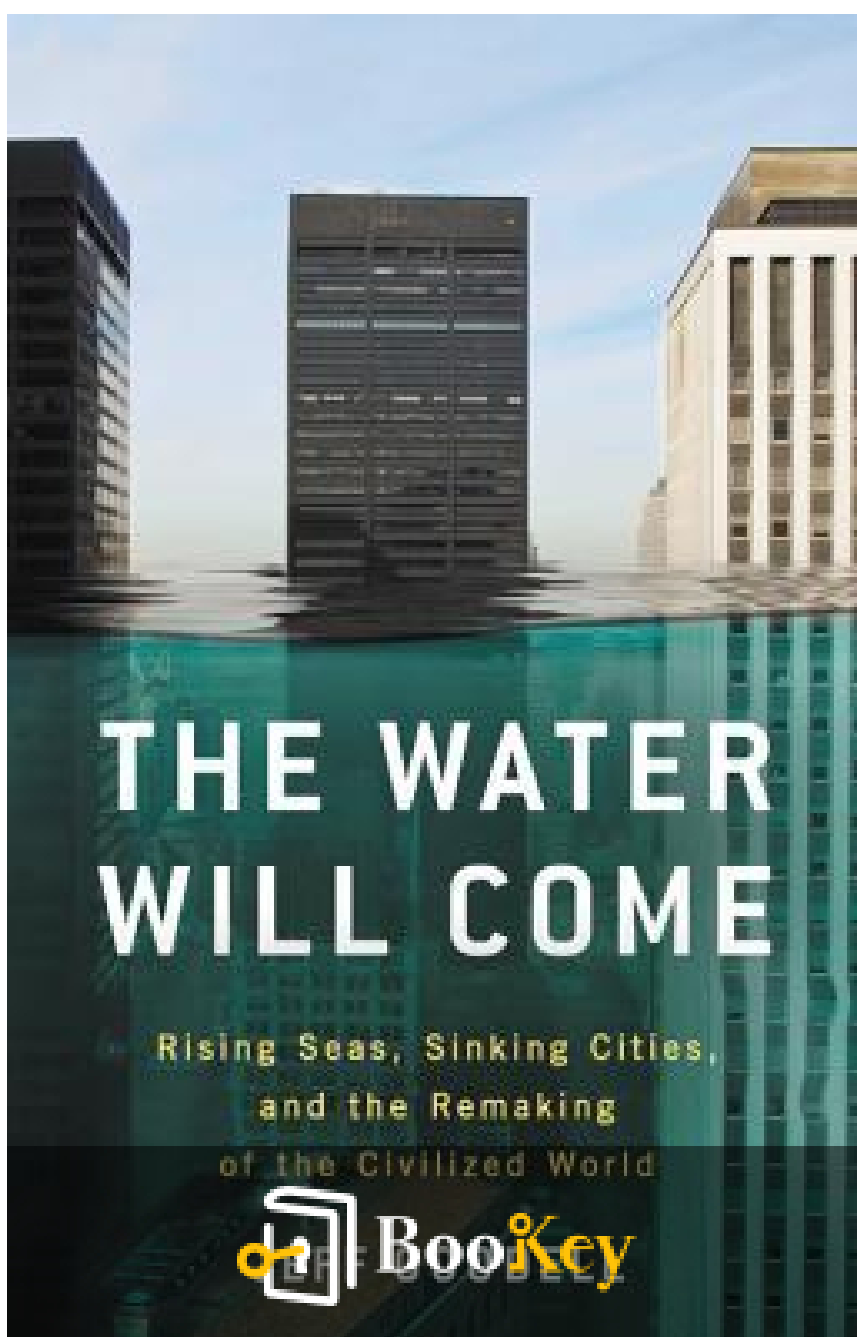


The Water Will Come PDF (Limited Copy)

Jeff Goodell



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The Water Will Come Summary

Flooding Futures: The Untold Reality of Rising Sea Levels

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In **The Water Will Come**, journalist Jeff Goodell presents a compelling exploration of the global crisis of rising sea levels, driven by climate change. The book begins by establishing the alarming reality of the melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland, as well as the rising global temperatures that exacerbate this phenomenon. Goodell notes that such environmental changes threaten to submerge coastal cities and traditional communities routinely visited for their cultural and economic significance.

As he travels through twelve countries, Goodell provides on-the-ground reports that illustrate the immediate effects of rising waters—cities like Miami and New Orleans face increasing flooding, while island nations such as the Maldives confront the existential threat of becoming uninhabitable. He highlights individual experiences, showing how families and communities grapple with the loss of their homes, urging readers to visualize the human impact behind these statistics.

The narrative shifts towards potential solutions as Goodell examines various engineering projects designed to combat the rising tides. Some cities are investing in seawalls, levees, and improved drainage systems. While these efforts may temporarily stall the encroaching water, Goodell argues that they ultimately only delay the inevitable. The book emphasizes the need for long-term thinking and profound changes in how we approach urban

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planning, resource allocation, and climate policy.

Throughout the chapters, Goodell raises essential questions about resilience and adaptation in the face of drastic environmental changes. He underlines the importance of not only preparing for the immediate threats but also reimagining our relationship with the water that increasingly shapes our world. In weaving together scientific data, personal anecdotes, and a call to action, Goodell crafts a narrative that invites readers to confront the reality of a future where familiar landscapes may become a distant memory, transformed by rising seas.

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About the author

In **The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet**, Jeff Goodell presents a compelling narrative on the imminent dangers posed by climate change, focusing particularly on the rising temperatures that threaten human survival. This book follows his previous work, **The Water Will Come**, where he explored the consequences of rising sea levels.

In the opening chapters, Goodell sets the stage by introducing the stark reality of climate change, emphasizing that heat waves are becoming more frequent and severe due to global warming. He discusses scientific data illustrating how increased temperatures can lead to dire public health crises, particularly in vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and those with preexisting health conditions.

Goodell also delves into the mechanisms of heat-related deaths. He explains that extreme heat can result in heat exhaustion and heatstroke, and he underscores the disparity in how different communities experience these dangers. For instance, lower-income neighborhoods with less access to air conditioning are disproportionately affected, highlighting issues of environmental justice.

Throughout the early chapters, Goodell introduces key characters — including scientists, activists, and individuals impacted by heat events. Each

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character's experiences offer a personal lens through which readers can understand the statistics and implications of climate inaction. He shares stories of resilience but also of loss, driving home the notion that as the planet overheats, human lives hang in the balance.

As the chapters progress, Goodell tackles the broader implications of climate policy and the societal changes necessary to combat these challenges. He provides a critique of current governmental responses and advocates for immediate action, emphasizing the need for sustainable infrastructure, urban planning, and public awareness campaigns to mitigate the effects of extreme heat.

Goodell's narrative blends journalism with a sense of urgency, reflecting his extensive experience as a climate journalist. His conversations on various media platforms and his role at the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center strengthen his credibility and enhance the urgency of his message. Ultimately, **The Heat Will Kill You First** is not just an exploration of climate data; it is a call to action to acknowledge the pressing realities of a warming world before it's too late.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue: Atlantis

PROLOGUE: ATLANTIS AFTER THE HURRICANE

In 2037, a catastrophic hurricane devastates Miami, unleashing a twenty-foot storm surge that submerges historic neighborhoods. The resulting flooding leads to a significant loss of life and infrastructure, leaving the city grappling with health crises and contaminated water. Despite assurances from authorities about recovery, the hurricane symbolizes a turning point along the coastline, amidst rising sea levels exacerbated by climate change.

As we move into the late 2020s, Miami struggles with dwindling budgets and inadequate resources to combat ongoing coastal threats. Proposed redevelopment projects to convert flooded areas face financial hurdles, contributing to a downturn in tourism and community morale. The narrative underscores the reality of climate change: the urgency of rising sea levels is no longer speculative, but an imminent danger, as underscored by previous natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy.

THE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF SEA-LEVEL RISE

This section delves into the historical background of sea levels, illustrating

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how human-induced climate change accelerates a naturally occurring phenomenon. Predictions become increasingly concerning as specialists warn of significant sea-level rises, driven largely by the melting of polar ice sheets fueled by global temperature increases. Even with proactive measures to cut carbon emissions, experts agree that we are locked into long-term rise trends, with dire implications for coastal communities.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the persistent threat of rising seas, economic forecasts predict staggering financial losses, particularly within real estate markets, displacing millions—especially in vulnerable regions around the globe. This unease over climate change reveals deep psychological obstacles, demonstrating that humanity often struggles to respond effectively to slow-moving threats. Decision-making is hindered by a tendency to underestimate or dismiss gradual dangers, ultimately complicating efforts to implement meaningful change.

CONCLUSION: THE INEVITABLE CHANGE

As the narrative concludes, it posits that rising waters will irrevocably alter daily life, influencing everything from real estate decisions to population

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movements. The future hangs in the balance, oscillating between potential devastation and the prospect of collective action in the face of challenges. As the threat of climate change looms closer, the message is clear: humanity must urgently embrace adaptive strategies to confront the encroaching tide, or risk facing its consequences unprepared.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 1. The Oldest Story Ever Told

The Oldest Story Ever Told: Summary

The R/V Knorr Expeditions

The narrative begins aboard the R/V Knorr, a respected research vessel operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This ship is known for pivotal scientific discoveries, including the RMS Titanic. The author shares an enlightening month spent at sea, focusing on analyzing core samples from the North Atlantic. This endeavor aims to understand ancient ocean conditions while navigating through the Hudson Canyon, setting the stage for exploring historical climate changes.

Understanding Ancient Climate

The scene shifts back twenty thousand years to the last ice age, where Earth's climate was markedly cooler, with vast ice sheets covering North America. The text discusses the migration of early humans from Asia to North America across land bridges, highlighting archaeological discoveries at sites like the Aucilla River in Florida. Here, evidence suggests early human activity took place earlier than previously believed, reshaping our understanding of human history.

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Key Discoveries at Aucilla River

At the Aucilla River, Jessi Halligan's team uncovered a double-sided knife that has been carbon-dated to 14,500 years ago. This significant finding indicates that humans inhabited North America long before historians had thought possible. It supports the idea that these early inhabitants possessed advanced maritime skills and adapted to significant environmental changes, specifically during the Meltwater Pulse 1A, a period marked by rapid shifts in the climate and landscape.

The Impact of Rising Sea Levels

As the ice sheets began to melt and the planet warmed, sea levels surged dramatically, reshaping coastal environments. Halligan emphasizes that early humans would have witnessed substantial changes in their surroundings as coastlines retreated. These experiences likely contributed to the storytelling traditions of ancient cultures, reflecting their history and adaptation to a transforming world.

Myths and Stories of Sea-Level Rise

Australian linguist Nicholas Reid investigates Aboriginal myths that seem to recognize historical sea-level rises, suggesting a temporal awareness among

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these communities that extends back thousands of years. By correlating these ancient narratives with geological evidence, the text illustrates the enduring relationship humanity has had with its ever-changing environment, showcasing how stories have helped societies contextualize their experiences.

The Noah and Gilgamesh Flood Stories

The narrative then delves into ancient flood stories found in texts such as the Bible and the Epic of Gilgamesh. These narratives are examined for their connections to real historical flooding events, particularly the significant flooding of the Black Sea region thought to be caused by rising waters from melting glaciers. This exploration highlights how human beings have historically responded to and processed catastrophic environmental shifts through storytelling.

The Calusa Tribe's Adaptive Strategies

Introducing the Calusa, a Native American tribe residing in South Florida, the text illustrates their remarkable ability to thrive in a watery landscape. Guided by archaeologist Theresa Schober, the author explores Mound Key, an artificial island built of shells, which underscores the Calusa's adaptability to environmental changes. Their lifestyle reflects a profound resilience and resourcefulness, illustrating a deep connection to their

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dynamic surroundings.

Living with Water

The narrative culminates in examining the Calusa's relationship with their environment. Their community's mobility in response to shifting coastlines and changing weather depicts a broader human ability to adapt to fluctuating conditions long before contemporary environmental crises became prevalent. This adaptability embodies a tradition of living harmoniously within ever-evolving landscapes, reflecting an intrinsic human resilience that transcends time and geography.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 2. Living with Noah

Living with Noah: Summary of Key Chapters

Wayne Pathman and Miami Development

Wayne Pathman, a prominent lawyer based in Miami, embodies the affluent lifestyle characteristic of Miami Beach. He resides in the upscale Sunset Islands and actively raises awareness about the risk of sea-level rise among the area's business leaders. As Miami undergoes rapid development, he notices a troubling disconnect among the public regarding the imminent flooding concerns tied to climate change. This reflects a common attitude in expanding urban centers where financial interests often overshadow environmental realities.

Helicopter Insights on Urban Growth

A helicopter tour over Miami vividly illustrates its skyline dominated by construction cranes—the hallmark of incessant development that includes high-rise condominiums precariously close to the water's edge. This obsession with coastal living is reminiscent of sentiments expressed by environmentalist Rachel Carson, who cautioned against the dangers of unchecked urbanization and its relationship with nature.

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Geological Origins of Florida

Understanding Florida's geological history is crucial for grasping its current environmental challenges. Once part of the African continent, Florida's terrain has been significantly shaped by fluctuating sea levels over millions of years, leading to the formation of ooid limestone. The coastal ridge surrounding Miami is essential for understanding its topography and drainage systems, with the Everglades emerging as a key ecological feature.

Transformation of Landscape

In the late 19th century, Julia Tuttle played a pivotal role in transforming Miami through her efforts to attract the railroad, catalyzing the city's development. Early settlers, like George Merrick, encountered natural flooding challenges, which led them to recognize the necessity of extensive water management projects to foster civilization's growth. This marked a critical change in the landscape and approach towards urban planning.

The Real Estate Boom

The relentless draining of the Everglades opened up extensive areas for land speculation, attracting a multitude of investors during the roaring 20th century real estate boom. Visionaries like Carl Fisher were instrumental in

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transforming Miami Beach from swampy land into a thriving tourist hotspot, often at the expense of environmental considerations. This unchecked growth exemplifies the allure of profit over ecological sustainability.

Hurricane Disasters and Building Codes

The catastrophic hurricane of 1926 served as a wakeup call, exposing the fragility of hastily constructed buildings in South Florida. In response to this disaster, Miami adopted new building codes aimed at enhancing structural resilience. However, the legacy of inadequate construction practices persists, especially among older buildings, underscoring the ongoing challenges of urban planning in a disaster-prone area.

Cultural and Economic Implications

Miami's historical trajectory reveals a pattern of growth intricately linked to natural disasters and the exploitation of the environment. Despite the evident threats posed by its geography and climate, the cultural narrative often promotes an idyllic paradise that obscures these glaring risks. This paradox captures the essence of a city whose allure masks the underlying vulnerabilities of its ecosystem.

Conclusion: Nature's Challenge

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In conclusion, South Florida epitomizes the fragile balance between human ambition and the relentless forces of nature. Despite advancements in technology and urban development, the age-old belief that humanity can conquer nature continues to be tested by the harsh realities of climate change and environmental degradation. The struggle between progress and preservation remains a pressing challenge for the future of the region.

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Chapter 4: 3. New Climate Land

NEW CLIMATE LAND

Overview of the Jakobshavn Glacier

The Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland stands out as the fastest-moving glacier on the planet and has become emblematic of the stark realities of climate change. In this chapter, author Jeff Goodell is accompanied by climatologist Jason Box, who gained prominence for his accurate predictions regarding ice melt in Greenland during the historic summer of 2012. Together, they set out to explore this critical site, which serves as a visual testament to ongoing environmental shifts.

2012 Melting Event

The summer of 2012 marked a pivotal moment for Greenland, as a severe heat wave led to unprecedented ice melt. Aerial observations uncovered extensive surface melting on the glacier, significantly affecting the region surrounding Kangerlussuaq. Jason Box points to darkening snow — a phenomenon caused by soot, dust, and microscopic organisms — that can increase melting by absorbing solar heat, highlighting the complexity of factors behind this alarming trend.

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Comparison of Greenland and Antarctica

The melting ice from both Greenland and Antarctica poses a substantial threat to global sea levels. While the potential complete melting of Greenland could raise sea levels by approximately 22 feet, Antarctica, being much larger, could lead to a staggering rise of about 200 feet. Currently, Greenland's ice melt contributes more significantly to sea-level rise, underscoring the urgency of monitoring and addressing these changes.

Regional Impacts of Melting

The consequences of Greenland's melting are not evenly distributed around the globe. Coastal cities in the Southern Hemisphere face unique challenges, while shifts in Antarctica's ice have more profound implications for the Northern Hemisphere. As the ice sheets diminish, changes in gravitational forces create uneven sea-level rises in different regions, complicating the global response to climate impacts.

Accelerated Warming in the Arctic

The Arctic, particularly Greenland, is experiencing accelerated warming, which exacerbates a feedback loop: reduced ice cover fails to reflect sunlight, resulting in further temperature increases. This pattern of warming

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extends beyond the Arctic, influencing weather behaviors and climate extremes in distant regions, emphasizing the intertwining nature of the planet's climate systems.

The Scientific Community's Response

Box stresses the necessity of pinpointing the various elements contributing to ice melt. His theory regarding the role of soot in accelerating melting has garnered attention within the scientific community as a significant area for further study. In light of ongoing melting, reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on sea-level rise have faced criticism for potentially underestimating the impacts due to rapidly diminishing ice coverage.

Anecdotes and Personal Experience

In a reflective passage, Goodell shares his personal encounters while in Greenland, capturing the sights, sounds, and conversations with Box regarding the reality of climate change. Each moment spent on these thawing landscapes amplifies a sense of urgency for scientific inquiry as they await a helicopter to access the expansive ice fields.

Field Research and Observations

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Upon reaching Ilulissat, Goodell is captivated by the beautiful, yet heartbreaking, landscapes shaped by climate shifts. They embark on data collection, while Box expresses excitement about witnessing parts of the glacier that were once entirely covered by ice. Their helicopter flight provides a dramatic view of the calving glacier, underscoring the immediate and visible impact of climate change, while reinforcing the significance of their research efforts.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 4. Air Force One

Chapter 5 Summary: Air Force One

In the fall of 2015, President Barack Obama embarked on a significant visit to Alaska, strategically aimed at bringing attention to the critical issue of climate change. This trip not only showcased the pressing environmental challenges facing the region but also served as a platform for the United States to lead global discussions ahead of the Paris climate talks.

During his visit, Obama maintained a cheerful demeanor, reflecting confidence in both his legacy and the current political climate. He delivered powerful messages on the immediate threats of climate change, highlighting that inaction could lead to severe consequences, including the submergence of entire nations and cities left uninhabitable.

Alaska, where the effects of climate change are especially pronounced, is seeing rising temperatures and melting glaciers, endangering both its environment and the livelihoods of its inhabitants. The state's economy, heavily dependent on fossil fuels, is facing turmoil, prompting Governor Bill Walker to seek federal assistance for drilling projects to stimulate revenue.

While Obama's trip included symbolic gestures, such as the renaming of

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Mount McKinley to Denali and promises of an icebreaker ship to facilitate Arctic navigation, these actions were seen as limited in addressing the local climate crises. They sparked a broader conversation about the effectiveness of public engagement in climate issues.

The melting ice in the Arctic raised pressing national security concerns, as geopolitical tensions increase with countries like Russia and China eyeing the region's resources. Acknowledging this shift, Obama's administration recognized the need to prioritize the strategic significance of these changes.

During his visit, Obama engaged in local experiences, such as fishing, and underscored the importance of salmon to Alaska's economy. His stop in Kotzebue served as a poignant reminder of the direct impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities, who are experiencing profound environmental transformations.

An insightful interview with Obama further revealed his deep-rooted concerns about climate change, particularly in regard to its implications for future generations, including his daughters. While he endeavored to instill a sense of urgency, he also faced the complex challenge of navigating political realities alongside pressing environmental needs.

As his visit drew to a close, Obama reaffirmed his commitment to tackling climate issues, balancing an optimistic outlook with a realistic

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acknowledgment of the challenges ahead. He highlighted the necessity of collective action and innovative solutions to address the escalating climate crisis, emphasizing that the time for urgent response is paramount.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 5. Real Estate Roulette

Real Estate Roulette

The Pérez Art Museum Miami and the Illusion of Stability

Inaugurated in 2013, the Pérez Art Museum Miami symbolizes the city's uncertain future, merging contemporary architecture with a deep bond to its waterfront environment. Designed by the renowned architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron, the museum's elevated construction serves as a foreboding reminder of the threats posed by rising sea levels. The involvement of Jorge Pérez, a leading figure in Miami's real estate development, raises critical questions about the city's property market, especially concerning climate change impacts.

Interaction with Jorge Pérez

During a visit to the museum, the author encounters Jorge Pérez, who appears unconcerned about the risks of sea-level rise. Despite his influential role in Miami's real estate landscape, Pérez exhibits a belief that solutions for climate challenges will emerge in the future. This encounter reflects a broader trend within the real estate sector, where many are reluctant to confront the reality of climate change—a significant issue in a city that

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frequently faces flooding.

Current Status of Florida's Real Estate Market

Florida's coastal residents are increasingly aware of the dangers associated with rising sea levels, with forecasts predicting substantial declines in property values. Homeowners find themselves in a precarious situation, torn between selling their properties in response to flooding fears or holding on amidst an uncertain market. This precarious decision-making is likened to playing "real estate roulette," showcasing varied opinions among Miami residents on the risks and their readiness to invest.

Denial and Emerging Awareness

Historically, denial about the implications of sea-level rise has been prevalent in Miami's culture and governance. However, shifts in dialogue are beginning to manifest, revealing a growing recognition of the threat. Increased awareness is prompting property owners and investors to consider the long-term prospects of real estate in areas vulnerable to flooding, which is evident in discussions centered on the economic ramifications of climate change.

Reactions Among Stakeholders

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The author participates in meetings with local developers and environmental experts, where there is an emerging consensus about the importance of planning for sea-level rise. Yet, a divide remains: while some developers advocate for immediate action, others fear that acknowledging climate vulnerability could destabilize the market. Figures like David Martin stress the urgent need for action but contend with apprehensive stakeholders concerned about economic fallout.

Impact of Flood Insurance on the Market

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) represents a significant risk for property owners, with outdated policies that inadvertently promote development in flood-prone areas. As insurance costs rise, they threaten to destabilize the real estate market, with homeowners facing increasing premiums potentially leading to a decrease in investment in at-risk properties.

Challenges in Low-Income Areas

In neighborhoods such as Sweetwater, the threat of sea-level rise is frequently overlooked, highlighting the inequalities in awareness and resources among residents. Local artist Xavier Cortada brings attention to the struggles of low-income communities, where immediate economic concerns overshadow future flooding fears. Cortada warns that without

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essential support and strategic planning, these neighborhoods could face severe consequences exacerbated by their ongoing economic hardships.

Concluding Thoughts on Community and Resilience

As the dangers posed by sea-level rise intensify, the imperative of preparedness becomes paramount. The narrative portrays a landscape where economic interests often overshadow ecological considerations, fostering a fragile denial that could precipitate crises. Cortada emphasizes the need for proactive community engagement and awareness, arguing that how Miami responds to these impending challenges will ultimately shape the resilience of its neighborhoods—steering them towards recovery or a path fraught with panic and disorder.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 6. The Ferrari on the Seafloor

VENICE: A CITY AT RISK

Arrival in Venice

As Goodell steps into the enchanting city of Venice, he is immediately struck by its romantic allure and profound connection to water. He meanders through its quiet, labyrinthine streets and serene canals, captivated by the city's timeless beauty while also recognizing the alarming reality of its vulnerability to rising tides—an issue that looms heavy over its storied past.

Historic Vulnerability

Founded in the fifth century as a sanctuary against invasions, Venice has a rich history intertwined with water. Over the centuries, the city has ingeniously adapted to seasonal flooding through the elevation of its buildings and innovative construction techniques. Yet, modern practices such as groundwater pumping and dredging have exacerbated the flooding problem, endangering the very infrastructure that has stood for centuries.

The Impact of the 1966 Flood

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The disastrous flood of November 1966 was a turning point for Venice, dramatically raising awareness of its susceptibility to water-related disasters. This catastrophic event sparked a wave of preservation efforts and catalyzed the implementation of significant restoration laws. In its aftermath, engineers devised a comprehensive plan aimed at safeguarding the city from future floods.

The MOSE Project

Among these protective measures is the MOSE (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico) project, designed to erect high-tech mobile barriers at the lagoon's inlets to prevent flooding. However, the project has encountered numerous challenges, including delays, allegations of corruption, and escalating costs, leading to skepticism about its effectiveness and the sustainability of its approach to flood management.

Challenges of Sea-Level Rise

Despite the MOSE barriers being tailored for storm surges, experts express concern that they fall short in addressing the rising sea levels driven by climate change. There is a consensus that as ocean levels continue to ascend, these barriers may prove inadequate, potentially worsening the flooding situation for the city.

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Community Reactions and Alternative Solutions

Local activists, including figures like Jane Da Mosto, voice their skepticism regarding the MOSE project while highlighting the detrimental impact of overtourism on Venice's fabric. Their discussions reflect a broader concern for the preservation of the city's cultural heritage, mingled with the necessity of finding viable solutions amid these mounting challenges.

Comparative Analysis: Venice vs. Rotterdam

Goodell juxtaposes Venice's adaptive strategies with those of Rotterdam, which has turned to innovative water parks and engineered solutions as effective flood management strategies. This comparison illustrates the distinct approaches urban areas take in navigating rising water challenges, as exemplified through the differing efficacy of barriers like MOSE in relation to Rotterdam's Maeslant Barrier.

Future of Venice

Experts, such as Pierpaolo Campostrini, ponder radical interventions necessary for the city's survival against climate threats, ranging from artificial levees to groundbreaking geological techniques. Yet, the future remains uncertain, highlighting the complexity of engineering solutions to combat rising seas while preserving Venice's unique character.

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Conclusion

The narrative portrays an urgent tension between Venice's illustrious history and the precariousness of its future, with rising sea levels threatening to irrevocably alter its landscape. Striking a balance between preservation and adaptation emerges as essential for Venice's enduring legacy, prompting a call to action to safeguard this iconic city.

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Chapter 8: 7. Walled Cities

Walled Cities: Summary of Key Chapters

Introduction to Resilience Efforts in New York City

On a spring day, climate journalist Jeff Goodell joins Dan Zarrilli, head of NYC's Office of Resilience and Recovery, to explore Manhattan's seawall. Their discussion reflects on the profound vulnerabilities exposed by Hurricane Sandy, which inundated over 88,000 buildings and inflicted extensive economic losses, highlighting New York City's precarious position amid climate change.

The Big U Resiliency Project

Zarrilli outlines the ambitious East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, colloquially known as the Big U, which seeks to build a ten-foot-high barrier to shield Manhattan from future storms. Although mindful of the term "walls," he underscores the urgent necessity for protective infrastructure against escalating sea levels and storm threats. Beyond mere protection, the project aims to enhance the urban experience in vulnerable neighborhoods.

Importance of New York's Geography and Economic Value

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New York City's distinctive geographic layout places 72,000 buildings in flood zones, making its protection critical. The city, a cornerstone of the U.S. economy, contributes significantly to the national GDP. While some neighborhoods rest on stable ground, others, particularly those constructed on landfill, are particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change, notably rapid sea-level rise impacting both infrastructure and communities.

Historical Context of Urban Defenses

Historically, cities constructed walls for defense against attacks; today, they face a new adversary in environmental threats. Cities like the Netherlands and New Orleans provide precedent for successful flood defense strategies, yet reliance on physical barriers raises significant questions regarding their sustainability and long-term efficacy.

Design and Functionality of the Big U

The architectural firm BIG presents the Big U project not just as a barrier but as a multifunctional public space, yet skepticism lingers regarding costs and the potential stripping of community benefits. While the wall is seen as a political step forward, it raises concerns about neglecting underserved communities that lie outside its protective confines.

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Challenges of Localities and Equity

As discussions around barriers evolve, stark inequities in community engagement and resource allocation become evident. Areas like Red Hook, historically marginalized, risk further neglect as planners prioritize high-value developments. The struggle for political will influences how different communities prepare for future threats.

Alternative Approaches to Coastal Protection

Innovative concepts like Living Breakwaters and Blue Dunes propose strategies that work in tandem with natural ecosystems rather than imposing rigid barriers. These initiatives aim to decelerate wave energy, restore habitats, and reconnect communities with their waterways, offering a holistic approach to coastal protection.

Leadership and Policy Challenges

Governor Andrew Cuomo's minimal response to climate resilience after Sandy contrasts sharply with Mayor de Blasio's emphasis on immediate action. De Blasio's focus on current resilience challenges showcases a pressing public discourse surrounding sustainable long-term coastal management strategies.

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Cultural Attachment to Vulnerable Areas

Residents of at-risk neighborhoods display deep emotional ties to their homes, often resisting the notion of relocation. Community-led efforts

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Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with busy schedules. The summaries are spot on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

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Chapter 9 Summary: 8. Island States

ISLAND STATES

Overview of the Paris Climate Talks

The chapter begins by immersing readers in the vibrant atmosphere of the Paris climate talks in 2015, where representatives from various nations united to sign the Paris Accord, pledging to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This landmark event was accompanied by a palpable sense of urgency and hope, largely influenced by the advocacy of Tony de Brum, the foreign minister of the Marshall Islands.

Tony de Brum's Advocacy

De Brum passionately articulated the precarious position of low-lying island nations in the face of climate change. His leadership was instrumental in forming a coalition of nations striving for ambitious targets, especially the goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. He highlighted the severe implications for future generations in vulnerable regions, emphasizing the moral imperative for collective action.

Historical Context and Challenges Faced by the Marshall Islands

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The narrative delves into the historical backdrop of the Marshall Islands, which, despite their minimal contribution to global emissions, bear the brunt of climate change effects due to a legacy of U.S. nuclear testing. This history not only highlights environmental destruction and health crises but also raises ethical questions about who bears the responsibility for climate impacts.

The Plight of Island Nations

As sea levels rise and freshwater sources dwindle, the Marshall Islands face an existential crisis. Limited geography offers little protection against inundation, and the islands' infrastructure grapples with inadequate resources necessary for adaptation. This reality underscores the vulnerability of island nations in the broader climate crisis.

Food and Water Security Challenges

The chapter emphasizes the critical issues of food and water security confronting the Marshallese. With agricultural land increasingly compromised by saltwater intrusion and a growing reliance on imports, health and sustainability concerns have escalated. The limited ability to cultivate local food sources exacerbates these challenges and illustrates the precariousness of their situation.

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Global Impacts and Inequity

Drawing connections to other regions experiencing similar climate threats, the text highlights the global inequities exacerbated by climate change. The lack of legal protections for climate refugees remains a pressing concern, revealing the insufficient international frameworks that fail to address the plight of displaced populations.

Responses from Wealthier Nations

The chapter addresses the shortcomings of financial support from wealthier nations, particularly the Green Climate Fund. Despite initial promises made during climate negotiations, the reality of inadequate funding for vulnerable countries paints a bleak picture and underscores the disconnect between commitments and actions.

Future Perspectives and Rising Tensions

The journey of Maddison Kabua Maddison from the Marshall Islands to the U.S. exemplifies the broader themes of identity, displacement, and justice faced by Pacific Islanders. His activism serves as a poignant reminder of his people's struggles while grappling with the uncertain future of their homeland amid rising seas and international disinterest.

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Concluding Thoughts

In closing, the chapter reflects on the urgent implications of climate change for vulnerable populations and emphasizes the moral responsibilities of developed nations. Through personal stories and historical accounts, it presents a compelling call to action that highlights the need for immediate responses to this global crisis.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 9. Weapon of Mass Destruction

Chapter 10 Summary: Weapon of Mass Destruction

Overview of Naval Station Norfolk

Naval Station Norfolk stands as the nerve center of the US Navy's Atlantic fleet, rich in military history and strategic importance. However, it is increasingly threatened by climate change, notably rising sea levels which put this vital military base at risk. Contributing factors such as land subsidence and the slowdown of the Gulf Stream have heightened the base's vulnerability, leading to more frequent flooding that disrupts its operations.

Impact of Climate Change

During a recent visit, the author encountered significant flooding caused by storm-related surges, underscoring the base's urgent need for action.

Norfolk's sea levels are rising at double the global average, turning even modest rainstorms into hazardous events. Nearby military installations like Langley Air Force Base are similarly affected, raising serious concerns about military readiness and infrastructure resilience in the face of environmental threats.

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Economic and Political Implications

The potential costs of relocating or fortifying Naval Station Norfolk are astronomical, amounting to billions of dollars. This situation is compounded by the region's dependency on local and state government cooperation, yet many officials remain in denial about climate change's reality. The economic strain caused by flooding results in a diminishing tax base, which jeopardizes funding for schools and essential public services.

Establishing a Relationship with Climate

In response to these critical challenges, military leadership acknowledges the repercussions of climate change on security, albeit in a discreet manner to avoid political fallout. Investments are being made to enhance infrastructure—such as constructing new piers—but these actions often sidestep direct references to climate change as their driving motive.

National Security Reality

The Pentagon has officially recognized climate change as a national security issue, connecting past climate events to political instability, exemplified by the Syrian civil war. This history illustrates the necessity of incorporating climate threats into military strategic planning. Additionally, the strategic importance of Arctic resources further emphasizes the geopolitical

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implications of climate-induced changes.

Political Challenges and Responses

Political resistance complicates military efforts to combat climate change. Denial and downplaying of climate issues within legislative bodies create a gridlock that hinders proactive measures. Nevertheless, high-ranking military officials are beginning to understand and publicly recognize climate change's profound impact on security missions, highlighting a potential shift in military policy.

Conclusion

Secretary of State John Kerry has emphasized the urgency and scale of change needed to confront climate threats, noting the significant obstacles posed by a fragmented political environment. As climate challenges intensify, the military's strategies and operational readiness will increasingly hinge on their capacity to recognize and effectively respond to these environmental threats. Ultimately, adapting to the realities of climate change is becoming essential for national security in an era defined by transformation.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 10. Climate Apartheid

Summary of "Climate Apartheid"

Overview of Lagos

Lagos, Nigeria, emerges as a sprawling megacity teeming with contradictions, where a staggering population estimated between 13 to 21 million resides amidst sharply contrasting socioeconomic realities. About 70% of its inhabitants survive on less than \$1.25 a day, while a wealthy elite thrives on the nation's oil bounty. This low-lying city confronts significant hardships, including inadequate infrastructure and a heightened susceptibility to flooding and storm surges due to its geographical vulnerabilities.

Urban Development and Eko Atlantic

In a bid to tackle these pressing challenges, Lagos is home to the ambitious construction of Eko Atlantic, a luxurious waterfront development aimed at creating a high-end enclave for 300,000 residents, fortified against rising waters with an extensive seawall. However, this project starkly illustrates the widening chasm between the privileged few and the impoverished majority, many of whom live without basic sanitation in dilapidated conditions.

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Global Context of Land Reclamation

The Eko Atlantic initiative reflects a wider global phenomenon, wherein various nations engage in land reclamation efforts to offset the impacts of sea-level rise. Similar projects are underway in cities like Singapore and parts of China. While proponents argue that such engineering feats may provide a buffer against climate change, the alarming acceleration of sea-level rise in vulnerable regions raises pressing concerns about their efficacy in safeguarding populations.

Social and Economic Disparities

As the number of residents in coastal cities like Lagos is projected to swell to 30 million by 2050, the potential for millions to become climate refugees looms large. The socioeconomic ramifications are dire, particularly for areas mired in poverty and infrastructural inadequacies, exacerbated by the threat of displacement resulting from escalating sea levels.

Life in Makoko's Water Slums

Amidst these disparities, Makoko—an informal, water-based settlement in Lagos—exemplifies a unique form of resilience. Innovative architect Kunlé Adeyemi's design of a floating school was an effort to provide stable

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educational opportunities amidst frequent flooding, yet the school collapsed just prior to the author's visit, underscoring the profound challenges residents face.

Community Resilience and Threats

In Makoko, resilience manifests through informal housing solutions and adaptive strategies allowing residents to elevate homes during floods. Nevertheless, the persistent threat of government-led evictions casts a shadow over this resilience. Aggressive clearance policies lacking adequate relocation alternatives contribute to further instability and insecurity among the community members.

Government Neglect and Vulnerability

The systemic neglect of areas like Makoko by the Lagos government highlights deep-seated inequities, coupled with violent evictions that disrupt lives and exasperate social injustices. This oppression underscores the broader theme of unequal access to climate adaptation resources and assistance in marginalized communities.

Conclusion

The chapter presents a complex narrative of vulnerability alongside

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resilience in the face of climate change, calling for urgent and equitable solutions that can uplift marginalized communities grappling with the imminent threats posed by rising sea levels. It challenges us to recognize and address the intricate social injustices that frame the climate crisis, particularly for those most affected.

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Chapter 12: 11. Miami Is Drowning

Chapter 12: Miami is Drowning

Sunset Harbour: A Low-lying Neighborhood

Sunset Harbour, previously a mangrove swamp, has transformed into a prime real estate enclave on Miami Beach characterized by exclusive properties. However, its low elevation renders it prone to chronic flooding. The juxtaposition of booming property values with persistent water management issues poses significant challenges, particularly during high tides and heavy rainfall.

Political Awakening and Response

In 2013, the mayoral campaign of developer Philip Levine spotlighted the issue of flooding as a central theme, catalyzing political change. His election signified a commitment to addressing rising sea levels through decisive action, such as appointing new chief engineer Bruce Mowry. Following this, the city began implementing crucial infrastructure improvements, including the installation of one-way check valves and pumps aimed at better managing floodwaters.

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Challenges of Flood Mitigation

By 2014, tangible progress was observed with the rollout of new flood management systems. However, the arrival of Hurricane Matthew compounded by king tides exposed the vulnerabilities in these systems, leading to persistent flooding issues. Furthermore, criticisms regarding water quality arose, particularly highlighting the contamination resulting from urban flooding events.

Water Quality Concerns

Geologist Henry Briceño's thorough water sampling throughout the region uncovered disturbing levels of pollution during flooding episodes. His research brought to light significant public health risks stemming from the infiltration of contaminated floodwaters into the city—a product of aging sewer systems and failing septic tanks.

Historical Context and Urban Engineering

Drawing parallels with 19th-century Chicago's efforts to combat flooding through city elevation, the chapter underscores the complexities of enhancing Miami Beach's infrastructure amidst an existing urban framework. Initiatives to raise street levels led to a fragmented urban landscape, complicating the city's ongoing adjustments to flood

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management policies.

The Future of Miami: Innovative Solutions and Risks

Local experts propose forward-thinking strategies, including relocating

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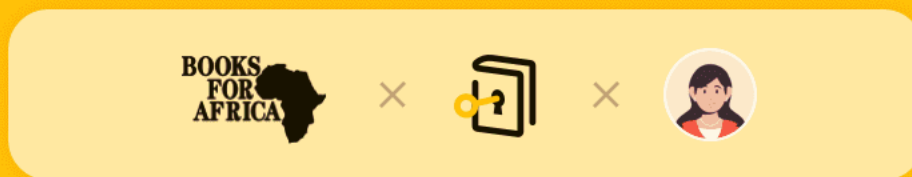




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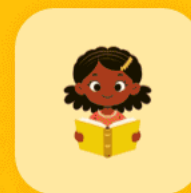
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Chapter 13 Summary: 12. The Long Goodbye

Chapter 13 Summary: The Long Goodbye

This chapter reflects on the escalating challenges posed by climate change, drawing from a pivotal workshop held in Snowmass, Colorado, a decade ago, where a gathering of esteemed scientists and officials confronted the grim realities of a warming planet. The workshop underscored concerns about melting ice sheets and the predicted catastrophic sea-level rise, threatening to displace millions across the globe.

Among the solutions discussed, Stanford scientist Lowell Wood proposed a radical geoengineering approach: injecting sulfate particles into the stratosphere to reflect sunlight. This controversial method sparked fervent debates about its practicality, ethical implications, and the potential risks it might entail for the environment, raising critical questions about humanity's reliance on technological fixes for natural calamities.

In the context of coastal resilience, towns like Toms River, New Jersey, serve as case studies of societal response to climate change. Despite facing recurrent threats from rising waters, many residents display a deep emotional attachment to their homes, opting to rebuild instead of strategically adapting to the increasing risks. Politicians often support these short-term solutions

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like dune reinforcements, primarily out of fear of backlash from constituents who favor the nostalgia of their familiar environments over untested long-term adjustments.

Hurricane Sandy's devastating impact initiated discussions about sustainable urban planning in Toms River; however, the community chose to reconstruct in much the same way, prioritizing tourism and economic interests over long-term climate resilience. This decision reflects a pervasive tendency where emotional and financial attachments to properties hinder necessary adaptations in the face of inevitable change.

Potential solutions like property buyouts have emerged as viable options for relocating vulnerable residents. Yet, these efforts struggle against significant barriers, such as public reluctance, inadequate funding, and the contentious nature of determining which properties to prioritize. Furthermore, systemic inequalities often skew resources toward wealthier regions, perpetuating disparities in governmental support and environmental protections.

Legal precedents, such as the case in Summer Haven, Florida, highlight the growing demand for government accountability regarding infrastructure impacted by climate change. As viable options diminish, conflicts over resource distribution are likely to escalate, threatening to fracture society into regions where only the affluent gain access to safety and support.

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At the heart of this crisis lies an emotional struggle, as poignantly expressed by individuals like Anthony Caronia, who articulate the psychological toll on families facing existential threats. The chapter emphasizes the need for a transformative shift in governmental approaches, advocating for a revised social contract that prioritizes the needs of communities confronting the harsh realities of a changing climate.

In conclusion, the narrative encapsulates the ongoing tension between human ingenuity and the undeniable might of nature. As coastal areas face the relentless advance of rising seas, society is compelled to confront hard truths about adaptation, grappling with the complex interplay of safety, political decisions, and community identities amidst the evolving landscape of climate change.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Epilogue: Condo Diving

EPOLOGUE: CONDO DIVING

In the late 1970s, geologist Walter Alvarez made a groundbreaking discovery that would transform our understanding of the extinction of the dinosaurs. In his pursuit of evidence for his theory that a meteor strike was responsible for this catastrophic event, he uncovered a crucial layer of clay at Stevns Klint, Denmark. This layer contained iridium—a rare element commonly associated with meteorites—thus providing compelling support for the hypothesis linking the mass extinction to an extraterrestrial impact.

During a visit to Denmark, I explored how Copenhagen, one of the most environmentally proactive cities, is confronting the challenges posed by climate change. The city has introduced innovative solutions such as "water squares," multifunctional areas designed to manage excess rainwater, and is contemplating barriers to safeguard against rising sea levels. The political landscape in Denmark is also evolving, as the prospect of climate refugees from vulnerable nations like Bangladesh and Nigeria is beginning to shape policy debates.

My journey took me to Stevns Klint, a site rich with geological history that reflects the dramatic transitions since the age of dinosaurs. There, I

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encountered the "fish clay," a significant geological marker that offers evidence of the mass extinction event, prompting reflections on the fragility of life and the forces of nature that have sculpted our planet.

The meteor strike that led to the demise of the dinosaurs ultimately paved the way for mammals, including humans, to thrive. This reality prompts a critical examination of our own adaptability in the face of climate change. While we often perceive ourselves as more intelligent and resilient than previous species, our survival may hinge on the decisions we make in the present regarding environmental sustainability.

To address the looming threat of sea-level rise, experts assert that a drastic reduction in fossil fuel consumption is necessary by the year 2050. Many urban centers are beginning to rethink zoning laws and strategize for a future altered by climate impacts; however, the full extent of the economic and social disruptions that rising seas will cause remains unpredictable.

As urban landscapes evolve in response to rising waters, we may see dramatic transformations in the way cities are structured. Areas left behind might become reclaimed by nature, and our surroundings will starkly reflect the ongoing effects of climate change. Suggestions for adaptation include constructing taller buildings and leveraging technology to create resilient urban designs that can withstand nature's changes.

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This new reality of urban flooding will reshape human experiences, marked by a gradual rise in tides and the intrusion of saltwater into previously fresh environments. As certain neighborhoods become obsolete, we will witness a complex interplay of migration, deteriorating infrastructure, and environmental shifts. The eventual submersion of some cities will serve as a poignant reminder of nature's overwhelming force and the vulnerability of human achievements in the face of climate change.

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