

ANDREAS WEBER

is a Berlin-based philosopher, biologist, and writer. His books in English include: Enlivenment: Towards a Fundamental Shift in the Concepts of Nature, Culture and Politics (2013); The Biology of Wonder: Aliveness, Feeling, and the Metamorphosis of Science (2016); and Biopoetics: Towards an Existential Ecology (2016). Weber regularly contributes to major newspapers and magazines, such as National Geographic, GEO, and Die Zeit, and has won a number of awards for his writing. He teaches philosophy at Leuphana University, Lüneburg, and at the University of Fine Arts, Berlin. He lives in Berlin and Italy.

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Chelsea Green Publishing 85 North Main Street, Suite 120 White River Junction, VT 05001 (802) 295-6300 www.chelseagreen.com "In his philosophical meditations, Andreas Weber deepens the recent scientific advances toward a new systemic understanding of life by investing them with a vital emotional dimension. . . . An important and inspiring book!"

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"Andreas Weber is an indispensable voice in ecological and philosophical thought. With fearless probity and autobiographical intimacy, *Matter and Desire* composes the symphonic grand design of desire, relationships, the metaphysics of the body—and much more.... This is a timeless yet urgent, and splendid book."

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"Andreas Weber offers us the best medicine I know for a culture benumbed by dead-end pursuits. Pulsing with life, his work delivers us from the centuries-long dichotomies between mind and matter that have robbed us of vitality, joy, and true purpose."

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"A slow tidal wave of change is gathering force and will take us beyond the mechanistic world of Newton toward one of becoming. Andreas Weber's *Matter and Desire* is a passionate evocation of intermingled life surging. He writes with the poetry, care, and insight that urges us forward."

— STUART KAUFFMAN, professor emeritus, biochemistry and biophysics, University of Pennsylvania; and MacArthur Fellow

"With a dazzling blend of biological rigor and poetic grace, Andreas Weber explains the principles of erotic connection that lie at the heart of life on Earth.... Be prepared for a bracing adventure!"

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"When Andreas Weber looks on a meadow, he sees 'part of our body, folded outward, ready to be strolled through.' The ocean's tides are 'the way the Earth perceives the moon,' and gravitation is 'the Earth's tender longing for us.' With such graceful, lucid lines Weber invites us to see a world filled with delight and one that yearns, as we do, for contact: the erotics of encounter. . . . Matter and Desire is a deeply felt book from a profoundly humane writer."

— FRED BAHNSON, author of Soil and Sacrament; director, Food, Health, and Ecological Well-Being Program, Wake Forest University School of Divinity





MATTER & DESIRE An Erotic Ecology ANDREAS WEBER Foreword by John Elder

n Matter and Desire, internationally renowned biologist and philosopher Andreas Weber rewrites ecology as a tender practice of forging relationships, of yearning for connections, and of expressing these desires through our bodies. Being alive is an erotic process—constantly transforming the self through contact with others, desiring ever more life.

In clever and surprising ways, Weber recognizes that love—the impulse to establish connections, to intermingle, to weave our existence poetically together with that of other beings—is a foundational principle of reality. The fact that we disregard this principle lies at the core of a global crisis of meaning that plays out in the avalanche of species loss and in our belief that the world is a dead mechanism controlled through economic efficiency.

Although rooted in scientific observation, *Matter and Desire* becomes a philosophy for the Anthropocene, a "poetic materialism," that closes the gap between mind and matter. Ultimately, Weber discovers in order to save life on Earth—and our own meaningful existence as human beings—we must learn to love.