


A.G. RIDDLE

THE
EXTINCTION
TRIALS

A person is standing inside a red, geodesic dome structure. The dome is illuminated from within, creating a bright red glow. The person is silhouetted against the red light. The dome is set against a dark, starry background with scattered red sparks or embers. The overall scene suggests a high-tech or futuristic environment.



SELECTED PRAISE FOR A.G. RIDDLE

“Reads like a superior collaboration between Dan Brown and Michael Crichton.”

—*The Guardian* on *Pandemic*

“I finished the book fast because I just couldn’t wait...”

—*WIRED GeekDad* on *Departure*

“Riddle makes an effort to keep the focus on how his characters react to each other (including to their future selves) rather than to the technological marvels that reshaped their world.”

—*Publisher’s Weekly* on *Departure*

“Well-constructed and tightly-wound as a fine Swiss watch—*Departure* has non-stop action, an engaging plot and, of course, wheels within wheels.”

—**Diana Gabaldon**, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Outlander*
on *Departure*

“This is apocalyptic sci-fi at its best. Plot and character are masterfully
woven together...”

—***The Daily Mail*** on *The Solar War*

THE
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TRIALS**

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The Long Winter

Completed Trilogy (Nov 2019)



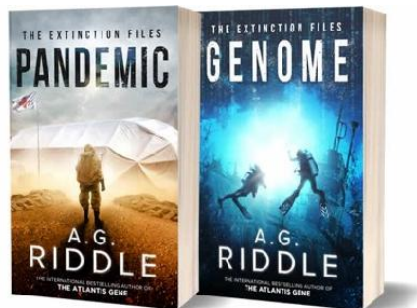
The Origin Mystery

Completed Trilogy



The Extinction Files

Completed Duology



Departure

Standalone



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THE
**EXTINCTION
TRIALS**

**A.G.
RIDDLE**



LEGION

ABOUT THE EXTINCTION TRIALS

THE END... IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

After a mysterious global event known only as “The Change,” six strangers wake up in an underground research facility where they learn that they’re part of The Extinction Trials—a scientific experiment to restart the human race.

But The Extinction Trials harbors a very big secret.

And so does the world outside.

From A.G. Riddle, the Amazon Charts and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author with nearly **FIVE MILLION COPIES** sold worldwide in twenty languages, comes an epic STANDALONE adventure with a surprise ending unlike anything you’ve ever read before.

AN EXTENDED LOOK AT THE EXTINCTION TRIALS

Dr. Maya Young is successful, single, and completely unfulfilled. But she’s working on it. Until one morning when everything changes.

After a strenuous spin class, Maya begins coughing until blood comes up. At the hospital, she discovers that her symptoms are far more complicated than she realized. Her illness may be connected to a far-reaching global conspiracy. And she may hold the key to stopping it.

Owen Watts is a firefighter who is slowly losing his job. Not because he's not good at it. And not because he doesn't show up and work hard. On the contrary, he's very good at his job—and hard working. His problem is that robots are increasingly doing the work he's trained his whole life to do.

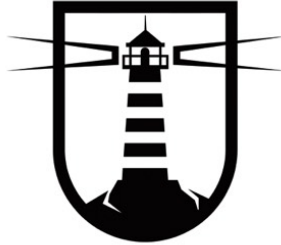
The robots aren't Owen's only problem. He has a limitation, a condition that has always held him back in life. Because of that, he's not exactly sure what he'll do next—when the robots take his job completely.

But one morning a call comes in that will change his life forever. With his team, Owen responds to a fire alarm at an apartment building. At first, it seems to be a false alarm. But it's not. It's the start of a global event known as “The Change”—a new era of human existence that will alter the future forever.

As The Change sweeps the world, Owen and Maya both end up in the hospital. With their injuries, it looks like the last stop for them. But the next time they wake up, they're in an underground research facility along with four other strangers. The group is told very little, only that they're part of The Extinction Trials, a scientific experiment aimed at finding a way for humanity to survive in the world after The Change.

What they don't know is that The Extinction Trials hides one very big secret—and a few small ones. And so do several of the other participants.

With time running out to save the last human survivors, Owen, Maya, and the other participants venture out into the changed world. What they find there is beyond anything they imagined. And the key to their future—and humanity's survival—is something no one expected.



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To the brave souls who keep going—even when it feels like the world is ending.

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PROLOGUE

THE DINNER HOST tapped his champagne glass with a fork.

The *ding-ding-ding* echoed through the vast dining room, drawing the attention of the sixty guests.

“Tonight, I’d like to pose a simple question: what is the *destiny* of the human race?”

He let the words hang in the air for a moment.

“We all know the answer. At some point, our species will go extinct.”

He paced the room, all eyes following him.

“How? What will be our end? Artificial intelligence? Will our undoing come at the hands of an AI project one of your companies is working on? Or maybe another one of your pet projects? Will genetic engineering splinter our species, making some of us obsolete, setting off an unimaginable war between the next humans and the ones left behind?”

The host turned and paced again, stopping in front of a pair of doors that opened onto a wide stone veranda. Beyond, waves from the ocean crashed upon the rocks, a soft symphony punctuating the speech.

“Let’s assume, for a moment, that our extinction won’t come at the hands of one of our inventions. After all, we’re not here tonight to point fingers. Tonight, we’re here to find a solution—to whatever awaits us.”

Murmurs erupted around the room.

The host pressed on. “Consider how vulnerable we are. A solar flare could destroy our planet in the blink of an eye. A supervolcano could blot out the sun, and starve us and freeze us into extinction. Would we stand a chance against an alien invasion? Perhaps our end will come from an old

enemy: a pandemic—maybe a more deadly version of a pathogen we’ve already lived through.”

A sea breeze swept in through the doors, tugging at the man’s white hair.

“And there’s another great question that should haunt us all: why do we seem to be alone in the universe? Is that a clue to our true destiny? Tonight, I’d like to propose a simple solution to those twin enigmas that have always haunted us.”

He held his hands out to the crowd, palms up.

“We know the truth: we can’t stop what’s coming. We can’t prevent the next extinction event. What we can do... is control what happens after. *That* is the key to the future.”

He let his hands drop to his sides.

“What I’m proposing is a new kind of experiment. A project with one purpose: to restart the human race after the Fall. A project that will witness the rebirth of our species and unravel the deepest secrets of our existence. I’m calling it The Extinction Trials, and I want you to be part of it.”

PART I

THE FALL