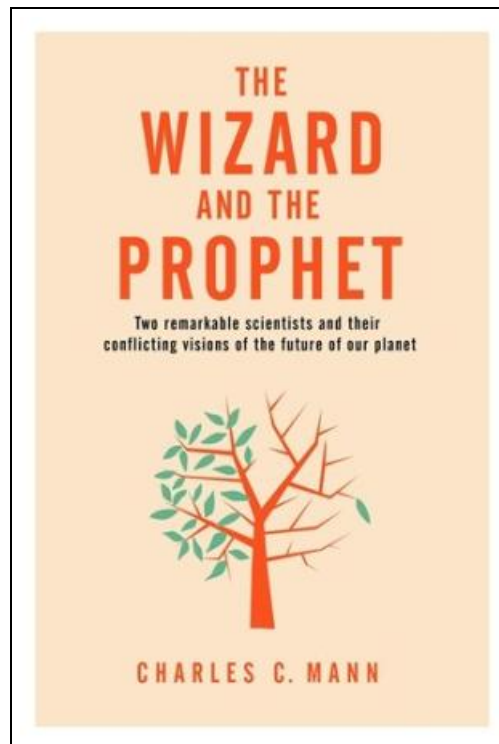


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THE WIZARD AND THE PROPHET: TWO REMARKABLE SCIENTISTS AND THEIR CONFLICTING VISIONS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET (PAPERBACK)

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Pan MacMillan, United Kingdom, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Air Iri OME. Language: English . Brand New Book. In just three decades - by about 2050 - the human population of the Earth will reach ten billion. This will present fundamental, even elemental, problems: How to feed ten billion? How to provide ten billion with water? How to keep ten billion warm in the cold and cool in the heat? And how to do all this without irreparably harming our planet? To explore these challenges, Charles C. Mann goes back to the 1950s and 60s and vividly brings to life two individuals who established the distinct schools of thought that still dominate our ideas about these issues. On the one hand is `the Prophet , ecologist William Vogt. Crippled by childhood polio, Vogt spent years struggling through the remotest regions of Latin America - including, memorably, the hellishly beautiful guano islands of Peru - to assemble what became the basic ideas behind today s global environmental movement. Environmentalists who have followed Vogt s lead see the world as bound by immutable biological limits and our rising affluence as a threat. Unless humankind drastically reduces consumption, they argue, our growing numbers and appetite will overwhelm the planet s ecosystems. On the other hand is `the Wizard , Norman Borlaug, the legendary plant-breeder who in 1970 won the Nobel Peace Prize. Born into abject poverty, Borlaug became the primary figure in the `Green Revolution of the 1960s, which used new agricultural technology to raise global grain harvests, helping to avert tens of millions of deaths from hunger. Today, he has become the emblem of `techno-optimism - the view that science and technology, properly applied, can help us produce our way out of our difficulties. To those who take Borlaug s position, affluence is...

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