



# Extinction Journals

*Jeremy Robert Johnson*

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## **Extinction Journals** Jeremy Robert Johnson

You can survive a nuclear blast. All you need is some luck, and maybe a customized business suit coated in cockroaches. It could work. At least that's what Dean believed before the bombs actually dropped and his suit led him to murder a Very Important Man at the foot of a blackened obelisk. Now D.C. is looking awfully empty. Life on Earth is pretty much coming to an end. All of which leaves Dean with a single question- "What now?" The answer to that question will take him on an uncanny voyage across a newly nuclear America where he must confront the problems associated with loneliness, radiation, love, and an ever-evolving cockroach suit with a mind of its own. Dean's bizarre adventures mark the last chronicle of human existence, the final entries in our species' own. Extinction Journals

## **Extinction Journals Details**

Date : Published April 17th 2006 by Swallowdown Press

ISBN : 9781933929019

Author : Jeremy Robert Johnson

Format : Paperback 84 pages

Genre : Horror, Bizarro Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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# From Reader Review Extinction Journals for online ebook

## Glen Krisch says

A beautifully grotesque novella.

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## Rodney says

This book is a creative and interesting conclusion to "The Sharp Dressed Man At the End of the Line" from Angel Dust Apocalypse. Just like the latter, the author does a great job building a world that instantly immersed me. The imagination involved in creating the story is off the charts. I read this nonstop, as it flowed with no effort on my part. I will be reading "We Live Inside You" very soon.

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## George K. says

Το τ?λος του κ?σμου ?ρθε με πυρηνικ?. Ο πρωταγωνιστ?ς μας περιφ?ρεται σε μια κατεστραμμ?νη Ου?σινγκτον, φορ?ντας ?να κοστο?μι καλυμμ?νο απ? ζωνταν?ς κατσαρ?δες, το οπο?ο ε?ναι απαρα?τητο για την επιβ?ωση του. Οι κατσαρ?δες μπορο?ν να επιβι?σουν μετ? απ? μια πυρηνικ? ?κρηξη, σωστ?; Ε?ναι ανεκτικ?ς στην ραδιεν?ργεια. Γι'αυτ? και ο τρελ?ς μας πρωταγωνιστ?ς, ον?ματι Ντην, ?φτιαξε ?να τ?τοιο κοστο?μι, λ?γο πριν σκ?σουν οι μπ?μπες. Και τ?ρα, σε μια μεταπυρηνικ? Αμερικ?, αντιμ?τωπος με την μονάξι? και την ραδιεν?ργεια, προσπαθε? να επιβι?σει. Απ? κει και π?ρα αρχ?ζουν κ?ποια ακ?μα πιο τρελ? πρ?γματα, που πρ?πει να διαβ?σετε το βιβλ?ο για να τα δε?τε.

Κακ? τα ψ?ματα, το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι αρκετ? τρελ? και σε σημει?α σουρεαλιστικ? για να το π?ρει κανε?ς στα σοβαρ?. ?μως ε?ναι ?κρως ψυχαγωγικ? και ενδιαφ?ρον, ιδια?τερα καλογραμμ?νο και ευκολοδι?βαστο, που διαβ?ζεται απνευστ?. Βοηθ?ει φυσικ? το μικρ? μ?γεθος, αλλ? το κ?ριον προσ?ν του ε?ναι ?τι τραβ?ει την προσοχ? του αναγν?στη απ? την πρ?τη πρ?ταση (χωρ?ς υπερβολ?!).

Η ελληνικ? ?κδοση της Jemma Press, με το πολ? ?μορφο εξ?φυλλο του Χρ?στου Μαρτ?νη και την ιδια?τερα προσεγμ?νη μετ?φραση του Ν?κου Ρο?σσου, περι?χει και το δι?γημα Ο καλοντυμ?νος ?ντρας στο τ?λος της γραμμ?ς, που μπορε? ουσιαστικ? να λειτουργ?σει σαν πρ?κουελ της νουβ?λας, μιας και γνωρ?ζουμε για πρ?τη φορ? τον Ντην τον κατσαριδ?κια.

?σως να μην ε?ναι για ?λα τα γο?στα, αλλ? θα το πρ?τεινα σε αυτο?ς που θ?λουν να διαβ?σουν μια διαφορετικ?, μια πιο τρελ? μετ?-αποκαλυπτικ? ιστορ?α τρ?μου.

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## Matt Margo says

Jeremy Robert Johnson seems to pride himself very much on how esteemed author Chuck Palahniuk spoke of him and his collection "Angel Dust Apocalypse": "A dazzling writer. Seriously amazing short stories - and

I love short stories. Like the best of Tobias Wolff. While I read them, they made time stand still. That's great." I myself have never read anything from Palahniuk, nor have I been exposed to the short story within "Angel Dust Apocalypse" which apparently precedes the plot of this novella, but regardless, I am thoroughly impressed with Johnson's writing ability and with "Extinction Journals."

The post-apocalyptic survival scenario is always so fascinating because of how broad, how devastating, how wonderful the storytelling experience is. It is a situation that usually begins (or...ends) very similarly, then continues completely upon the author's individual imagination. The settings of most bizarre fiction pieces have a tone teetering on the brink of an apocalyptic nightmare, but tend to keep a steady course of otherworldly dystopia. (See "Ass Goblins of Auschwitz," "The Baby Jesus Butt Plug," etc.) What makes "Extinction Journals" so much more extraordinary than some other bizarre novellas is the balance of realism in spite of the necessity for weirdness. Yes, Dean does live day by day wearing a suit constructed of live cockroaches, but his personality and his strive for survival in a meaningless wasteland and his doubting the value of bothering to continue on are all immensely relatable to the modern pre-apocalyptic human condition. "Extinction Journals" manages to not only entertain with moderated absurdity but also attach the reader to an adventure not far off from those of our own. So quote Palahniuk as much as you'd like, Johnson, because I will gladly keep reading as long as you keep writing.

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### **Spirou says**

3,5 αστ?ρια. Πολ? ενδιαφ?ρον βιβλ?ο, αστε?ο, λυπηρ?, τρελ?. Διαβ?ζεται ε?κολα και γρ?γορα και το δι?γημα που ?χει στο τ?λος (απ? το οπο?ο ε?χε ξεκιν?σει ο συγγραφ?ας να "μπα?νει" στην ιστορ?α τουι Ντην), μπορε? κ?ποιος να το διαβ?σει και στην αρχ?, ?στε να μπει στο ν?ημα της ιστορ?ας ομαλ?. Μπορε?τε να διαβ?σετε περισσ?τερα για το βιβλ?ο στο ?ρθρο .

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### **Κωνσταντ?νος Κ?λλης says**

A gigantic radioactive-soot-covered WTF! in the best way possible. I read this book on the plane from Greece to Germany, and still, I'm fairly certain, I couldn't have been high as the author while he was writing this.

People who like post-apocalyptic scenes and let's call it "lighthearted horror" will definitely enjoy this. Kudos to Nick Roussos for the exemplary Greek translation.

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### **David says**

*Extinction Journals* picks up where the "The Sharp Dressed Man At the End of the Line" leaves off. For those of you unfamiliar with that story, it can be found in Mr. Johnson's short story collection, *Angel Dust Apocalypse*. Without giving too much away, we meet Dean in the last days before World War III, a young man who believes that he can survive the aftermath of a nuclear war if he's wearing a suit made of cockroaches. As the story ends, Dean is proved correct.

*Extinction Journals* follows Dean around as he makes his way through the nuclear bomb ravaged wasteland of what was once the USA. He struggles to find food and water, all the while wondering if his "suit" will, out of desperation and hunger, turn on him. Along the way, he meets a new god, borne out of mankind's

collective unconscious. Neither Dean nor the reader is sure whether or not he's hallucinating, but considering he just survived a nuclear war we have to give him some leeway.

Ultimately, Dean meets other entomologically enlightened individuals who are struggling to put some sense to this brave new world. At that point, they must decide how life will exist, post-humanity, or if it will exist at all.

JRJ has a knack for characterization, even if those characters are a bit twisted. Dean is a nice enough guy, but one has to really be out there to conceive of fashioning a suit out of cockroaches in order to survive a nuclear war. And his descriptions of the nuclear wasteland are convincingly real, making you shudder (and question Dean's desire to live to see it).

The story was way too short. While readers don't need to be familiar with the short story that preceded this novella, it definitely helps. Adding it as a preface, while driving up the publishing costs, would have enhanced the reading experience for new readers of JRJ's work.

I also had a feeling of repetition between Dean's encounters. It was as if he were stumbling upon the same old irradiated buildings he wandered into earlier.

Lastly, I was hoping for more of an exploration of the relationship between Dean and his suit. I really couldn't get the sense that the symbiosis between man and roach was evolving until the very end. Maybe evolution itself works like that. Rather than gradual changes, we get abrupt "do or die" situations.

While I enjoyed this book, I feel that, for the reasons stated above, it falls short of JRJ's previous works. Newcomers should pick up his earlier works first before coming here. Fans of JRJ's work will still want to add this to their collections.

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### **berthamason says**

3.5 stars.

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### **Tobias says**

Impressively bonkers stuff.

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### **Ori Fienberg says**

I pulled this book off a re-shelving cart at the Copley BPL, and I'll admit, I did so entirely because the cover and the title looked cool.

Certainly Johnson delivers on bizarro thrills, and if what you crave in your apocalyptic-sci-fi world is just a little more human-insect sex, then you'll be on the right track when you pick up this book.

There are some haunting and surreal ideas, to be sure, but it stretches on a while too long. I felt as though the

whole thing would have made a really taut short-story, and indeed, it was originally. As a story I hope that the density of strangeness would give it some added gravitas. As a novel, or maybe "novella" would be more accurate, it never gets beyond surface level strangeness.

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### **Austin says**

Possibly the worst book I have ever read. The best part was when I fell asleep reading and had a horrible nightmare that my entire family was slipping one by one down a drain ditch that led to a 1000 foot fall and certain death. I woke up with a start as I fell into the abyss trying to save Betty only to have this wretched tale lying on my chest alongside my purple reading glasses. I finished reading it just to forget about the nightmare. I would describe this book the exact same way my pessimistic baby describes kindergarten, "tewwrible".

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### **David says**

You've got to enjoy this for the wildness of the cockroach suit alone, if nothing else, though there's still plenty else to dig. It's a good story, and it's wild. Definitely worth a read.

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### **Danielle Dawson says**

WELL...that was something.

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### **Kirsten Alene says**

Jeremy Robert Johnson's Extinction Journals begins with a true bizarro scenario: a man in a suit made of cockroaches accidentally devours the president, who is dressed in a suit made of twinkies. But by the end of the book, being dressed in a suit of cockroaches almost seems normal.

As the protagonist wanders through the bizarre, surreal landscape of post-apocalyptic America, he encounters other "survivors," other people who saw what was coming and prepared: a woman in steel-toed boots and an iron apron, a man encased in cement, a man wearing his neighbor's skin. The images in the book are sometimes serene, and other times haunting and nightmarish.

Its only fallback: the end of the book seems very rushed. It feels like a lot more should have been discussed, that there was a longer life to the story than is written. But despite the odd pacing, Johnson's prose is graceful and clear and the book, up to the sweet, hopeful ending, is a brilliant read and well worth your time.

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### **Vasilis Manias says**

Πρ?το βιβλ?ο, δι?γημα καλ?τερα, για το 2018, το Ημερολ?γιο Αφανισμο? ε?ναι ?να σουρεαλιστικ?

και αλλ?κοτο κε?μενο μεταφυσικο? περιεχομ?νου για ?ναν κ?σμο ?που ο πρωταγωνιστ?ς επιζ?ν  
σ?ζεται λ?γω της οξυδ?ρκει?ς του να σκεφτε? π?ως οι κατσαρ?δες ε?ναι ο μοναδικ?ς οργανισμ?ς  
που θα επιβι?σει της πυρηνικ?ς καταστροφ?ς.

Και το χειρ?τερο απ? ?λα; Για ?ναν ανεξ?γητο λ?γο, μοι?ζει πι? επ?καιρο παρ? ποτ?.

Και ναι, εννοε?ται, αν σιχα?νεστε τις κατσαρ?δες, απλ? προχωρ?τε στο επ?μενο.

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