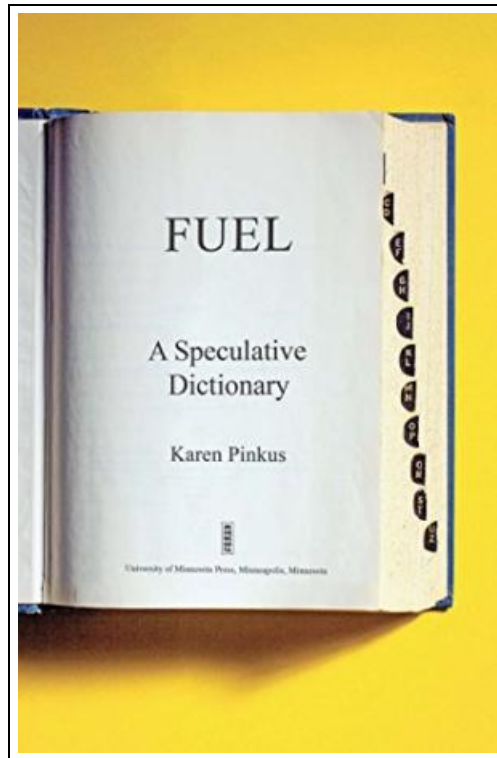


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University of Minnesota Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Fuel is an idiosyncratic, speculative dictionary of fuels, real and imagined, historical and futuristic, hopeless and utopian. Drawing on literature, film, and scientific treatises-most produced long before climate changewas in circulation-Fuel argues for a distinction between energy (a system of power) and fuel (a substance, which can be thought of as potentiality) as it endeavors to undo the dream that we can simply switch to renewables and all will be golden. From Airtro Zyklon B,entries in this unusual dictionaryinclude Algae, Clathrates, Dilithium, Fleece, Goats, Theology, Whale Oil, and many, many more. The tone of the entries ranges as widely as the topics: from historical anecdotes (the Ford Fiesta boozemobile) to eccentric readings of the classics of energy lit(Germinal and Oil!); from literary observations (a high octane Odyssey?) to excursions into literary theory. The dictionary draws from an eccentric canon, including works by Jules Verne, George Eliots Silas Marner, Paolo Bacigalupis Windup Girl, and the Tom Cruise vehicle Oblivion, among others. A message from this ambitious project is that energy can be understood as a heterogeneous set of self-mystifying systems or machines that block access to thought as they fascinate us. Fuels emerge as more primal elements that the audience can grasp at various points along the way to consumption/combustion. This dictionary can help scramble our thinking about fuel-not in order to demonize energy and not in order to create a new hierarchy in which certain renewables take over from fossil fuels but instead to open up potential ways of interacting with real and imaginary substances, by wrenching them out of narrative and placing them into an idiosyncratic dictionary to be applied by readers into new narratives.

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