

Contents

<i>Introduction: The Last Breath</i>	3
I. MAKING AIR: OUR FIRST FOUR ATMOSPHERES	
Chapter One: Earth's Early Air	17
Interlude: The Exploding Lake	43
Chapter Two: The Devil in the Air	49
Interlude: Welding a Dangerous Weapon	75
Chapter Three: The Curse and Blessing of Oxygen	81
Interlude: Hotter than the Dickens	111
II. HARNESSING AIR: THE HUMAN RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR	
Chapter Four: The Wonder-Working Gas of Delight	121
Interlude: Le Pétomane	151
Chapter Five: Controlled Chaos	158
Interlude: Steeling Yourself for Tragedy	185
Chapter Six: Into the Blue	196
Interlude: Night Lights	223
III. FRONTIERS: THE NEW HEAVENS	
Chapter Seven: The Fallout of Fallout	231

Interlude: Albert Einstein and the People's Fridge	259
Chapter Eight: Weather Wars	268
Interlude: Rumbles from Roswell	293
Chapter Nine: Putting on Alien Airs	304
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	327
<i>Notes and Miscellanea</i>	329
<i>Works Cited</i>	357
<i>Index</i>	363