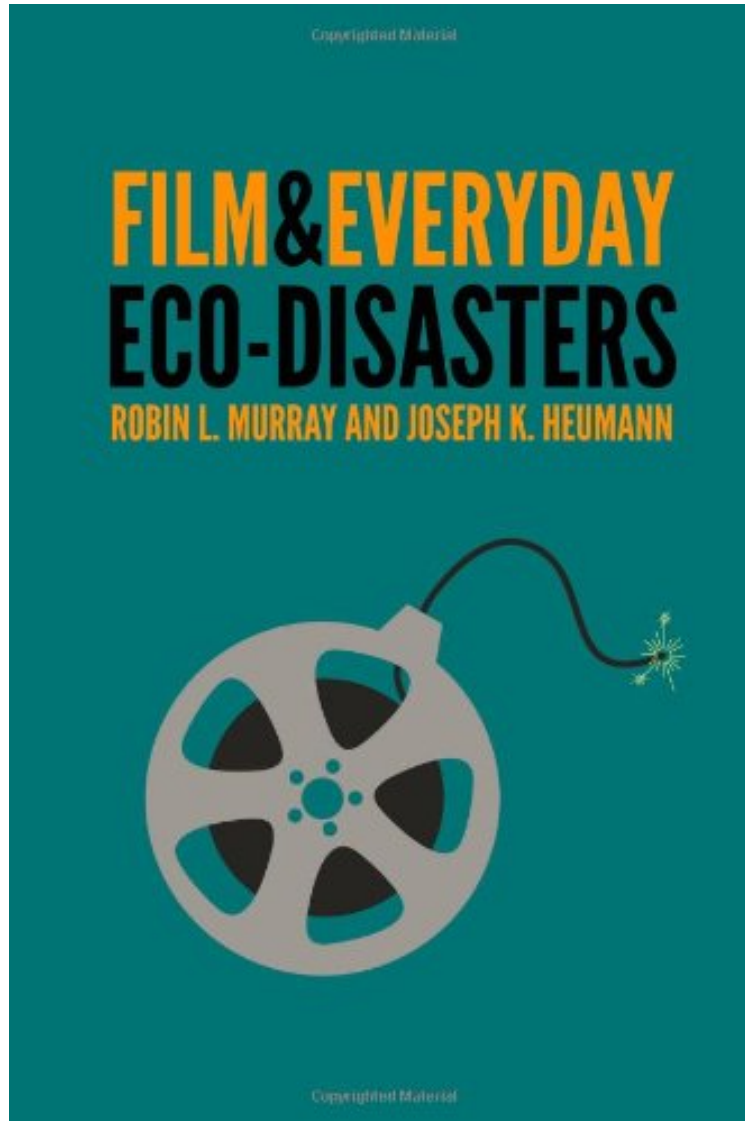


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Film and Everyday Eco-disasters

Robin L. Murray, Joseph K. Heumann
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Robin L. Murray, Joseph K. Heumann : Film and Everyday Eco-disasters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Film and Everyday Eco-disasters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't Say The Didn't Warn You!By Charles J. StivaleIf you are familiar with Murray and Heumanns previous (and recent) books Ecology and Popular Film: Cinema on the Edge (2009), Thats All Folks? Ecocritical Readings of American Animated Films (2011), Gunfight at the Eco-Corral Western Cinema and the Environment (2012) the reader will already be familiar with the quality and breadth of their

efforts. The new book, *Film Everyday Eco-Disasters*, continues in the tradition of solid scholarship, broad research in the cinematic references necessary to approach the topics, and insightful analysis and juxtaposition of films. Everyday eco-disasters surround us, everyday, everywhere, and Murray and Heumann have the uncanny ability to point out what should be obvious to us all, and the implications of these disasters for our lives and future. In the new book, the authors consider (part I) ecological issues in cinema related to air, water and clothing; then (part II), documentaries related to food production and animal rights and ethics; and then (part III), ecological issues regarding housing, mountaintop removal, and oil drilling, with a conclusion asking if the film industry and the environmental can mix. All in all, a great addition to an important and growing collection of works on cinema and ecology.

Eco-disasters such as coal-mining accidents, oil spills, and food-borne diseases appear regularly in the news, making them seem nearly commonplace. These ecological crises highlight the continual tensions between human needs and the environmental impact these needs produce. Contemporary documentaries and feature films explore environmental-human conflicts by depicting the consequences of our overconsumption and dependence on nonrenewable energy. *Film and Everyday Eco-disasters* examines changing perspectives toward everyday eco-disasters as reflected in the work of filmmakers from the silent era forward, with an emphasis on recent films such as *Dead Ahead*, an HBO dramatization of the Exxon Valdez disaster; *Total Recall*, a science fiction action film highlighting oxygen as a commodity; *The Devil Wears Prada*, a comment on the fashion industry; and *Food, Inc.*, a documentary interrogation of the food industry. The authors evaluate not only the success of these films as rhetorical arguments but also their rhetorical strategies. This interdisciplinary approach to film studies fuses cultural, economic, and literary critiques in articulating an approach to ecology that points to sustainable development as an alternative to resource exploitations and their associated everyday eco-disasters.

The authors grasp of historical and legal context is top-notch and the book consistently connects the issues and arguments represented in the films to their potential to inspire environmental activism in the viewer. . . . A broad-based, historically detailed overview of its fascinating and relevant central theme. Carter Soles, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*