Diseases which have been trapped in ice – from smallpox to the bubonic plague to million-year-old bugs – could be released into the atmosphere.

Economic Collapse

By the end of the century, per-capita economic output could be cut by 30% – a trough twice as deep as that of the Great Depression, which helped produce a wave of fascism, authoritarianism and genocide.



'Riveting'

Economist

'I've not stopped talking about *The Uninhabitable Earth* since I opened the first page. And I want every single person on this planet to read it'

*Andrea Wulf, author of *The Invention of Nature**

'If you read just one work of non-fiction this year, it should be this'

Evening Standard

'This is a profound book, which simultaneously makes me terrified and hopeful about the future, full of regret and new will'

Jonathan Safran Foer

'Dazzling'

Daily Telegraph

'A must-read. It's not only the grandkids and the kids: it's you. And it's not only those in other countries: it's you'

Margaret Atwood, Twitter

'This generation's *Silent Spring*'

Washington Post

'Urgent and elegant prose, a stirring wake-up call to recognize how global warming will permanently alter every aspect of human life'

Best Nonfiction Books of 2019 So Far, Time

'Brilliant, remorseless'

John Lanchester, The New York Times Book Review

'Everyone should stop what they're doing and read *The Uninhabitable Earth* by @dwallacewells. This is our future if we don't act now'

Johann Hari, Twitter

'Urgently readable, this is an epoch-defining book'

Matt Haig, Guardian

'Relentless, angry journalism of the highest order. Read it and, for the lack of any more useful response, weep'

Bryan Appleyard, The Sunday Times

'Wake up! Get educated – *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace Wells is a great place to start'

Paris Lees, Vogue

'Wallace-Wells shocks us out of complacency'

Prospect

'Just finished *The Uninhabitable Earth* by @dwallacewells. Everyone, everywhere, should read it. Can't remember the last time a book had such an impact on me'

*Rutger Bregman, author of *Utopia for Realists*, Twitter*

'A masterly analysis'

Nature

'Wallace-Wells is an extremely adept storyteller, simultaneously urgent and humane'

Slate

'A sensation'

Sunday Times

'Well-written, captivating, occasionally wry and utterly petrifying'

i News

'The most terrifying book I have ever read . . . a meticulously documented, white-knuckled tour through the cascading catastrophes that will soon engulf our warming planet'

The New York Times

'A lucid and thorough description of our unprecedented crisis, and of the mechanisms of denial with which we seek to avoid its fullest recognition'

William Gibson

'*The Uninhabitable Earth* hits you like a comet'

Andrew Solomon