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"It is the collection's pervasive sense of hope for the world that sets apart these provocative, beautifully written essays."

—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"An active life indeed . . . McKibben has emerged as a sharp but courtly social critic whose surveys are at once obvious and subtle . . . A welcome anthology whose constituent pieces, all well written, retain every bit of their urgency."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Readers familiar with McKibben's work won't want to miss this eclectic collection . . . Readers new to McKibben will be entertained, informed, and perhaps even inspired to make the positive changes that McKibben desires for the world."

—*Library Journal*

THE BILL MCKIBBEN READER

Pieces from an Active Life

by Bill McKibben

THE BILL MCKIBBEN READER: Pieces from an Active Life (Holt Paperbacks/an imprint of Henry Holt and Company; March 4, 2008) is an anthology of forty-four powerful essays on living and being in the world from the bestselling author of *The End of Nature* and *Deep Economy*. Compiled from a diversity of sources, including *The New Yorker*, *Outside*, *Christian Century*, and *Harper's*, the collection spans Bill McKibben's career from writer to activist.

Inspired by his explorations into our relationship with the natural world, McKibben writes provocatively on the great challenges we face as a people and a planet. Even while starkly reporting on profound twenty-first-century perils like global warming, genetic engineering, and the disappearing natural world, he sees hope and optimism in human nature and our shared future. Throughout, McKibben charts his own growth as a writer and an activist, often conflicting roles that ultimately enrich his commitment to both. With signature humor and

warmth, McKibben reminds us, first and foremost, of what it is we love in this world and why it's all worth protecting.

THE BILL MCKIBBEN READER discusses a number of important themes:

— The moral question of human restoration. This means not just restoring endangered habitats but fundamentally restructuring our own communities so future prosperity doesn't come at the direct expense of the planet.

— The changing landscape of twenty-first-century activism and the profound challenges ahead. With commentary from twenty years spent at the heart of the environmental movement, the book will inspire readers with stories of how far we've come in changing attitudes.

— The profound importance of local communities in nurturing working economies and cultures. As in his national bestseller *Deep Economy*, McKibben shows how an economy built for endless growth creates conflict between the twin desires for "more" and "better," and ultimately fails to make us happier.

— What it means to be both a Christian and an environmentalist. McKibben shows how rethinking the lessons of Job and Matthew can grow into an abiding compassion for the natural world.

— The role of solitude in modern society, of peace and quiet for the mind, when the next new technological gadget continuously demands our attention.

— How successful environmental reform is taking place around the planet, from sustainable farming solutions born out of trade embargoes in Cuba to the example set by a Brazilian city that cured its congestion problem by turning its urban center into a pedestrian plaza.

About the Author

Bill McKibben is the author of a dozen books, including *The End of Nature* and *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. A former staff writer for *The New Yorker*, he writes regularly for *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The New York Review of Books*, among other publications. In April 2007 he organized the Step It Up national day of rallies, the largest global-warming protest to date. He is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College and lives in Vermont with his wife, the writer Sue Halpern, and their daughter.

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For more information about Bill McKibben and his books, please visit www.billmckibben.com