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Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World

Brandi Hope Johnson

Nye, Bill. *Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2015.

As the current CEO of the Planetary Society, science educator and mechanical engineer Bill Nye uses his book, *Unstoppable*, to teach his readers about global climate change and most importantly, what we can do about it. He refers to himself and his readers as the “Next Great Generation,” because we are the ones that can make all the difference to save the planet. He writes “We face a challenge right now, you and I that is even greater in aspect and scope than a global war. It is a battle for our house and home, and for our future on this planet,” and asks readers to consider all of the possibilities and opportunities to counteract climate change, such as creating clean, sustainable energy from solar, wind, and tidal sources rather than traditional methods such as drilling for fossil fuels. This book not only raises awareness of global climate change, but more importantly, brainstorms solutions, thus serving as a tool and guide for this Next Great Generation.

Many books and articles can be found in the media that tend to use scare tactics that focus on the negative aspects of how climate change can affect our future. This book, however, takes a different approach. He uses this book instead to explore the pros and cons of all the different ways to produce, use, and store energy. He explores very futuristic modes of transportation, such as driverless taxipods, robotrucks, bioplanes, and hyperloops. He also discusses some of the many strategies for combatting climate change: cooling the planet, repairing the atmosphere, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. There are many simple ideas that could be easy to execute today, like pale pavement, afforestation, and even tiny bubbles in reservoirs and oceans that could make a huge difference in the rate and severity of global climate change.

This book also addresses climate change deniers and discredits all of their arguments through science and logic. He confronts these deniers, writing “And yet, even now, after nearly fifty years of intensive research and more than thirty years of scientific consensus on the nature of global warming, there is still a sizeable group of people who grasp at any stray fact or, more commonly, any stray intuition, to help them deny what is happening. In denying the problem, they are also denying the need to step up and do something about it.” He points out that the most avid and influential climate change deniers are also the ones profiting the most from fossil fuel consumption. Overall, his argument is a convincing one.

Nye writes in a natural, conversational, almost journal-like style, discussing a wide variety of topics from reminiscing over stories of his childhood to explaining how electricity and rocket science works. Each chapter is short and organizes concepts that build on one another in a way that is easy for readers of diverse ages to understand and follow. Much of the content is science, chemistry, and engineering oriented; however, anyone who has seen his 1990's show, *Bill Nye*

the Science Guy, knows that he has a great sense of humor. This is also apparent in his writing style as he provides comedic relief throughout the text.

Bill Nye's latest book holds much value as a guide and a reference for many solutions available to slow down the rate of global climate change by reducing or completely stopping harmful greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. He urges his readers to be innovative, create tools and use materials in a completely new way, and to make big and small differences to curb some of the inevitable consequences associated with climate change. His book is worth reading for everyone who calls Earth home. The first page displays his hopeful message: "To the Next Great Generation. Embrace science. Solve problems. Make things. Change the World."