

Shortlisted Book for the 2024-2025

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Jeff Goodell

The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet

Date: 2023

List price: \$29 hardback (paperback release July 2024)

Publisher website: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/jeff-goodell/the-heat-will-kill-you-first/9780316497572/?lens=little-brown>

Publisher description:

The world is waking up to a new reality: wildfires are now seasonal in California, the Northeast is getting less and less snow each winter, and the ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctica are melting fast. Heat is the first-order threat that drives all other impacts of the climate crisis. And as the temperature rises, it is revealing fault lines in our governments, our politics, our economy, and our values. The basic science is not complicated: Stop burning fossil fuels tomorrow, and the global temperature will stop rising tomorrow. Stop burning fossil fuels in 50 years, and the temperature will keep rising for 50 years, making parts of our planet virtually uninhabitable. It's up to us. The hotter it gets, the deeper and wider our fault lines will open. *The Heat Will Kill You First* is about the extreme ways in which our planet is already changing. It is about why spring is coming a few weeks earlier and fall is coming a few weeks later and the impact that will have on everything from our food supply to disease outbreaks. It is about what will happen to our lives and our communities when typical summer days in Chicago or Boston go from 90° F to 110°F. Masterfully reported, mixing the latest scientific insight with on-the-ground storytelling, Jeff Goodell tackles the big questions and uncovers how extreme heat is a force beyond anything we have reckoned with before.

This book is shortlisted for the 2024-2025 Book in Common because

- *It is engaging to students and to a broad audience.* Longtime climate journalist Goodell conveys broad information about rising temperatures with passion, urgency, and command of the material.
- *It has broad appeal across disciplines.* This book will have particular interest to the diverse disciplines within the College of Agriculture; the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; and the College of Natural Sciences.
- *It is relevant and timely.* The last years were the hottest ever recorded, and in the next decade the Earth is likely to pass a critical temperature threshold. Focusing on the urgency of rising heat levels, including the connection to increased wildfires and floods (particularly urgent in our university service area), is a vital priority in a quickly changing world.
- *It relates to the university mission.* This book connects to the Strategic Priority of “Resilient and Sustainable Systems” and would honor our pledge to “integrate sustainability and resilience into curriculum” as well as “cultivate knowledge, research and practice to increase awareness that our individual and collective actions have impact regionally, nationally, and globally.”