

Prologue

Extinction X-rated was never intended to be published. Rather, it was written as a form of existential self-therapy, to discover new inner landscapes and abide more honestly and courageously in conscience and dignity.

Essentially, I wanted to ask myself the most pressing questions I'd been living with: In the face of the sixth mass extinction, is there hope and is it realistic? What do you fear and why? How are you in denial? Where are you folded? And how do you lie to yourself? And if so, what is it that you are hiding or afraid of?

On a practical note, this work, for purely literary reasons, is auto-fiction – a novel situated somewhere between fiction and non-fiction, with a first-person narrative. As such, there is absolutely no attempt to depict people, places, and events accurately, my own and or others.

With that said, everything in the book occurred at some point in my life, whether as an outer real world experience or a fantasy made real on my own dreamscape. In that sense, this book is the deliberate creation of a conceptual mandala – an intersecting set of free flowing symbols and realities, both provocative and playful, designed to awaken my own latent potentials and liberate limiting identities.

On a cautionary note, stand forewarned: if offended by expletives or graphic images of sexuality and violence, please do yourself a favor and close this book, as in read no further. I spared nothing in discovering my own uncensored edge and the challenging process of coming to terms with that raw new reality.

In addition, the book is neither a disguised eulogy nor a prayer to confront the madness, although both are partially true. Equally, it's a self-guided meditation designed as existential entertainment – a cathartic collage of satirical stories laced with (at times) dark humor.

As an expression of creative activism, the book confronts established notions of power, both political and spiritual. It asks us to face the incomprehensible. To look into the abyss itself and breathe together. Bearing witness through imagination, invoking humor, maybe not laughter, in response to the horrors of the everyday world.

As a purely creative act, I wanted to break free of artifice and taboos and cross boundaries – venturing into the unnerving frontiers of spontaneous authenticity. By challenging all forms of self-censorship, I created an experience that you may love, or you may hate or may be confounded by.

In the end the book is a prayer, a protest and a scream. As it challenges propaganda and totalitarianism, while (I pray) serving to safeguard freedom of thought, conscience, and expression. To me, freedom, dignity, and the universality of human rights are the vanguard of sanity and the best protection against racism, violence, and war.

I do hope you are mindful throughout the read, in that you allow for a range of emotions to arise and see where they may lead. With that said, thank you for going along on this journey with me.

Alan Clements

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