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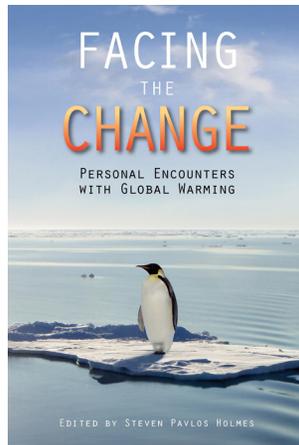
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FACING THE CHANGE

Personal Encounters with Global Warming

Edited by Steven Pavlos Holmes

A ForeWord Reviews Book of the Year Award Finalist



Filled not with bare facts and dire warnings but with evocative, accessible stories, essays, and poetry, *Facing the Change* shows how global warming affects our day-to-day lives. A wide range of writers and poets from across the United States—and Malaysia—brings courage, honesty, and insight to one of the major issues of our time.

This multifaceted collection of voices moves beyond facts, figures, and inches of melted ice to personal experiences and everyday concerns: a flooded basement, a snowshoe hare clearly visible in a snowless landscape, an epiphany had while hanging laundry out to dry. Award-winning writers and brand new voices alike are included in this unique anthology.

These writers, as editor Steven Pavlos Holmes states in the Introduction, are “our emotional and cultural first responders to climate change.” They show up at this disaster-in-the-making with essays, stories, poems, and honesty, letting us know that we’re not alone, and that together we must face the change.

ISBN: 978-1-937226-27-5 | October 2013 | \$14.95 | Trade Paper | 161 pp

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Praise for *Facing the Change*

“One puts down this book...with a real sense of hope for the future. It is also a book worth dipping into from time to time, yielding enough variety to sustain a re-reading, enough urgency in its many voices to remind us why we need to act, and enough wisdom in its insights to persuade us that we can each make a difference.”
—**GREEN LETTERS: STUDIES IN ECOCRITICISM**

“Amidst the current deluge of statistics about global warming, this book provides a refreshing look at how individuals are affected. This is a beautiful book to keep near, open at random, and share the words of gifted writers as they prepare for the coming changes.” —**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

“Holmes has assembled a rich, varied collection of personal accounts and poems...An artistic and intimate approach to the problem that humanizes our concerns.” —**BOOKLIST**

“Holmes has gathered compelling testimonies about the ways our earthly home is changing in the short space of our own lifetimes. They beg us to pay attention and act. We are wise to heed these passionate voices.” —**Chip Ward**, author of *Hope's Horizon: Three Visions For Healing The American Land*

“These earnest and heartfelt poems, essays, and imaginings change our discourse from data to personal testimony, channeling ‘care and concern.’ Maybe, just maybe, these authors who call us to ‘unheroic’ action ‘on life’s behalf’ will steer us away from tragedy and chaos.”
—**Stephen Trimble**, author of *Bargaining for Eden: The Fight for the Last Open Spaces in America*

“*Facing the Change* is a deeply important book. It gives us stories—unbearably sad or sly and funny or even seditious—from those who are called to witness.”
—**Kathleen Dean Moore**, co-editor of *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*

“*Facing the Change* shares the stories of some of the many people in the U.S. and the world who are already witnessing climate change here and now. They are giving us early warning signs; it’s up to all of us to act now.” —**Mae Boeve**, executive director of 350.org

“...a powerful wake-up call to anyone who has supposed that nothing an individual person can say or do will affect this impending disaster.” —**Lawrence Buell**, author of *The Environmental Imagination*

“The voices in this eloquent and original book convey the dread and grief, the anger, but also the experiences of love and community that are intensified by the defining ecological challenge of our time.”
—**John Elder**, author of *Reading the Mountains of Home*, editor of *The Norton Book of Nature*

“Steven Pavlos Holmes and the contributors to *Facing the Change* have begun to reveal the experiential heart of a planetary process. This is a truly important project.”
—**Scott Slovic**, editor of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

A Conversation with the Editor



Steven Pavlos Holmes, Ph.D., is an independent scholar in the environmental humanities, with a special interest in people’s personal experiences of the natural world. His first book, *The Young John Muir: An Environmental Biography*, won the Modern Language Association’s Prize for Independent Scholars. He earned a doctorate in American cultural history from Harvard University, has taught both at Harvard and at the Cambridge (Mass.) Center for Adult Education, and has worked on literary and historical projects with The Wilderness Society, the Blue Ocean Institute, and Massachusetts Audubon’s Boston Nature Center. He lives in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

What are you reading now?

To be honest, these days I read a lot of old British murder mysteries – Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, Sherlock Holmes. Avoiding thinking about climate change? You bet. I think that even escapist reading can serve a positive function as a sort of tactical retreat, a “time out” for calmness, stability, reinvigoration. Humans aren’t made to live in crisis all the time, and I would never expect anyone to force themselves constantly to address climate change or the feelings it evokes – that way lies burnout and despair; rather, the goal is to work out a pattern that works for you, take it in small doses or compartmentalize your life if you have to, take it in at your own time and pace – *but don’t completely turn away, and don’t give up.*

Could you share one of your own personal experiences with the natural world, one which perhaps shaped who you are, or particularly impressed you?

Wow, too many: trout fishing with my family in a small mountain creek in northern California, bicycle trips alone and with friends through the plains and prairies of the upper Midwest, hiking solo or with my brothers in the Rockies, discovering early spring flowers with friends in Boston, birdwatching with my partner in Massachusetts, Maine, California, Europe, India ... and mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, planting tomatoes and grapes around our house. Each experience has its own depth and importance, and it feels like without any of them, I wouldn’t be who I am now.

How does climate change affect your daily life?

I remember one of the first times it really hit me, probably around 2005 or so. I was leaving the house one morning, and it was a really beautiful spring day – sunny, warm, a few flowers in bloom, buds swelling on the trees. I looked across the street at the big maple in front of our house, and could just feel the sticky little leaves rolled up inside the gray branchlets, just waiting to burst forth. I was ready to burst forth, too, after the long winter. And then, when the warm sunlight turned full on my face, and my skin seemed to stretch and dry a little from the unaccustomed heat, I didn’t burst – I cracked. *This is Boston, I thought, and it’s March. It’s not spring yet. It’s not supposed to be this hot. This is wrong. This beautiful day is wrong.*

You have dedicated much of your life to education and helping writers find their voices and bring their projects to fruition. If you were to take time off from this and write, say, a novel, what would it be titled?

Either *The Sylvan Wedding Project* or *The Imaginary Flautist*.

For the complete conversation, visit TorreyHouse.com.

facingthechangeanthology.wordpress.com

About Torrey House Press



Torrey House is an independent book publisher of fiction and nonfiction about the environment, people, cultures, and resource management issues relating to America’s wild places. Torrey House Press endeavors to increase appreciation for the importance of natural landscape through the power of pen and story. Through the *2% to the West* program, Torrey House Press donates two percent of sales to not-for-profit environmental organizations and funds a scholarship for up-and-coming writers at colleges throughout the West.



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