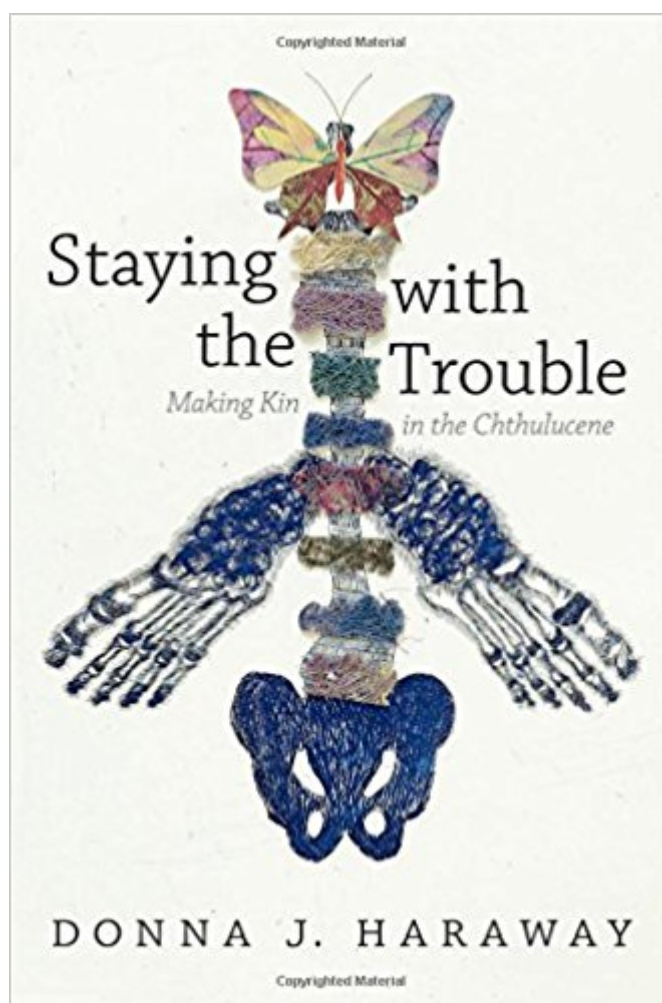


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# Staying With The Trouble: Making Kin In The Chthulucene (Experimental Futures)



## Synopsis

In the midst of spiraling ecological devastation, multispecies feminist theorist Donna J. Haraway offers provocative new ways to reconfigure our relations to the earth and all its inhabitants. She eschews referring to our current epoch as the Anthropocene, preferring to conceptualize it as what she calls the Chthulucene, as it more aptly and fully describes our epoch as one in which the human and nonhuman are inextricably linked in tentacular practices. The Chthulucene, Haraway explains, requires sym-poiesis, or making-with, rather than auto-poiesis, or self-making. Learning to stay with the trouble of living and dying together on a damaged earth will prove more conducive to the kind of thinking that would provide the means to building more livable futures. Theoretically and methodologically driven by the signifier SFâ "string figures, science fact, science fiction, speculative feminism, speculative fabulation, so farâ "Staying with the Trouble further cements Haraway's reputation as one of the most daring and original thinkers of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Staying with the Trouble is written with love and rage, making it felt what it takes not to turn one's back against the demands of this terrible time which some dare to call the Anthropocene. Donna J. Haraway mobilizes the power of words, images, and tales to shake off the dual temptation of faith in providential technofixes and of bitter 'game over' pseudo-wisdom. Her book forcefully demands that we consent to participate in the ongoingness of the world." (Isabelle Stengers, author of *In Catastrophic Times: Resisting the Coming Barbarism*)"Donna J. Haraway

asks how to think-with, live-with, and be-with other planetary organisms in a world that does not forget how much ecological trouble it is in. This is not to lament at the world's destruction, but to see afresh what the possibilities of life have always been. Staying with the Trouble is at once a compelling sequel to a series of major works, a manifesto full of intellectual energy to put beside her famous Cyborg Manifesto, and at the same time only a momentary resting place in a life still committed to making us think." (Marilyn Strathern, Cambridge University)"In Staying with the Trouble, we find real SF: science fiction, science fact, science fantasy, speculative feminism, speculative fabulation, string figures, so far. So many ways to look at the world and ourselves, so many complicated ideas on how we critters will survive and thrive and die in the disturbing Chthulucene. Haraway is difficult to read. But the effort required is worth it." (Nancy Jane Moore Cascadia Subduction Zone 2016-10-17)"Chthulucene is not a simple word, yet it is a productive motif for Haraway. With it she laces ideas from urban pigeons, woolen coral reefs, writing workshops, Inupiat computer games, canine estrogen and Black Mesa sheep. The thready and the tentacular form the subject and the framework of her theory-making, as well as the structure of her writing." (Archie Davies Antipode 2016-10-26)"Staying with the Trouble is Haraway at her most accessible. Readers familiar with her work will recognize her characteristic style and language, polysemous metaphors co-mingle with evocative refrains, deep etymological readings, and even the occasional sentence with internal rhyme schemes. . . . This is a work to provoke and inspire. It is a call to arms (or pseudopods as the case may be)!" (Matt Thompson Savage Minds 2016-11-18)"[W]e should take seriously the implications of kin versus family, of kin as encompassing all non-human relations. There is an ethics here, on a micro and macro level. Haraway is no moralist, but replacing 'human relations' with 'kin' arguably brings about a transformation in our hierarchies and priorities - why not care as much about a wildflower as you do about your niece? If it is not a zero-sum game, and let us hope it is not, we can make room for all kinds of lives, and all kinds of ways of living. Staying with the trouble is also a matter of sticking with all the things that currently live and will die alongside us, whether we cause it or notice it or not." (Nina Power Spike 2017-01-01)"Haraway models like few others deep intellectual generosity and curiosity. Staying with the Trouble cites students, thinks with community activists and artists, and writes alongside scientists and fiction writers. Haraway does not want you to read her; she wants you to read with her. She also insists on conversations with all kinds of storytellers: academics or not, humans or not, environmental humanities scholars or not." (Astrida Neimanis Australian Feminist Studies)"The book enacts different forms of analysis and activism. It is not only that the book transcends disciplinary boundaries of biology, sciences studies, art history,

philosophy and dense descriptions of political activism most often found in social sciences. These approaches are interwoven in a very rich and exquisite manner for which the author is well known." (Waltraud Ernst Angelaki 2017-05-17)"Haraway is probably as aware as a writer can be that what she has to offer at the moment is nowhere near enough to engage with all the "trouble" that needs to be engaged with. All she can do, she seems to be saying, is to stay with it a while, worrying at the very edges of her capacity, and then pass it on. "We need each other's risk-taking support, in conflict and collaboration, big time," is how she ends that infamous two-page endnote. "The answer to the trust of the held-out hand," as she also puts it. "Think we must." (Jenny Turner London Review of Books 2017-06-01)

Donna J. Haraway is Distinguished Professor Emerita in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the author of several books, most recently, *Manifestly Haraway*.

Donna Haraway is one of my favorite feminist theorist!She is brilliant!

Climate change and the onset of the Anthropocene, or Cthulucene as Haraway prefers to call it, calls for new ways of being and different stories to the ones we've been telling each other. Rather than an individualistic, capital M Man story, we need earthier, more entangled stories that will guide us in tough decisions about who lives and who dies, for whom we are and are not responsible in a finite world. This is a book about avoiding two mental places that are not helpful: denial on one hand or "game over" on the other. Instead, we need to stay with this trouble, and Haraway provides a lively philosophy for doing that.

I cannot believe I am the first here to review this book. No doubt I will disagree with some of it's contents, but already it's said so many vital things about the hope and disillusionment that must be the constant companion of any engaged person in these times. I am delighted with what is being said and the grace with which it is spoken. Thank you.

great book

Great wiring, stimulated my thinking

Haraway puts her unique blend of virtuosic wordplay and broad humanistic and scientific understanding into the service of helping us think about the contemporary state of the world in constructive ways. This is about not dismissing climate change and other huge threats because we can do nothing about them, and also not imagining we have the power to "fix" them, but embracing this moment because it is all that we have, and life is worth it. The constant repetitions of certain phrases and images can be irritating, until you see this as a sort of poem or performance piece that is trying to keep you in the present moment while connecting you to ideas, people, places, and especially species you had never felt kinship to before.

This is a rarity--a book that clear-sightedly addresses the troublesome issue of climate change and general environmental degradation, yet is not relentlessly depressing. Haraway plays with words and ideas, producing a mind-bending work that pushes the reader off center. ONLY by breaking out of our current paradigm, invisible in its ubiquity, can we move forward. A wordsmith, the author does spend a lot of time on terminology, and a bit egotistically champions her own phrases, but the journey she offers is well worth the pedantry. It matter what thoughts think thoughts. It matters what words express ideas.

A sufficiently-strange alternative to letting fear of what's to come turn off your brain; and a call not to arms but to tentacles! This books is truly good for thinking.

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