



Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future

By Lauren Redniss

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From the National Book Award finalist Lauren Redniss, author of *Radioactive*, comes a dazzling fusion of storytelling, visual art, and reportage that grapples with weather in all its dimensions: its danger and its beauty, why it happens and what it means.

WINNER OF THE PEN/E. O. WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING AWARD • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, KIRKUS REVIEWS, AND SHELF AWARENESS

Weather is the very air we breathe—it shapes our daily lives and alters the course of history. In *Thunder & Lightning*, Lauren Redniss tells the story of weather and humankind through the ages.

This wide-ranging work roams from the driest desert on earth to a frigid island in the Arctic, from the Biblical flood to the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Redniss visits the headquarters of the National Weather Service, recounts top-secret rainmaking operations during the Vietnam War, and examines the economic impact of disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Drawing on extensive research and countless interviews, she examines our own day and age, from our most personal decisions—*Do I need an umbrella today?*—to the awesome challenges we face with global climate change.

Redniss produced each element of *Thunder & Lightning*: the text, the artwork, the covers, and every page in between. She created many of the images using the antiquated printmaking technique copper plate photogravure etching. She even designed the book's typeface.

The result is a book unlike any other: a spellbinding combination of storytelling, art, and science.

Praise for *Thunder & Lightning*

“[An] aesthetically charged and deeply researched account . . . a wild rainstorm

of a book, pelting the reader with ideas and inspiration.”—*Nature*

“A gorgeous and illuminating illustrated study of weather in all its tempestuous variety . . . Redniss’s combo of fact, folklore, and vibrant etched copperplate prints entralls.”—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

“Eerily beautiful . . . Contains plenty of scientific explanation (including more than a few nods toward global warming), but also far-flung personal stories that illuminate the beauty, wonder and chaos inherent in the elements.”—*The New York Times*

“Magical . . . Redniss has . . . shown us how human beings live with nature—fighting, coexisting, taming, predicting via leech barometer and radar and intuition.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“[A] twenty-first-century genius . . . Redniss is inventing a new literary genre. . . . The reader willing to put herself fully in Redniss’s hands will be rewarded with a delicious feeling of being enveloped by a phenomenon that eclipses the chiming trivialities of daily life.”—*Elle*

“Lends a graphic-novel-like allure to some of nature’s most curious paradoxes.”—*Vogue*

“Redniss is one of the most creative science writers of our time—her combination of beautiful artwork, reporting, and poetic prose brings science to life in ways that words alone simply cannot.”—*Rebecca Skloot*

“Redniss combines her own dual punch of expressive art and impressive erudition to give an entirely new take on all that happens above our heads. This is an illuminated book that is also an illuminating one.”—*Adam Gopnik*

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Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future By Lauren Redniss Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

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“Eerily beautiful . . . If weather is our favorite default conversational subject, [Redniss] takes anything but a default approach. *Thunder & Lightning* contains plenty of scientific explanation (including more than a few nods toward global warming), but also far-flung personal stories that illuminate the beauty, wonder and chaos inherent in the elements.”—*The New York Times*

“Magical . . . Redniss has . . . shown us how human beings live with nature—fighting, coexisting, taming, predicting via leech barometer and radar and intuition. . . . She is, to use a contemporary word, a curator: arranging information with a distinct aesthetic and a point of view.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“[A] twenty-first-century genius . . . Lauren Redniss is inventing a new literary genre. The artist brings her intrepid reporting and sharp intelligence to subjects as wide-ranging as Marie Curie, gay soldiers in WWII, and now stormy weather. . . . [Redniss is] a reporter, a painter, a social historian, a biographer, and a feminist who creates stories and tableaux that are published as books, which are at once sexual and prim, grotesque and romantic, scientific and soft. . . . The reader willing to put herself fully in Redniss’s hands will be rewarded with a delicious feeling of being enveloped by a phenomenon that eclipses the chiming trivialities of daily life.”—*Elle*

“From Superstorm Sandy to the California drought, weather is a constant presence in our lives, shaping the way we think, feel—and vote. Lauren Redniss’s latest, *Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future*, takes a deep dive into human efforts to grapple with the elements, with forays into mythology, commerce and politics. Combining etchings and text—the National Book Award–nominated author and artist designed her own font for the book—*Thunder & Lightning* lends a graphic-novel-like allure to some of nature’s most curious paradoxes.”—*Vogue*

“Lauren Redniss is one of the most creative science writers of our time—her combination of beautiful artwork, reporting, and poetic prose brings science to life in ways that words alone simply cannot. *Thunder & Lightning* is a fascinating meditation on how climate affects the earth’s landscape and the lives inhabiting it, but also how the landscape of a book—the layout of its text, the images on its pages—impacts the telling of a story. This is an important book about a topic that couldn’t be more important to us all.”—**Rebecca Skloot**

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“Lauren Redniss’s *Thunder & Lightning* is such a strange and wonderful thing, the work of a first-class mind

that refuses to submit to any categories or precedent. It's the way you wish science would always be taught—with a mix of stories and facts, legend and hard science.”—**Dave Eggers**

“Beautiful and totally original.”—**Elizabeth Kolbert**

About the Author

Lauren Redniss is the author of *Century Girl: 100 Years in the Life of Doris Eaton Travis, Last Living Star of the Ziegfeld Follies* and *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie, A Tale of Love and Fallout*, a finalist for the National Book Award. She teaches at Parsons the New School for Design.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Apodaca:

The experience that you get from Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide into the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future instantly.

Stacey Eades:

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