



Turned Out Nice Again: Living with the Weather

Richard Mabey

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Author : Richard Mabey

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From Reader Review Turned Out Nice Again: Living with the Weather for online ebook

Normfg says

Richard Mabey probably the best Nature writer of the day. A tiny, beautiful, book of 90 pages, with 5 sections, in which Mabey explores our never-ending fascination with weather. Through anecdote, exquisite observation, science, cultural references, his own experience and memory, he brings a beautifully fresh view to the subject few of us tire of talking about at least once a day - our weather.

Ian says

A short, read in a rainy afternoon book about how the weather impinges on the emotions and actions of people. Often quite lyrical it is an enjoyable read. The chapter, Halcyon Days, was particularly good. The phrase derives from a spell of calm November weather when it was believed the kingfisher incubated its eggs on the sea. Alkoun is the Greek for kingfisher.

Rachel says

Nice little book, good for a Christmas gift. As I live in the Fens, several sections felt particularly relevant to me.

Andrew Cox says

An enjoyable read. Mabey can be very incisive in his writing but this is a simple, at times endearing, but a straightforward easy read. Read in an afternoon & an enjoyable afternoon at that but it won't stay in my mind.

Stewart Monckton says

This is a slight – about 80 small pages – but nonetheless worthwhile consideration of weather, our relationship with it and eventually our impact on it.

If you are already a fan of the writing of Richard Mabey this will be a very familiar read. It contains sections of introspection, mainly about depression and mental illness, beautifully observed sections about the fine detail of the countryside and (in my opinion) a slightly too reverential approach to a small group of authors – in this case Gilbert White is singled out.

If you are not a fan – or if you are coming fresh to his work – this is about as good an introduction as you could get.

It could be read in a single sitting of less than an hour and leave you asking for more.

My only concern is that on two occasions Mabey seems to conflate meteorological and geological phenomenon. He identifies the climate of the UK to be generally benign – citing a lack of volcanoes or tsunamis. And he identifies a “halcyon day” as being caused (at least partly) but the incoming tide flowing over a bottle of wine. None of these is in any way a weather (or even climate) related event. This struck me as unfortunate.

With the exception of the point in the last paragraph I would highly recommend this book – just don’t take on a train journey that last more than 40 minutes!

Peter Hairygardener says

I like Richard Mabey but I don't like this book, my goodness does he waffle on, glad I only borrowed it from the Library

Janet Roberts says

This is a really small book - in fact an afternoon read. It's by one of my favourite nature writers, and talks about the weather and our response to it, particularly how it affects our mental health. This is of considerable interest to Mabey as he suffers quite severely from depression.

What I particularly enjoy about his writing is the sheer poetry in his style...like this description of a trip to a wood which was said to flood in the spring

"So, on the afternoon of 21 March, first day of spring, I perch under the oaks in Lamorran Wood and wait for the equi-noctial high tide. There are piping curlews overhead, and a thin rime of salt on the lower branches, maybe a relic of earlier inundations. When the high water seeps up to where I'm sitting, it's not quite the dramatic mix of wood and water I'd hoped for. It laps milkily and rather sedately around the primroses and golden saxifrage, but doesn't flood as I'd dreamed it might."

Andy Emery says

Nice little summary of what weather means to us and nature, in Mabey's inimitable style.

Damaskcat says

This intriguing and affectionate look at the weather made me think of the varied weather we experience in the UK in a somewhat different manner. The author looks briefly at the way the weather affects how we feel – dark days make us feel quiet and depressed, sunny days cheer us up and strong winds make some people feel on edge.

The weather has a huge effect on our daily lives and it is something we all talk about. A comment on the

weather is often the first thing we say to people after we say hello. It is because our weather is so varied that we find it such a common topic of conversation. Our memory of weather events which we personally witnessed tends to be selective. For example many people remember the hot summer of 1976 but far fewer remember the equally hot summer of 1975.

The author quotes from various diarists such as Francis Kilvert and Gilbert White who both made a point of mentioning the weather in their work. I enjoyed reading this little book which is written in an easy and entertaining style and it reminded me that we often confuse weather with climate. I also learned of a phenomenon which I have never seen or heard of before – moon rainbows. I shall now be looking out for them if there is bright moonlight and rain showers – an uncommon combination.

Alex Sarll says

A slim but wise volume on the British accommodation with our "whimsical" weather, what we mythologise and what we forget. Inevitably, it ends on a worried note as it contemplates the oncoming storm of climate change - compounded, for me, by reading roughly half the book either side of seeing Doggerland, an intense and hieratic dance piece on the same themes. Fingers crossed that Mabey is right, and a century hence Britons will still be muddling through and wryly greeting each other with his title.

Paul says

This is a charming little book about the relationship between the British and the weather; the title is the greeting that two strangers will normally exchange rather than hello.

It is a very short book, on 90 pages, and it is split into five chapters. He writes about the exceptional weather moments that we have had, and also the mundane. We can go from snow one week in June, to balmy weather a week later. In the past he has suffer from depression, which he wrote about in his book Nature Cure, and he explores the way that weather can affect mood and emotion, and how even a wrong forecast can.

Even though it is short, consider it a distillation of the writers art.

Jennifer says

I'm not entirely sure what to make of this book. First off, however, I have no problem with it being an essay rather than a great fat tome. I particularly enjoyed his writing about 'halcyon days' and somehow the slightness of the volume fitted well with the notion of (retrospectively) fleeting experiences of joy and profound contentment. What I am not sure about though is whether ultimately the content is more slight than profound - beautiful words do not necessarily lift a book out of stocking filler territory. It is a problem common to a good deal of nature writing in my (limited) experience. Perhaps this book is best seen as a taster for exploring some of the themes of the British relationship with weather in more depth - the spiritual impact, the impact on our landscapes.

Liz Mckay says

Enjoyed very much

Chris says

A gorgeous breakdown of how the most seemingly innocuous of things; the weather, which most hardly give a second thought, effects and dictates every level of our daily lives. Typically Mabey with a mixture of the historic, current, scientific, artistic and biographical all bundled together in a tight, but worthwhile read.

Suzie Grogan says

This is a beautiful book - an extended essay really - on our relationship with Britain's 'whimsical' (Richard Mabey's term) weather. I could read Mr Mabey all day long; he writes so lyrically and with such a passion for nature that it enthuses, informs and enchants. Loved it.
