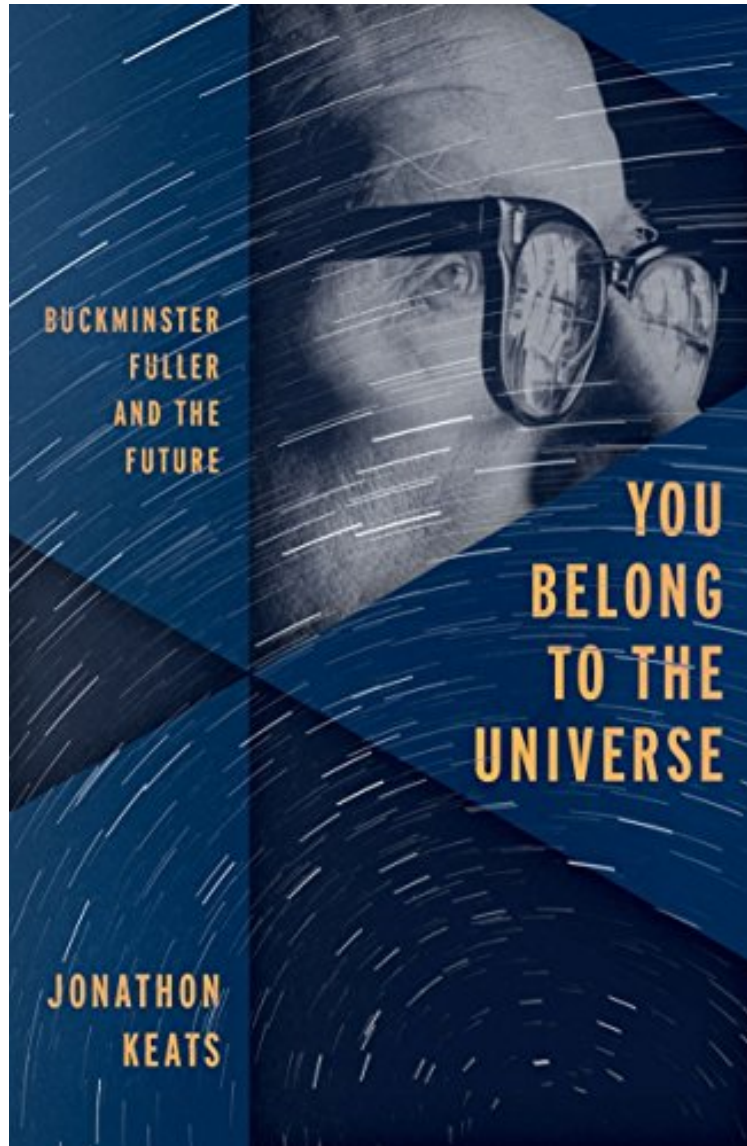


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## You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future

*Jonathon Keats*

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**Jonathon Keats : You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. It takes a genius to know one.By Marin readerI have been waiting for this book since 1982, when I spent the better part of two days listening to a one-on-one Bucky lecture entitled "Urgent Warnings for Humanity." I promised Bucky I would write the book that Jonathon Keats has at long last written. Thank you, Mr. Keats.Because Buckminster Fuller is one of Spaceship Earth's greatest thinkers, it has been

difficult to muster the confidence to write about him and the things he told me those thirty plus years ago. But with this book my confidence grows. What Jonathon Keats has beautifully done is capture the genius of this amazing man, in a way that will tingle your spine with knowing. If any single person captures both the early spirituality and the technologically driven evolution of our country, it is Buckminster Fuller. And if anyone has captured the Bucky's magic it is Keats. The only thing I see missing is some of Bucky's damning of capitalism and the fossil fuel industry in particular. It omits mention of Bucky's GRUNCH of Giants, which reads like the perfect preface to Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, and is very timely. But Bucky was such a comprehensivist, you can hardly fault a book that leaves something out. Bucky truly was the Leonardo da Vinci of the twentieth century. And Keats shows it takes one to know one. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. You Belong to the Universe is an excellent read. It's both educational and entertaining. By Justin Valley Overall, You Belong to the Universe is an excellent read. It's both educational and entertaining. More important, it provokes even more curiosity in readers for ways to apply some of Bucky's most famous ideas to problems (still) facing the world today. My background with Bucky was in having read Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth and Critical Path a few years ago. Both helped form my beliefs to an extent, and I had held Fuller in very high esteem since that time. Keats' book shines light on some of the less flattering qualities of Bucky's life--specifically that he was as talented a self-promoter as he was a scientist. That said, I now see Bucky as the flawed human that we all are, as opposed to some mythological figure, and that has made all of his thinking feel both more accessible and more readily adaptable to my needs. It's truly a gift. The only reason for 4 stars instead of 5 is the shocking choice by the publishers to completely omit any figures in the hardcover edition of this book. An example in relation to the Dymaxion maps: "...Fuller replaced his fourteen-sided cuboctahedron with a twenty-sided icosahedron, in which all faces were triangular." I felt I had to read this book next to my computer with a google window ready to go, and that's coming from someone who has a Dymaxion Map hanging on their office wall. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not light reading. By Tghu Verd Interesting bio on an apparently complicated and possibly narcissistic man who really was ahead of his time. The Fuller of his own imagination is well contrasted with the public Fuller - and the failing Fuller, not much that he did was successful - and I enjoyed the telling.

A compelling call to apply Buckminster Fuller's creative problem-solving to present-day problems. A self-professed "comprehensive anticipatory design scientist," the inventor Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) was undoubtedly a visionary. Fuller's creations often bordered on the realm of science fiction, ranging from the freestanding geodesic dome to the three-wheel Dymaxion car to a bathroom requiring neither plumbing nor sewage. Yet in spite of his brilliant mind and life-long devotion to serving mankind, Fuller's expansive ideas were often dismissed, and have faded from public memory since his death. You Belong to the Universe documents Fuller's six-decade quest to "make the world work for one hundred percent of humanity." Critic and experimental philosopher Jonathon Keats sets out to revive Fuller's unconventional practice of comprehensive anticipatory design, placing Fuller's philosophy in a modern context and dispelling much of the mythology surrounding Fuller's life. Keats argues that Fuller's life and ideas, namely doing "the most with the least," are now more relevant than ever as humanity struggles to meet the demands of an exploding world population with finite resources. Delving deeply into Buckminster Fuller's colorful world, Keats applies Fuller's most important concepts to present-day issues, arguing that his ideas are now not only feasible, but necessary. From transportation to climate change, urban design to education, You Belong to the Universe demonstrates that Fuller's holistic problem-solving techniques may be the only means of addressing some of the world's most pressing issues. Keats's timely book challenges each of us to become comprehensive anticipatory design scientists, providing the necessary tools for continuing Fuller's legacy of improving the world.

"A wonderfully written and highly necessary book about one of the 20th century's most enigmatic outliers." -- Douglas Coupland, author and artist "Brilliantly challenging Buckminster Fuller's self-mythologizing by putting Fuller's life and ideas in their historical context, Jonathon Keats is all the more able to identify the ways of thinking that were truly original in Fuller's own time, and the concepts that can address today's environmental and technological dilemmas. Keats's sympathetic but firm critique of Fuller, and his own suggestions for the human future, make this book a must for Fuller enthusiasts and skeptics alike - in fact, for everyone aspiring to think outside the dome." -- Edward Tenner, author of Why Things Bite Back and Our Own Devices "Jonathon Keats audaciously tackles the grandiose Buckminster Fuller, debunking Fuller's legend while extending his inventive thinking for our present day. Sometimes it takes a real visionary to know one." -- Bruce Sterling, author of Tomorrow Now and Holy Fire "I loved reading Jonathon Keats's fascinating book on one of my favorite thinkers and optimists, Buckminster Fuller. Keats illuminates how Fuller's daring mind predicted the Internet, MOOCs, Netflix, and much more. Even if some of his ideas didn't work out, it's so refreshing to inhabit Fuller's insatiably curious mind that truly believed we could design ourselves into a better future." -- Tiffany Shlain, filmmaker, founder of The Webby Awards, creator of the show "The Future Starts Here" "R. Buckminster Fuller was born in privilege, educated by experience and his own intuition, and created his own myth. Along the way he enriched human existence with inventions such as the geodesic dome and revolutionary

concepts about peace and our place in the environment. Jonathon Keats has done a superb job of distinguishing fact from legend and refocusing our attention on Fuller's thoughts and perceptions. The work of a remarkable man has yielded a remarkable book." -- Michael Hiltzik, author of Big Science "Keats' excellent book on Buckminster Fuller recalls a remarkable life in engineering and beyond, an underestimated and underappreciated life. Fuller's tale reminds us that the future is best predicted by those who invent it." -- Craig Newmark, founder, Craigslist "Was Buckminster Fuller a dreamer, a genius, or a deluded crackpot? In his fascinating book Jonathon Keats shows that Fuller was all three--and that his vision of a design-driven global ecosystem in which humans live harmoniously with nature is more pertinent now than ever before. More than just a biography of the man and his ideas, Keats's book is an inspiring call to action." -- Laura J. Snyder, author of Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing "Buckminster Fuller is perhaps one of the most unrecognized visionaries of the 20th Century. In *You Belong to the Universe*, Jonathon Keats unpacks the many eccentric details of Fuller's life, and explores the implications of Fuller's designs and blueprints for a better society.... Keats presents an interesting look at the way innovation has transformed from Fuller's day into the energy and cost-saving practices that are being explored today." -- The Manhattan Book "Like his formidable intellect, Fuller's self-mythology was an elastic tool he stretched to suit the audience and the occasion at hand. In vivid prose that details all of Fuller's eccentricities and achievements, Keats strips away the icon's layers to reveal a truer, even more fascinating portrait of the 20th century genius." -- Discover Magazine "If Fuller is better known for objects than ideas, that's partly because of the complexity of how he thought.... It's a reflectiveness that's present in the book, which is a fascinating read." -- Fast Company "It's become cliché; for people in tech to say they want to make the world better. But Fuller meant it. In *You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future*, Keats explores Fuller's life and work with an eye toward what companies like Google and Tesla Motors owe a man who (for real) wanted to change the world." -- Wired "In *You Belong to the Universe*, Keats offers a new perspective on the legacy of R. Buckminster Fuller and suggests that his timeless approach to design could affect global change." -- Discovery News "Keats emphasizes [Buckminster Fuller's] ideas without ignoring his often controversial accomplishments in a biography that manages to be enthusiastic without descending into hagiography.... Keats's insightful account of this impressive American innovator reveals a man who managed to be 'both corporate and antiestablishment,' more pragmatic than concerned with resolving contradictions." -- Publishers Weekly "You Belong to the Universe says more about Fuller and his future in a few pages than some whole biographies, and renews one's interest--if not faith--in all those graduate design shows." -- New Scientist "Readers coming for an illuminating biography of one of technology's most colourful characters won't be disappointed. What they'll get as well though is a primer in a way of thinking about innovation that warrants a revival." -Engineering Technology Magazine "[Keats's] even-handed treatment of Fuller's failures and successes enables him to tease out their lessons. One can read Keats's book as a thought experiment about how the future might be designed." -The Los Angeles of Books "[Keats] makes a tremendous case for why the eccentric ideas of the erstwhile visionary matter today. With admirable concision and a prose style as delightful as it is rigorous, Keats critically examines six of Fuller's most important ideas, ending each section with a 'proposition' of his own that builds on--and often goes far beyond--his predecessor's original. In what becomes a kind of collaboration between two like minds separated by a century, Fuller's soaring mission to 'make the world work for one hundred percent of humanity' is given new--and newly plausible--life." -Brooklyn Rail About the Author Jonathon Keats is a writer, artist, and experimental philosopher. He is recently the author of the story collection *The Book of the Unknown*, winner of the American Library Association's 2010 Sophie Brody Medal.