BKLYN BOOK CLUB KIT

WARMTH:
COMING OF AGE AT THE END OF OUR WORLD
DANIEL SHERRELL

2022 BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK PRIZE FINALIST
BOOK SYNOPSIS

From a millennial climate activist, an exploration of how young people live in the shadow of catastrophe

Warmth is a new kind of book about climate change: not what it is or how we solve it, but how it feels to imagine a future—and a family—under its weight. In a fiercely personal account written from inside the climate movement, Sherrell lays bare how the crisis is transforming our relationships to time, hope and each other. At once a memoir, love letter and electric work of criticism, Warmth goes to the heart of the defining question of our time: how do we go on in a world that may not?
Daniel Sherrell is an organizer born in 1990. He helped lead the campaign to pass landmark climate justice legislation in New York and is the recipient of a Fulbright grant in creative nonfiction. *Warmth* is his first book.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT DANIEL SHERRELL AT DANIELSHERRELL.COM AND IN SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS:**

- **THE CUT** - "HOW TO NAVIGATE YOUR CLIMATE ANXIETY"
- **DISSENT MAGAZINE** - "'KNOW YOUR ENEMY' - LIVING AT THE END OF OUR WORLD"
- **CNBC.COM** - "GRIEF AND ANXIETY OVER CLIMATE CHANGE DROVE THIS 30-YEAR-OLD TO WRITE A LETTER TO HIS FUTURE CHILD"
- **WIRED** - "WHERE PARENTS CAN GET HELP WITH CLIMATE ANXIETY"
- **THE NATION** - "THE TRAP OF CLIMATE OPTIMISM"
Daniel Sherrell writes *Warmth* in a semi-epistolary format to his child about his work inside the climate movement. What journey—be it on a large or small scale—would you document in your own life for the next generation?

Sherrell refers to climate change as the “Problem” in the book. Why do you think the author used this term instead of climate change or global warming? Do you think the “Problem” carries a larger weight than “climate change”? Is humanity now indifferent to the phrase “climate change”?

Climate change can be a topic that brings feelings of despair and panic. How did you feel while reading *Warmth*? Are you more or less motivated to make small or large lifestyle changes in relation to the environment?
4 Sherrell cites his parents and their jobs as professors in the hard sciences—specifically his father’s work as an oceanographer—for first sparking his awareness of the climate movement. But he says, “though these facts might have primed our family to talk about the problem, we somehow never did.” How do you think Sherrell’s trajectory as a climate activist may have changed if his parents had had early discussions with him? If you are a parent or guardian, do you discuss climate change with the children in your life?

5 In a 2022 interview, Sherrell said he didn’t start out looking to write a book but to read a book on the climate crisis. He said, “Literature is one of the ways I process the world and my place in it” and was seeking climate fiction, or “Cli-fi.” Does reading help you in this way? What fiction titles have you read to help you process real-world issues, climate change or others?

6 Sherrell ends *Warmth* with, “And this is not where I leave you. This is where we meet:” What is the significance of this grammatical choice?
FURTHER LEARNING

If you’d like to get involved in the climate movement, here are two organizations Daniel Sherrell recommends:

- SUNRISE MOVEMENT
- CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

CULTURAL CONNECTION IN NYC:

- The Climate Museum (through March 2023)
- Brooklyn Museum’s "Climate in Crisis: Environmental Change in the Indigenous Americas" (through July 2023)
- Art in the Parks' Social Documentary Network's "Sustainable Solutions to the Climate Crisis at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza" (through December 2023)
BKLYN BOOKMATCH READALIKES

Did you enjoy *Warmth: Coming of Age at the End of Our World*? Want to read something similar? Check out these readalike titles below.

- **New York 2140** by Kim Stanley Robinson
- **Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains** by Lucas Bessire
- **Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World** by Tyson Yunkaporta
- **Ecosocialism: A Radical Alternative to Capitalist Catastrophe** by Michael Löwy
- **Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait** by Bathsheba Demuth

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