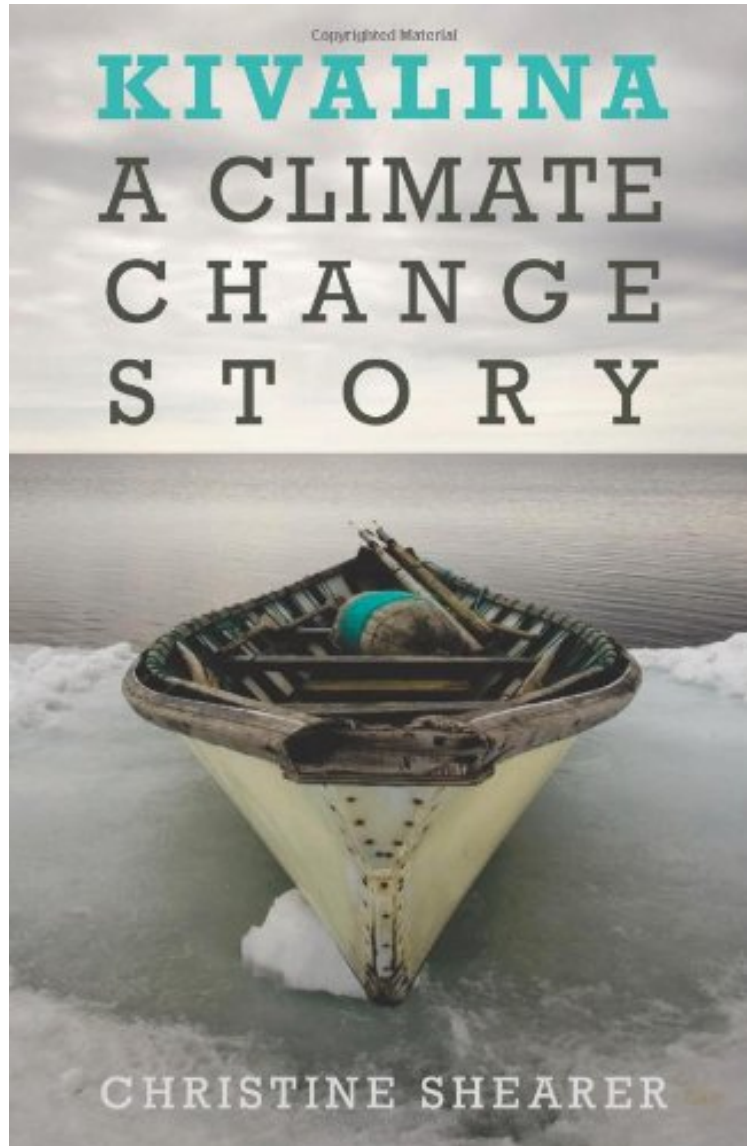


[Mobile book] Kivalina: A Climate Change Story

## Kivalina: A Climate Change Story

*Christine Shearer*

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**Christine Shearer : Kivalina: A Climate Change Story** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kivalina: A Climate Change Story:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By Larry Weitzenkamp The book is about tobacco, lead poisoning, fossil fuels, global warming, and eventually Kivalina. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Victim of big business, big government, and global warming By R. S. Wilkerson When one encounters a book like Christine Shearer's Kivalina: A Climate Change Story (2011) on the library shelf, one expects the story to have come

to a resolution, but for the small Inupiaq village of Kivalina, the story is incomplete. The villagers know that global warming is destroying the small barrier island on which the village rests and that they must relocate. There is no government agency which oversees relocations, and they've twice picked a site to have both rejected by the federal government. The government, has, however, tried to stabilize the erosions while the legal battles and the delays continue. At the time the book was published, no resolution was in sight, and, in the words of one of the residents, the five year project which was in its eleventh year was destined to continue indefinitely into the future. The book will gain a little public interest, be forgotten, and Kivalina will become just another casualty of big oil and big government. The story of Kivalina only takes a few pages. The village exists because the Bureau of Indian Affairs put a school there in 1905 and told the nomadic Inupiaq people that their children had to be educated or the government would prosecute. Because transporting the children to school in winter was dangerous, the tribe settled around the school. They've known since 1990 that their island was being eroded into the sea because the protection of winter ice was coming later and leaving earlier each year, exposing the island to violent storms. The village has sued big business under public nuisance laws to take responsibility for the relocation. The suit is awaiting a Supreme Court decision. The majority of the book deals with intertwined history. The first portion deals with the history of organizations created and funded by big business to deny scientific conclusions by chanting the mantra "there is doubt," the war cry of the professional denier, whether it's the hazards of smoking, CFCs in the atmosphere, lead in paint, or global warming. Huge amounts of money have gone into creating doubt in the mind of the public and in the minds of the courts. The next portion of the book deals with the history of the rise of big oil and its influence on judicial decisions which make accomplishing anything on behalf of the common citizen, such as relocating a Native Alaskan village, virtually impossible. Because big oil employs professional deniers to prevent governmental decision, the whole world has ground to a halt concerning carbon dioxide reduction in the atmosphere, the cause of Kivalina's plight. The tale would not be incomplete without a chapter on government and big oil's treatment of Native Alaskans to give big oil access to their oil-rich lands. It's a well written, thoughtful and thought-provoking series of intertwined histories. It's sad that the private citizen has so little with which to fight the money and influence of big business, that the history of Kivalina may be dependent on a Supreme Court decision at this point, and that most of us, after reading the book, will never hear of Kivalina again. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Kivalina-A Climate Change Story is the best depiction of the impacts of climate change on real people I have read. By Carol Johnson Christine Shearer has written one of the most important books on the impacts of climate change that is out there today. Sometimes the science can be complicated and deter some readers. This book gets right to truth of how real people are impacted by the changes in climate that we are all seeing today. Those who deny climate change do so out of fear, ignorance or greed. I would recommend they read this book and put themselves in the shoes of the Kivalina people. After all, they may find themselves in similar shoes before they know it.

This book looks at the struggle of Kivalina, a small Alaska Native village that filed a legal claim against some of the world's largest fossil fuel companies for damaging their homeland and creating a false debate around climate change. Academic and journalist Christine Shearer explores the history leading up to the lawsuit, and its relationship to past misinformation campaigns involving lead, asbestos, and tobacco. The book also considers the interconnections between fossil fuels, the global political-economy, and disaster management. Kivalina's struggle for safe relocation, the book argues, is part of our common struggle to acknowledge and address climate change before it is too late.

"Shearer provides an impressively concise and comprehensive history of the growth of corporate power in America; its influence on, entwinement with, and corruption of government; [and] corporate obfuscation of industrial hazards." - Publisher's Weekly (Starred review.) Shearer writes clearly about complex issues, and the book is well documented, making it easy for readers to expand their knowledge. Highly recommended for high school, college, university, and public libraries." - Library Journal "Best book of 2011: one of the most timely and important books to be published in 2011 -- and in the past decade." - Jeff Biggers, The Huffington Post 2012 Rachel Carson Environment Book Award (Honorable Mention) "In novelistic detail, Shearer recounts the science, politics, legal battles and human experience at one of the leading edges of climate change impact. In doing so, she... tells the story not just of one village in Alaska, but of us all." - The Society of Environmental Journalists About the Author Christine Shearer is a postdoctoral scholar in science, technology, and society studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a researcher for CoalSwarm, part of SourceWatch. She has previously worked at the KPFA Radio Evening News, the Center for Investigative Reporting, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. Her work has appeared in academic and media publications including National Geographic, Climate Progress, The Journal of Political Ecology, and Conservation Letters. She holds a PhD in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara.