

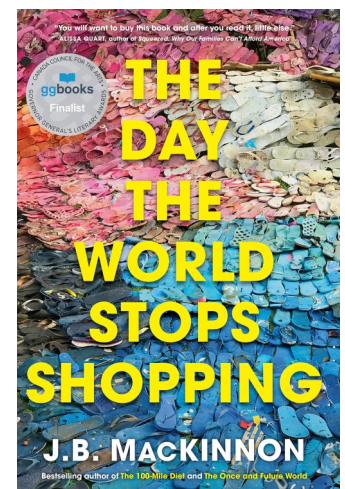
# BOOK CLUB in a bag



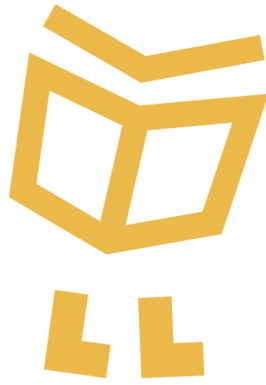
## The Day the World Stops Shopping J.B. MacKinnon

### Discussion Questions

1. What are your thoughts on the author's thought experiment? What do you think would happen if people stopped shopping?
2. What surprised you most about this book?
3. Discuss the concept of "greening" consumerism. Is it enough to make our consumption "greener"?
4. What are the benefits of decreased consumerism? What are the drawbacks?
5. The author discusses how the pandemic "triggered the sharpest decline in consumer spending ever recorded" when many businesses closed as a result of lockdowns. Did the pandemic have any long-lasting effects on your shopping habits? Do you consume less, or differently?
6. Discuss chapter 15 and the points the author raises about inconspicuous consumption. What are some ways that you are "shopping" without realizing it? How could you reduce these? Is it possible?
7. Consider the epilogue where the author discusses how his shopping habits changed as a result of writing this book. Do you think stopping shopping is the answer, or is it simply shopping better?
8. What did you learn from this book? Will you apply any of its teachings on the negative effects of consumerism to your life?



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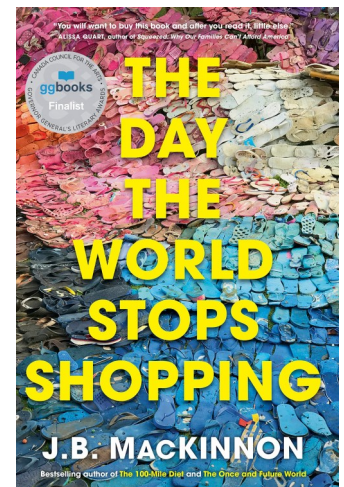
## About the Author

J.B. MacKinnon is the author or coauthor of five books of nonfiction. An award-winning journalist, his work has appeared in such publications as the *New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, and *The Atlantic*, as well as the *Best American Science* and *Nature Writing* anthologies. He is an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of British Columbia, where he teaches feature writing.

MacKinnon's latest book is *The Day the World Stops Shopping*, a thought experiment that imagines what would happen—to our economies, our products, our planet, our selves—if we committed to consuming far fewer of the Earth's resources. Previous works are *The Once and Future World*, a bestseller about rewilding the natural world; *The 100-Mile Diet* (with Alisa Smith), widely recognized as a catalyst of the local foods movement; *I Live Here* (with Mia Kirshner and artists Michael Simons and Paul Shoebridge), a 'paper documentary' about displaced people; and *Dead Man in Paradise*, the story of a priest assassinated in the Dominican Republic, which won Canada's highest prize for literary nonfiction.

MacKinnon also works in documentaries, most notably as writer for *Bear 71*, an internationally acclaimed digital interactive that explores the intersection of the wired and wild worlds through the true story of a mother grizzly bear. He lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Via the author's website (<https://www.jbmackinnon.com/>)



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