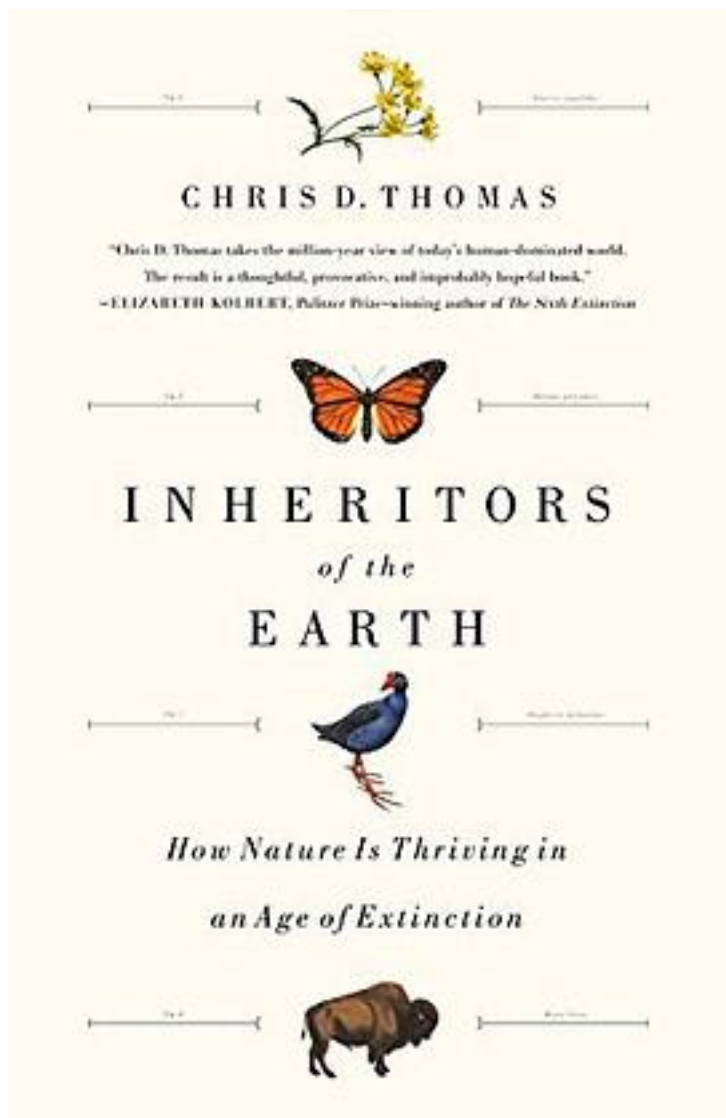


Inheritors of the Earth



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Human activity has irreversibly changed the natural environment. But the news isn't all bad.

It's accepted wisdom today that human beings have permanently damaged the natural world, causing extinction, deforestation, pollution, and of course climate change. But in *Inheritors of the Earth*, biologist Chris Thomas shows that this obscures a more hopeful truth--we're also helping nature grow and change. Human cities and mass agriculture have created new places for enterprising animals and plants to live, and our activities have stimulated evolutionary change in virtually every population of living species. Most remarkably, Thomas shows, humans may well have raised the rate at which new species are formed to the highest level in the history of our planet.

Drawing on the success stories of diverse species, from the ochre-colored comma butterfly to the New Zealand pukeko, Thomas overturns the accepted story of declining biodiversity on Earth. In so doing, he questions why we resist new forms of life, and why we see ourselves as unnatural. Ultimately, he suggests that if life on Earth can recover from the asteroid that killed off the dinosaurs, it can survive the onslaughts of the technological age. This eye-opening book is a profound reexamination of the relationship between humanity and the natural world.

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标签

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评论

作者并不否认我们面临又一次灭绝大潮，但认为接着而来的很有可能是又一次物种大爆发。很多观点有道理，例如生态环境始终是动态的，没理由认为现在这个状态是最完美的，多一个物种则肥，少一个物种则瘦；再例如人类活动加速了来自不同地理环境的物种接触，会刺激新物种的出现。The Sixth Extinction之后看到这本结论截然相反的书，真的很有意思，用The Sixth Extinction作者Elizabeth Kolbert的话来说，"improbably hopeful"。

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书评

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