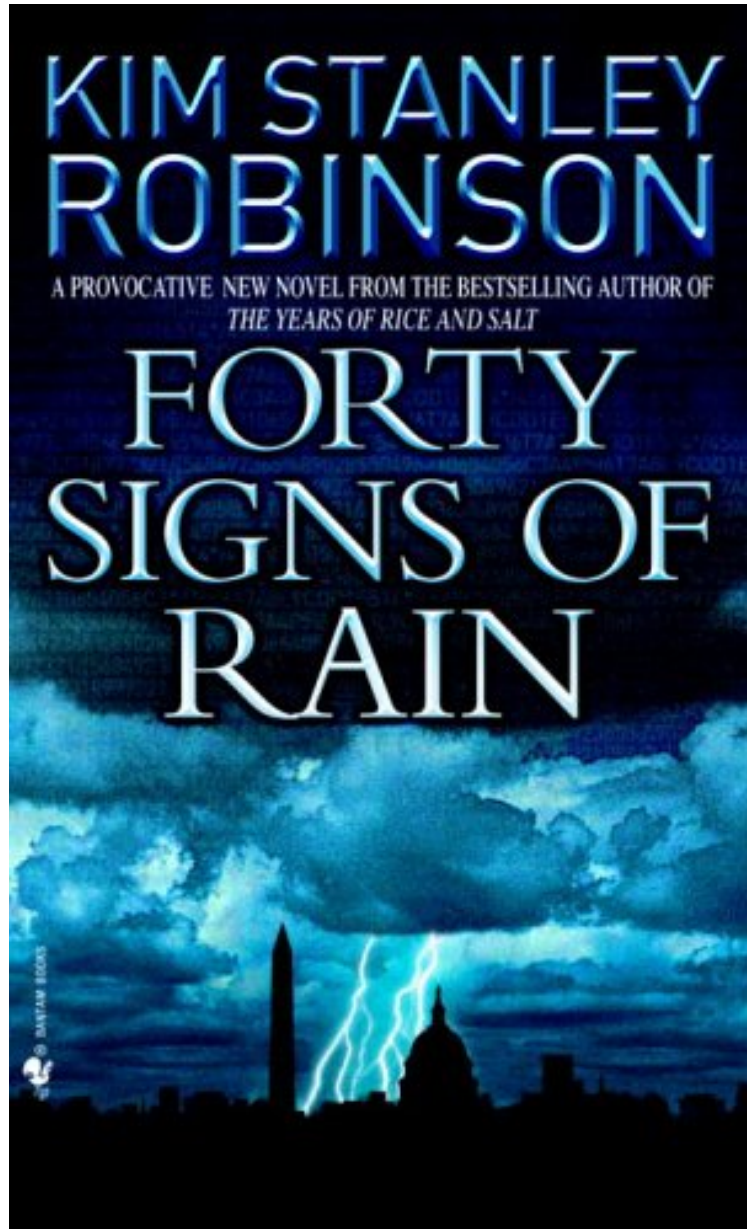


(Get free) Forty Signs of Rain (Science in the Capital Trilogy, Book 1)

## Forty Signs of Rain (Science in the Capital Trilogy, Book 1)

*Von Kim Stanley Robinson*

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**Von Kim Stanley Robinson : Forty Signs of Rain (Science in the Capital Trilogy, Book 1)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forty Signs of Rain (Science in the Capital Trilogy, Book 1):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The thinking man's "Day after Tomorrow"Von germanyfranKim Stanley Robinson's latest offering takes up the theme of global warming and the concomitant climate change in a considered and well-researched novel of the near future. The book is a little slow-moving, especially in the area of plot development, but this is forgivable in a work which is obviously the first part of what will be (at least) a trilogy (Part Two, "Fifty Degrees Below" is due for release in November 2005).Robinson is interested in developing two major themes. The first is obvious; the effect the continuing production of greenhouse gasses (above all, carbon dioxide) is having and will have on the world's climate and how this is going to affect all of our lives in the near future - if, indeed, it isn't affecting them already. The second is, perhaps, less obvious, but even more interesting; the nature of science, its role in contemporary society, and its relationship to other, more traditional areas of human wisdom, particularly - for want of a better word - spirituality. This is expressed in one of the major themes of the novel, the encounter between some hard-wired scientists and a group of Tibetan Buddhists. Robinson is revisiting here an area he powerfully explored in his masterpiece, "The Years of Rice and Salt".The book visits other areas as well, like the day-to-day working of US politics, and the nature of roles and relationships within the family. Especially in the depiction of family relationships, the book has a sensitivity and gentle insight which I, for one, found very appealing. There's humour there too, particularly in this area.In the realm of the discourse between science and politics in the US, I missed a treatment of the way science tries to deal with the (mostly) fundamentalist evangelical concept of "intelligent design", a major theme in this area in the present US which bemuses this European observer. But perhaps he will take up the theme in the sequels.And I hope the sequels come soon, because the real action - the beginning of climatic Armageddon - only takes off in the final quarter of the book. The phenomenon of multi-volume stories is something science fiction and fantasy fans have always been used to, but it does contain a conundrum for authors. Either you try to achieve some kind of provisional closure in a number of the major story-lines in each volume, thus providing the reader with the feeling of a work which is rounded-off (but truncate the complete work repeatedly in an artificial way); or you develop the story and the characters throughout the whole planned project, thus leaving the reader at the end of each volume with the feeling that the story has just been cut off - left unfinished, like the end of a chapter.Robinson takes the second option, which weakens this book, as seen as a unit. For this reason, I can't give it all five stars. But; this said, I'm very much looking forward to the next instalment.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 325 pages out of 432 are boringVon A. DringerI read the Mars-trilogy of KSR and really liked it, even though there are some parts where Mr Robinson goes into details too much.So I bought 40 signs of rain full of hope for an interesting read. That was a big disappointment! He goes on and on about boring details, e.g. describing on one!! page the absolutely irrelevant process of how a woman pumps milk from her breasts into bottles to freeze them and feed her kid later on.It starts getting interesting from page 300 or so. The conflicts between scientists and politicians and the influence of the Tibetan people on some of the scientists, the actual climate change and so on.In my opinion a short conclusion of this first book of a trilogy is sufficient to start the second book, Fifty degrees below, where things really get started and interesting. I'll buy the third one anyway to hopefully get a good conclusion.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Welt von Forschern und WissenschaftlernVon JanaEin interessantes Buch, das einen Einblick in die Welt der Forscher und Wissenschaftler im Bereich Umweltschutz gibt. Viele Zusatzinformationen zum Thema Umwelt und Global Warming. Interessant geschrieben.Leider manchmal allerdings etwas verwirrend wo einzelne Punkte hinfhren sollen (vielleicht werden diese in den folgenden zwei Bchern der Trilogie aufgelst).

KurzbeschreibungThe bestselling author of the classic Mars trilogy and The Years of Rice and Salt returns with a riveting new trilogy of cutting-edge science, international politics, and the real-life ramifications of global warming as they are played out in our nations capitaland in the daily lives of those at the center of the action. Hauntingly realistic, here is a novel of the near future that is inspired by scientific facts already making headlines.When the Arctic ice pack was first measured in the 1950s, it averaged thirty feet thick in midwinter. By the end of the century it was down to fifteen. One August the ice broke. The next year the breakup started in July. The third year it began in May. That was last year.Its an increasingly steamy summer in the nations capital as Senate environmental staffer Charlie Quibler cares for his young son and deals with the frustrating politics of global warming. Charlie must find a way to get a skeptical administration to act before its too lateand his progeny find themselves living in Swamp World. But the political climate poses almost as great a challenge as the environmental crisis when it comes to putting the public good ahead of private gain. While Charlie struggles to play politics, his wife, Anna, takes a more rational approach to the looming crisis in her work at the National Science Foundation. There a proposal has come in for a revolutionary process that could solve the problem of global warmingif it can be recognized in time. But when a race to control the budding technology begins, the stakes only get higher. As these everyday heroes fight to align the awesome forces of nature with the extraordinary march of modern science, they are unaware that fate is about to put an unusual twist on their workone that will place them at the heart of an unavoidable storm. With style, wit, and rare insight into our past,

present, and possible future, this captivating novel propels us into a world on the verge of unprecedented change in a time quite like our own. Here is Kim Stanley Robinson at his visionary best, offering a gripping cautionary tale of progress and its price as only he can tell it. From the Hardcover edition. From Booklist The new novel by the best-selling author of the award-winning Mars trilogy (Red Mars, 1993; Blue Mars, 1994; and Green Mars, 1996) as well as 14 other books deals with the danger of global warming. His protagonist is Anna Qibler, a scientist at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia. A chunk of the Ross Ice Shelf has broken off, a chunk more than half the size of France. The Arctic Ocean ice-pack breakup has flooded the surface of the North Atlantic with freshwater, and the hyperino, now into its forty-second month, has spun up another tropical system in the Pacific, north of the equator, and is barreling northeast toward California. Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have been declared federal disaster areas, and it is up to the NSF to save the country, if not the world. Robinson intertwines this plot with family-life details--about, specifically, Anna and her husband's love of their children, which, unfortunately, becomes a little too extraneous to the story. Nevertheless, the novel ends with a noble cause: the NSF staff determined to curb global warming. Expect demand for this topical and compelling story. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From School Library Journal Adult/High School An elegantly crafted and beguiling novel set in the very near future. Anna Qibler is a technocrat at the National Science Foundation while her husband, Charlie, takes care of their toddler and telecommutes as a legislative consultant to a senator. Their family life is a delight to observe, as are the interactions of the scientists at the NSF and related organizations. When a Buddhist delegation, whose country is being flooded because of climate change, opens an embassy near the NSF, the Qiblers befriend them and teach them to work the system of politics and grants. The Buddhists, in turn, affect the scientists in delightful and unexpectedly significant ways. The characters all share information and theories, appreciating the threat that global warming poses, but they just can't seem to awaken a sense of urgency in the politicians who could do something about it. (Robinson's characterizations of politicians are barbed, and often hilarious.) As the scientists focus on the minutiae of their lives, the specter of global warming looms over all, inexorably causing a change here, a change there, until all the imbalances combine to bring about a brilliantly visualized catastrophe that readers will not soon forget. Even as he outlines frighteningly plausible scenarios backed up by undeniable facts, the author charms with domesticity and humor. This beautifully paced novel stands on its own, but it is the first of a trilogy. As readers wait impatiently for the next volume, they will probably find themselves paying closer attention to science, to politics, and to the weather. Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.