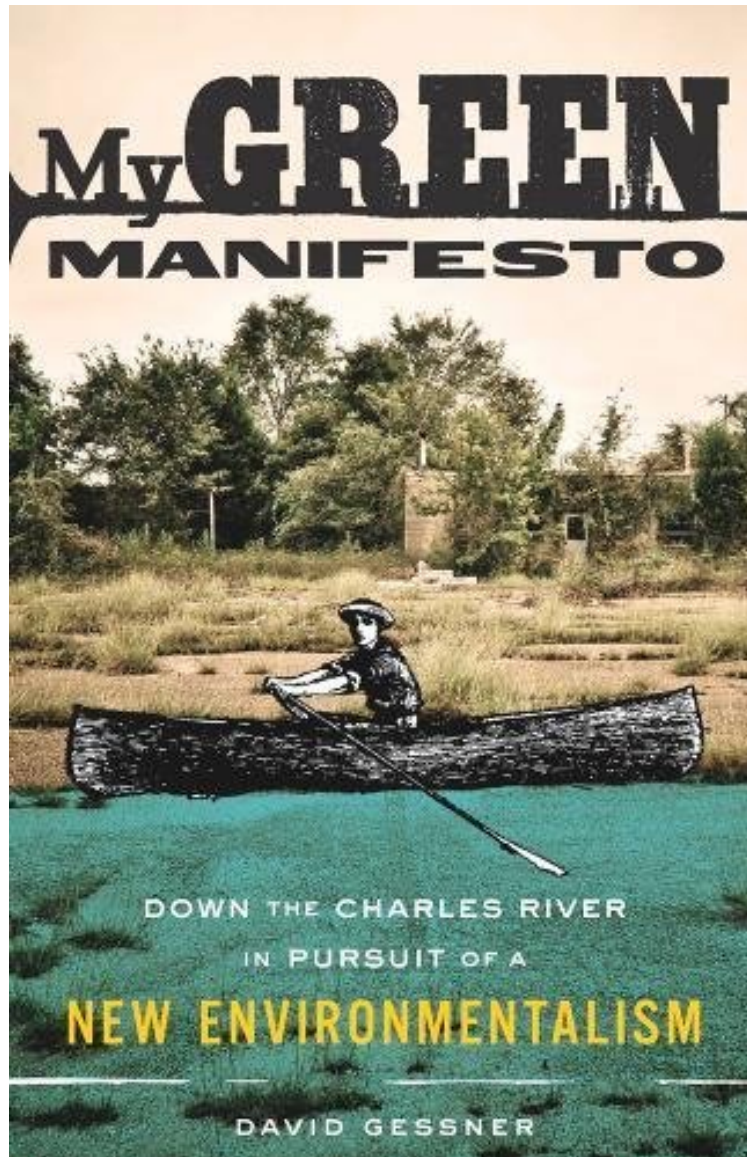


[Free download] My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Pursuit of a New Environmentalism

## My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Pursuit of a New Environmentalism

*David Gessner*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#595366 in Books Milkweed Editions 2011-07-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.60 x 1.10 x 5.70l, .75  
#File Name: 1571313249224 pages | File size: 48.Mb

**David Gessner : My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Pursuit of a New Environmentalism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Pursuit of a New Environmentalism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Boating on the Charles RiverBy Carol BatesThe book. Brought

memories of the Charles River. Since I live in a city where we have a lot of wildlife I could relate to David's experiences in the "wilds of Boston suburbia". It definitely was a new slant on environmentalism. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. "... Act Local" By David Williams No one wearing a T-shirt with the popular "Think Global Act Local" slogan emblazoned on it will find anything "new" in David Gessner's "New Environmentalism." What makes this book important is not its ideology but its positive example of what acting locally means. He puts flesh on the abstract slogan and thereby gives it life. Despite his many "Nature Books," Gessner continues to protest, rightly, that he is a writer, not a nature writer, that his writing is his priority and environmentalism perhaps a means to that end. The oldest writing-teacher cliché of them all is "Show it; Don't tell it." That is exactly what Gessner does. Ok, Gessner doesn't do it exactly. His friend Dan Driscoll does. But Gessner shows us how Driscoll, working from within the state bureaucracy slowly and painfully over many years was able to save parts of the Charles, the river that ends up as the famous "muddy water" of Boston. For Gessner, who grew up in Massachusetts and went to Harvard, this is as local as it gets, and Driscoll is deservedly his hero. Driscoll's story is told interspersed with the tale of a paddle down the Charles from its headwaters to the Basin, camping along the shore, ending up on the Esplanade on the 4th of July. Not since Ray Mungo in the '60s paddled up Thoreau's Concord and Merrimack Rivers have we been invited to view so closely what an urban river looks like, from its industrial garbage-strewn worst to its hidden idyllic best. The best part of Gessner's style may be his honest uncertainty. In a field in which so many people are so certain they have the answers, Gessner humbly confesses his confusion. Like many of us, he knows what he would like to see happen but hasn't much faith in the mystic and dogmatic answers that so many others insist upon. Every time he begins to succumb to romantic discourse, which is often, he manages to pull himself back to the muddy reality. Nor does he think we can be saved by the schemes of global-warming technologists who scorn the sentiment of Wendell Berry and John Hay, two of his heroes. There is a bit of the Puritan in him, in the good use of that misused word. He wants us to get out of our dreary selves, "admit that we are limited, human," and remember that there is something larger we are part of and somehow learn to love it. His friend, Dan, definitely fits the Puritan ideal of a man "In the world but not of it," living in the corrupt systems of practical reality but able to keep his eye on a higher vision. Not entirely a romantic, but not free of the romantic's temptations either, Gessner makes us "love that muddy water" whether or not Boston is our home.-- Dave Williams, author of *Sin Boldly!: Dr. Dave's Guide To Writing The College Paper* and of *Searching for God in the Sixties* 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My Green Manifesto By Steve My wife and I heard David Gessner speak this summer. As a follow up we wanted to read his book. Very easy reading. Enjoyed it.

In *My Green Manifesto*, David Gessner embarks on a rough-and-tumble journey down Boston's Charles River, searching for the soul of a new environmentalism. With a tragically leaky canoe, a broken cell phone, a cooler of beer, and the environmental planner Dan Driscoll in tow, Gessner grapples with the stereotype of the environmentalist as an overzealous, puritanical mess. But as Dan recounts his own story of transforming the famously polluted Charles into an urban haven for wildlife and wild people, the vision of a new sort of eco-champion begins to emerge: someone who falls in love with a forgotten space, and then fights like hell for it. Considering everything from Ed Abbey's legacy to Jimmy Carter's sweater, Gessner points toward a scrappy environmentalism that, despite all odds, just might change the world.

"A wonderfully readable book. Gessner's attempts to define the role of the new environmental warrior, both in terms of idealism and political practicality, are heartfelt and informed. [*My Green Manifesto*] is brave enough and intelligent enough to embrace technology as well as art, pure ideology as well as compromise, hope as well as despair, depression and paralysis as well as valor and joy." *Boston Globe* "Raw and honest . . . there's a lilt in his jig that many will find invigorating." *Los Angeles Times* "Funny and inspiring . . . Gessner believes that committing to a lifelong environmental fight is an act of personal fulfillment. [*My Green Manifesto*] is an easy, pleasurable read, with an environmental message that . . . there is still transcendence to be found in the 'limited wild' of our own communities. So get out there, enjoy it, and fight for it before it's gone because, at least according to Gessner, this is the key to a better life." *Publishers Weekly* (STARRED REVIEW) David Gessner is a major American writer in possession of the most hard-headed, pragmatic, passionate, and eloquent style of thinking and writing on what it means to be a human on Earth today. Brad Watson, author of *The Heaven of Mercury* Gessner has chopped down the strangling beanstalk of environmentalism, and has merrily, adroitly, hungrily planted something new in its place. His book comes just in time: After talking with environmental experts and reading the direst of scientific journal articles, I was starting to feel the mind-numbing grip of paralysis. But before you put a bullet through your head for the plight of Mother Earth, you should read this book. Gessner is not saying anybody is off the hook, but he offers a more effective way of relating to nature, in fact, of being nature. Craig Childs, author of *The Animal Dialogues* David Gessner re-invents the environmental manifesto for people who hate the word environmental as much as they hate the word manifesto. Make no mistake he can write about a blue heron or an osprey with the best of them but if you're looking for mystical rhapsodies to Mother Earth, go elsewhere. Gessner is convinced that re-connecting ourselves with nature doesn't start

with finger-wagging; it starts with fun. Ginger Strand, author of *Inventing Niagara* An engaging book with a serious message. Kirkus s"Earthy and funny, frank and pragmatic. Gessner asserts that nature is necessary for our well-being, that 'the most important wilderness is rooted not in theory, renunciation, or gloom but, rather, in love and wonder, even anger. Take a 'good walk,' he advises, and be willing to fight and hustle for the place you love." Donna Seaman, Booklist