

## Book Club Discussion Guide



*Not Too Late edited by Rebecca Solnit & Thelma Young Lutunatabua, Page 1 (November 2023)*

# Not Too Late: changing the climate story from despair to possibility

Edited by Rebecca Solnit & Thelma Young  
Lutunatabua

## About the authors:

Rebecca Solnit:

Writer, historian, and activist Rebecca Solnit is the author of more than twenty books on feminism, western and urban history, popular power, social change and insurrection, wandering and walking, hope and catastrophe. Her books include *Orwell's Roses*; *Recollections of My Nonexistence*; *Hope in the Dark*; *Men Explain Things to Me*; *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster*; and *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*. A product of the California public education system from kindergarten to graduate school, she writes regularly for the *Guardian*, serves on the board of the climate group *Oil Change International*, and recently launched the climate project *Not Too Late* ([nottoolateclimate.com](http://nottoolateclimate.com)).

Source: Author's website: (<http://rebeccasolnit.net/biography/>)

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Thelma Young Lutunatabua:

Thelma Young Lutunatabua is a strategist and storyteller who has focused her career on supporting communities to control their narratives and craft their own stories.

Born and raised in Houston, Texas she learned the importance of collective power to stand up to the powers that be. Her entry work into the global climate movement was during the 2014 Peoples Climate March in New York City, and from there she went on to oversee 350's social media and digital storytelling programs. She has spent years in the Pacific, connecting with climate groups in Fiji and around the region. Previously, she worked with civil society networks in Burma/Myanmar and Thailand to promote human rights, gender justice and democracy. She has a M.A. in Media Studies from The New School.

Thelma is also an avid creator herself focusing on long form audio projects, cli-fi creative writing and photography. If she's not at her laptop, she's probably at the ocean.

Source: *The Solutions Project*: (<https://thesolutionsproject.org/>)

### About this book:

An energizing case for hope about the climate comes from Rebecca Solnit, called the voice of the resistance by the New York Times, and climate activist Thelma Young Lutunatabua, along with a chorus of voices calling on us to rise to the moment.

*Not Too Late* is the book for anyone who is despondent, defeatist, or unsure about climate change and seeking answers. As the contributors to this volume make clear, the future will be decided by whether we act in the present--and we must act to counter institutional inertia, fossil fuel interests, and political obduracy.

These dispatches from the climate movement around the world feature the voices of organizers like Guam-based lawyer and writer Julian Aguon; climate scientists like Dr.

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Jacquelyn Gill and Dr. Edward Carr; poets like Marshall Islands activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijner; and longtime organizers like *The Tyranny of Oil* author Antonia Juhasz.

Guided by Rebecca Solnit's typical clear-eyed wisdom and enriched by photographs and quotes, *Not Too Late* leads readers from discouragement to possibilities, from climate despair to climate hope.

Source: Goodreads: (<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/85173842>)

### Discussion Questions:

(General nonfiction questions to get book club discussions off to a good start.)

1. If your book offers a cultural portrait—of life in another country or region of your own country, start with questions a, b, and c:
  - a. What observations are made in the book? Does the author examine economics and politics family traditions, the arts, religious beliefs, language or food?
  - b. Does the author criticize or admire the culture? Does he/she wish to preserve or change the way of life? Either way, what would be risked or gained?
  - c. What is different from your own culture? What do you find most surprising, intriguing or difficult to understand?
2. What is the central idea discussed in the book? What issues or ideas does the author explore? Are they personal, sociological, global, political, economic, spiritual, medical, or scientific?
3. Do the issues affect your life? How so—directly, on a daily basis, or more generally? Now or sometime in the future?

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4. What evidence does the author use to support the book's ideas? Is the evidence convincing...definitive or...speculative? Does the author depend on personal opinion, observation, and assessment? Or is the evidence factual—based on science, statistics, historical documents, or quotations from (credible) experts?
5. What kind of language does the author use? Is it objective and dispassionate? Or passionate and earnest? Is it biased, inflammatory, sarcastic? Does the language help or undercut the author's premise?
6. What are the implications for the future? Are there long- or short-term consequences to the issues raised in the book? Are they positive or negative...affirming or frightening?
7. What solutions does the author propose? Are the author's recommendations concrete, sensible, doable? Who would implement those solutions?
8. How controversial are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?
9. Talk about specific passages that struck you as significant—or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad...? What was memorable?
10. What have you learned after reading this book? Has it broadened your perspective about a difficult issue—personal or societal? Has it introduced you to a culture in another country...or an ethnic or regional culture in your own country?

Source: LitLovers (<http://www.litlovers.com>)