



The World Without Us

By Alan Weisman

Download now

Read Online ➔

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman

A penetrating, page-turning tour of a post-human Earth

In *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman offers an utterly original approach to questions of humanity's impact on the planet: he asks us to envision our Earth, without us. In this far-reaching narrative, Weisman explains how our massive infrastructure would collapse and finally vanish without human presence; which everyday items may become immortalized as fossils; how copper pipes and wiring would be crushed into mere seams of reddish rock; why some of our earliest buildings might be the last architecture left; and how plastic, bronze sculpture, radio waves, and some man-made molecules may be our most lasting gifts to the universe.

The World Without Us reveals how, just days after humans disappear, floods in New York's subways would start eroding the city's foundations, and how, as the world's cities crumble, asphalt jungles would give way to real ones. It describes the distinct ways that organic and chemically treated farms would revert to wild, how billions more birds would flourish, and how cockroaches in unheated cities would perish without us. Drawing on the expertise of engineers, atmospheric scientists, art conservators, zoologists, oil refiners, marine biologists, astrophysicists, religious leaders from rabbis to the Dali Lama, and paleontologists---who describe a prehuman world inhabited by megafauna like giant sloths that stood taller than mammoths---Weisman illustrates what the planet might be like today, if not for us.

From places already devoid of humans (a last fragment of primeval European forest; the Korean DMZ; Chernobyl), Weisman reveals Earth's tremendous capacity for self-healing. As he shows which human devastations are indelible, and which examples of our highest art and culture would endure longest, Weisman's narrative ultimately drives toward a radical but persuasive solution that needn't depend on our demise. It is narrative nonfiction at its finest, and in posing an irresistible concept with both gravity and a highly readable touch, it looks deeply at our effects on the planet in a way that no other book has.

↓ [Download The World Without Us ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The World Without Us ...pdf](#)

The World Without Us

By Alan Weisman

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman

A penetrating, page-turning tour of a post-human Earth

In *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman offers an utterly original approach to questions of humanity's impact on the planet: he asks us to envision our Earth, without us. In this far-reaching narrative, Weisman explains how our massive infrastructure would collapse and finally vanish without human presence; which everyday items may become immortalized as fossils; how copper pipes and wiring would be crushed into mere seams of reddish rock; why some of our earliest buildings might be the last architecture left; and how plastic, bronze sculpture, radio waves, and some man-made molecules may be our most lasting gifts to the universe.

The World Without Us reveals how, just days after humans disappear, floods in New York's subways would start eroding the city's foundations, and how, as the world's cities crumble, asphalt jungles would give way to real ones. It describes the distinct ways that organic and chemically treated farms would revert to wild, how billions more birds would flourish, and how cockroaches in unheated cities would perish without us.

Drawing on the expertise of engineers, atmospheric scientists, art conservators, zoologists, oil refiners, marine biologists, astrophysicists, religious leaders from rabbis to the Dalai Lama, and paleontologists---who describe a prehuman world inhabited by megafauna like giant sloths that stood taller than mammoths---Weisman illustrates what the planet might be like today, if not for us.

From places already devoid of humans (a last fragment of primeval European forest; the Korean DMZ; Chernobyl), Weisman reveals Earth's tremendous capacity for self-healing. As he shows which human devastations are indelible, and which examples of our highest art and culture would endure longest, Weisman's narrative ultimately drives toward a radical but persuasive solution that needn't depend on our demise. It is narrative nonfiction at its finest, and in posing an irresistible concept with both gravity and a highly readable touch, it looks deeply at our effects on the planet in a way that no other book has.

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #412373 in Books
- Brand: Thomas Dunne Books
- Published on: 2007-07-10
- Released on: 2007-07-10
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.23" h x 1.17" w x 6.73" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 336 pages

 [**Download** The World Without Us ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** The World Without Us ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. If a virulent virus—or even the Rapture—depopulated Earth overnight, how long before all trace of humankind vanished? That's the provocative, and occasionally puckish, question posed by Weisman (*An Echo in My Blood*) in this imaginative hybrid of solid science reporting and morbid speculation. Days after our disappearance, pumps keeping Manhattan's subways dry would fail, tunnels would flood, soil under streets would sluice away and the foundations of towering skyscrapers built to last for centuries would start to crumble. At the other end of the chronological spectrum, anything made of bronze might survive in recognizable form for millions of years—along with one billion pounds of degraded but almost indestructible plastics manufactured since the mid-20th century. Meanwhile, land freed from mankind's environmentally poisonous footprint would quickly reconstitute itself, as in Chernobyl, where animal life has returned after 1986's deadly radiation leak, and in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, a refuge since 1953 for the almost-extinct goral mountain goat and Amur leopard. From a patch of primeval forest in Poland to monumental underground villages in Turkey, Weisman's enthralling tour of the world of tomorrow explores what little will remain of ancient times while anticipating, often poetically, what a planet without us would be like. (July)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [The New Yorker](#)

Teasing out the consequences of a simple thought experiment—what would happen if the human species were suddenly extinguished—Weisman has written a sort of pop-science ghost story, in which the whole earth is the haunted house. Among the highlights: with pumps not working, the New York City subways would fill with water within days, while weeds and then trees would retake the buckled streets and wild predators would ravage the domesticated dogs. Texas's unattended petrochemical complexes might ignite, scattering hydrogen cyanide to the winds—a "mini chemical nuclear winter." After thousands of years, the Chunnel, rubber tires, and more than a billion tons of plastic might remain, but eventually a polymer-eating microbe could evolve, and, with the spectacular return of fish and bird populations, the earth might revert to Eden.

Copyright © 2007 [Click here to subscribe to The New Yorker](#)

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Perhaps operating on the assumption that he won't be around, Alan Weisman gets a head start on measuring the global human footprint. Although he doesn't intend *The World Without Us* to be an explicitly environmental work, the specter of global warming hangs over the book like a heavy toxic cloud. Some reviewers wonder whether all the doom and gloom is necessary: Why investigate a question that skirts the underlying cause of the problem? That said, Weisman, a professor at the University of Arizona, has done his research and collected a wide range of data to support his findings, which he delivers in graceful, entertaining prose. We think Michael Grunwald's review in the *Washington Post* sums it up nicely: sure the book's trivia. Quite a few of us like that.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Barry:

Here thing why that The World Without Us are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as delightful as food or not. The World Without Us giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with The World Without Us. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your approach home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The World Without Us in e-book can be your alternative.

Neil Owens:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this The World Without Us.

Blanche Ball:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this The World Without Us guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still skepticism The World Without Us as good book but not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Debra Becnel:

This The World Without Us is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great coordinate word or we can point out no rambling sentences included. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having The World Without Us in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world inside ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt that?

Download and Read Online The World Without Us By Alan Weisman #FMU6N9KSIZD

Read The World Without Us By Alan Weisman for online ebook

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The World Without Us By Alan Weisman books to read online.

Online The World Without Us By Alan Weisman ebook PDF download

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman Doc

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman Mobipocket

The World Without Us By Alan Weisman EPub