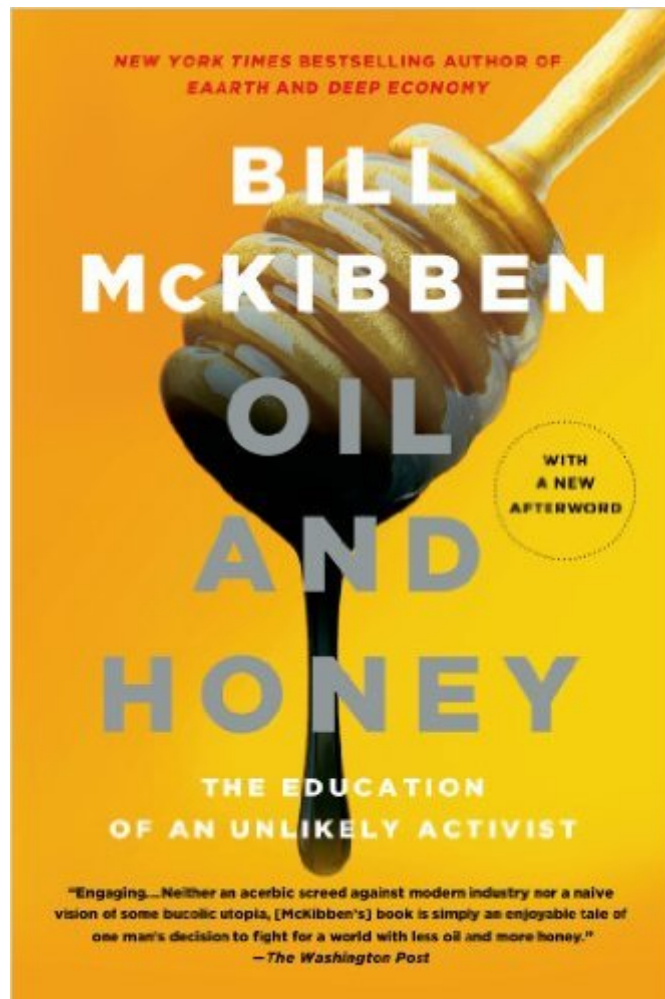


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Oil And Honey: The Education Of An Unlikely Activist



Synopsis

Bestselling author and environmental activist Bill McKibben recounts the personal and global story of the fight to build and preserve a sustainable planet. Bill McKibben is not a person you'd expect to find handcuffed and behind bars, but that's where he found himself in the summer of 2011 after leading the largest civil disobedience in thirty years, protesting the Keystone XL pipeline in front of the White House. With the Arctic melting, the Midwest in drought, and Irene scouring the Atlantic, McKibben recognized that action was needed if solutions were to be found. Some of those would come at the local level, where McKibben joins forces with a Vermont beekeeper raising his hives as part of the growing trend toward local food. Other solutions would come from a much larger fight against the fossil-fuel industry as a whole. *Oil and Honey* is McKibben's account of these two necessary and mutually reinforcing sides of the global climate fight— from the center of the maelstrom and from the growing hive of small-scale local answers to climate change. With empathy and passion he makes the case for a renewed commitment on both levels of the fight to stop global warming, telling the story of raising one year's honey crop and building a social movement that's still cresting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't think that McKibben is capable of writing anything that isn't captivating and informative. He draws readers and idealistic people in as his beloved bees are drawn to flowers full of honey. Consider just this passage, which comes after he has described the White House demonstration

campaign that (deliberately) landed him and protesters in jail:"Perhaps I've given the impression that I'm a courageous fellow, ready to trot off to jail at the drop of a hat, able to stare down presidential aides. That would be not quite true. In fact, on the long list of things that scare me, bee stings rank fairly high. And with some reason. Once, wandering the woods a mile or so behind the house where I lived for many-years in the wild Adirondacks, I stepped on a yellow jacket nest. As usual I was lost in some reverie, when all of a sudden a drench of incandescent pain splashed up my stomach toward my head . . . "This is pure McKibben. He is able to step back from his intense commitments and look at himself and events with an amazingly relaxed and often humorous detachment and humility. He refuses to go on the attack, show hostility even to dedicated adversaries (like the fossil fuel industry and Republican Congressmen). All his energies go into making effective arguments, mobilizing people and formulating strategies. That rare ability to retain an independent mind at the same time as he engages in aggressive campaigning reminds me of the famous book by Frederick Douglass, "My Bondage and My Freedom". Escaping slavery to the North before the Civil War, Douglass became one of the most effective orators and agitators for the abolition of slavery.

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