

center cannot hold quote

center cannot hold quote is a powerful and evocative phrase that has resonated deeply within literary and cultural discussions. Originating from W.B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming," this quote encapsulates themes of chaos, disintegration, and the collapse of order. Its significance extends beyond poetry, influencing various fields such as psychology, political science, and sociology, where it metaphorically represents the breakdown of systems and societies. This article explores the origins, interpretations, and applications of the center cannot hold quote, shedding light on its enduring relevance. Additionally, it examines the linguistic nuances and the impact of the phrase in contemporary discourse. The following sections provide a comprehensive analysis, organized to facilitate a clear understanding of this profound quotation.

- Origin and Literary Context of the Center Cannot Hold Quote
- Interpretations and Meanings
- Applications in Modern Discourse
- Linguistic and Semantic Analysis
- Impact and Legacy of the Quote

Origin and Literary Context of the Center Cannot Hold Quote

Source in W.B. Yeats' "The Second Coming"

The phrase "the center cannot hold" originates from the poem "The Second Coming," written by Irish poet W.B. Yeats in 1919. The poem reflects Yeats' reaction to the political turmoil and social upheaval in post-World War I Europe. It vividly portrays a world in transition, where traditional structures and moral values are collapsing. The specific line appears in the stanza: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world." This imagery conveys a sense of inevitable disintegration and loss of control, underscoring the poem's apocalyptic tone.

Historical and Cultural Context

"The Second Coming" was composed in the aftermath of the Great War and during the Irish War of Independence, periods marked by widespread instability. Yeats' use of the center cannot hold quote captures the anxiety of an era where old orders were dissolving and new, uncertain forces were emerging. The poem's themes resonate with the broader cultural shifts occurring at the time, reflecting fears about the future and the breakdown of social cohesion.

Interpretations and Meanings

Symbolism of Disorder and Chaos

The phrase "center cannot hold" is often interpreted as a metaphor for the breakdown of order and the onset of chaos. In this context, "center" symbolizes stability, authority, or a unifying principle that maintains cohesion within a system—be it societal, political, or psychological. When the center fails, structures collapse, leading to disorder and unpredictability. This interpretation aligns with the overall theme of Yeats' poem, which depicts a world on the brink of transformation and upheaval.

Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives

Philosophically, the center cannot hold quote reflects the fragility of human constructs and the limits of control. Psychologically, it can represent the moment when internal coherence within the self or a community fails, resulting in fragmentation or crisis. This dual applicability highlights the quote's depth and versatility, allowing it to serve as a lens for understanding both external events and internal states of being.

Applications in Modern Discourse

Political and Social Commentary

In contemporary political discourse, the center cannot hold quote is frequently invoked to describe times of social unrest, political polarization, or institutional failure. Analysts and commentators use the phrase to emphasize moments when governing bodies or societal norms no longer function effectively, signaling potential collapse or radical change. Its use underscores concerns about fragmentation within democracies, economic systems, and international relations.

Use in Popular Culture and Media

Beyond academic and political spheres, the center cannot hold quote has permeated popular culture. It appears in literature, film, music, and journalism to evoke themes of instability and transformation. The phrase's evocative nature makes it a compelling reference point for creators exploring narratives of chaos, revolution, or personal crisis. Its adaptability ensures its continued relevance across diverse media platforms.

Linguistic and Semantic Analysis

Structure and Word Choice

The phrase “center cannot hold” is notable for its brevity and evocative power. The word “center” implies a focal point or source of balance, while “cannot hold” suggests failure or inability to maintain cohesion. This simple yet impactful construction conveys a complex idea effectively, making it memorable and quotable. The phrase’s rhythm and syntax contribute to its enduring resonance.

Semantic Variations and Synonyms

Several semantic variants and synonyms capture similar meanings to the center cannot hold quote. These include expressions like “the core collapses,” “the foundation crumbles,” or “the heart fails to keep.” Each variant highlights the idea of a critical point of stability losing its function, reinforcing themes of disintegration and vulnerability. Such variations allow the concept to be adapted across different contexts and languages while preserving its essential meaning.

Impact and Legacy of the Quote

Influence on Literature and Thought

The center cannot hold quote has had a profound influence on both literature and intellectual thought. It has inspired numerous writers, poets, and philosophers to explore themes of chaos, transformation, and the limits of order. Its presence in cultural discourse serves as a reminder of the cyclical nature of history and the challenges inherent in maintaining societal cohesion.

Enduring Relevance in Contemporary Issues

Today, the center cannot hold quote remains a pertinent metaphor for understanding crises in politics, society, and personal life. It resonates in discussions about global instability, cultural fragmentation, and psychological breakdowns. Its enduring relevance underscores the universality of the concerns it expresses and its power as a tool for reflection and critique.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning of the quote 'The center cannot hold'?

The quote 'The center cannot hold' refers to a situation where order or stability is breaking down, leading to chaos or disintegration. It suggests that the core or foundation of something is failing to maintain control or coherence.

Where does the quote 'The center cannot hold' originate from?

The quote 'The center cannot hold' originates from the poem 'The Second Coming' by W.B. Yeats, written in 1919. It reflects the poet's vision of societal collapse and impending chaos after World War I.

How is the quote 'The center cannot hold' used in modern contexts?

In modern contexts, 'The center cannot hold' is often used to describe political, social, or organizational instability where consensus or unity is breaking down, leading to division or disorder.

What is the full line from which 'The center cannot hold' is taken?

The full line from W.B. Yeats' poem 'The Second Coming' is: 'Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.'

How has 'The center cannot hold' influenced literature and popular culture?

'The center cannot hold' has influenced numerous works in literature, politics, and popular culture as a metaphor for collapse or crisis. It has been referenced in books, movies, and speeches to evoke a sense of impending chaos.

Can 'The center cannot hold' be applied to current global issues?

Yes, the quote 'The center cannot hold' is often applied to current global issues such as political polarization, social unrest, or economic instability, highlighting how foundational structures are struggling to maintain order.

Additional Resources

1. *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath

This semi-autobiographical novel explores the struggles of Esther Greenwood, a young woman

grappling with mental illness and societal expectations. The title metaphorically reflects Esther's fragile mental state, where the "bell jar" represents the suffocating pressure that distorts her perception of reality. The book offers a poignant and intimate look into the challenges of depression and the search for identity.

2. *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* by William Styron

Styron's memoir provides a candid and powerful account of his battle with severe depression. Through vivid prose, he describes the overwhelming darkness that consumes the mind when mental illness takes hold. The book sheds light on the often invisible struggles of depression and the hope for recovery.

3. *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

Frankl's profound work combines his experiences in Nazi concentration camps with his psychological theories. He discusses finding purpose and meaning even when life feels chaotic and unbearable, echoing themes related to the "center cannot hold." This book is an inspiring testament to human resilience in the face of unimaginable suffering.

4. *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness* by Elyn R. Saks

In this memoir, legal scholar Elyn Saks recounts her lifelong battle with schizophrenia. She offers a unique perspective on living with mental illness while pursuing a successful academic career. Saks challenges stigma and provides hope by demonstrating that the mind's center can indeed hold despite severe challenges.

5. *Madness and Civilization* by Michel Foucault

Foucault's historical analysis explores how societies have perceived and treated madness over centuries. The book delves into the shifting boundaries between sanity and insanity, reflecting on how the "center" of societal norms is constructed and maintained. It is a foundational text for understanding the cultural context of mental illness.

6. *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression* by Andrew Solomon

This comprehensive exploration of depression combines personal narrative, scientific research, and cultural critique. Solomon examines the pervasive impact of depression on individuals and society, highlighting the fragility of mental stability. The book offers both insight and compassion for those affected by mood disorders.

7. *Prozac Nation* by Elizabeth Wurtzel

Wurtzel's memoir captures the experience of growing up with clinical depression during the 1980s. It candidly portrays the emotional turmoil and the search for treatment in a time when mental health was less openly discussed. The narrative resonates with the idea that sometimes the center seems unable to hold under intense psychological pressure.

8. *Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen

This memoir recounts Kaysen's time in a psychiatric hospital following a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder. The book explores themes of identity, sanity, and societal expectations, questioning what it means to be "normal." It provides a nuanced perspective on mental health and the fragility of the mind's center.

9. *Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression – and the Unexpected Solutions* by Johann Hari

Hari investigates the underlying social and environmental causes of depression and anxiety beyond just chemical imbalances. He argues that disconnection from meaningful work, relationships, and

community contributes to mental health crises. The book suggests ways to restore balance and stability when the "center cannot hold."

Center Cannot Hold Quote

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center cannot hold quote: Beyond Madness Rachel A. Pruchno, 2022-04-26 Reveals proven solutions for bettering the lives of people with serious mental illness, their families, and their communities. Leading scientist and gifted storyteller Rachel A. Pruchno, PhD, was shocked to encounter misinformation, ignorance, and intolerance when she sought to help her daughter, newly diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Turning to the scientific literature, Dr. Pruchno eventually found solutions, but she realized many others would need help to understand the highly technical writing and conflicting findings. In *Beyond Madness*—part memoir, part history, and part empathetic guide—Dr. Pruchno draws on her decades as a mental health professional, her own family's experiences with mental illness, and extensive interviews with people with serious mental illness to discuss how individuals live with these illnesses, including bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression. The book • presents real-world vignettes that vividly describe what it is like to experience some of the most troubling symptoms of a severe mental illness • offers practical advice for how individuals, family members, and communities can help people with a serious mental illness • explains how people with mental illness can find competent health care providers, identify treatment regimens, overcome obstacles to treatment, cope with stigma, and make decisions • provides insight into programs, such as Crisis Intervention Training, that can help people undergoing mental health crisis avoid jail and get the treatment they need • takes aim at the popular concept of rock bottom and reveals why this is such a harmful and simplistic approach • advocates for evidence-based care • documents examples of communities that have embraced successful strategies for promoting recovery • shows that people with serious mental illnesses can live productive lives Meticulously researched and engagingly written, *Beyond Madness* is a call to action and a promise of hope for everyone who cares about and interacts with the millions of people who have serious mental illness. Family members, friends, teachers, police, primary care doctors, and clergy—people who recognize that something is wrong but don't know how to help—will find the book's practical advice invaluable.

center cannot hold quote: Writing in the Content Areas Amy Benjamin, 2013-11-07 Do you spend entirely too much time correcting your students' papers? Do your students' essays and term papers take side trips to nowhere? Is their writing riddled with mechanical errors? Do their lab reports and essays lack specificity and clarity? *Writing in the Content Areas*, Second Edition is for middle and high school content area teachers who assign essays, term papers, lab reports, and other writing tasks to students. This book provides strategies and tips to help teachers of social studies, science, art, etc. improve the quality of students' writing and apply national and state curriculum standards in your classroom. The strategies in this book can be integrated easily into every teacher's daily plans. They will help your students improve their abilities to - reflect before writing - organize and classify - provide detail without padding - use technical terminology correctly - avoid unnecessary words - spell correctly - take useful notes while they read and during your lectures. This book will help teachers - get what they want from a writing task - frame their assignments more

precisely - correct student papers more quickly and efficiently The new second edition offers activities and strategies which involve technology (word processing, presentation programming, the Internet, and e-communications), differentiated instruction, and brain-based learning.

center cannot hold quote: Charge and the Energy Body Anodea Judith, Ph.D., 2018-04-10 Use the power of life force to live your highest potential with this “landmark book” that addresses “the role of the chakras in personality and our intimate relationships” and “opens the door to the inner experience of the authentic self” (Peter Levine, author of *Waking the Tiger*) We all know what it’s like to have a “charge” about something. It’s a feeling of excitement, fear, sexual arousal, or irritation. But what we don’t currently know is how to use charge for the behaviors we want to create. Charge is a word for the basic life force running through us. This force is crucial if we are to meet the challenges of difficult situations, heal past wounds and traumas, and manage the stress of modern life. Even more, it is essential for understanding how to master your own life force and become all you can be. This book makes an important contribution to the growing field of Energy Medicine, by looking at charge as the interface between mind and body, and the missing ingredient in Mind-Body healing. It brings the reader into a deep intimacy with their own life force, as well as an understanding of how charge runs their relationships, their children, their clients, and patients. It examines how we can become “overcharged” or “undercharged” and how to bring about balance through practices of charging and discharging. Each chapter gives simple exercises to put these principles into practice. World-renowned teacher, somatic therapist, best-selling author, and advanced yoga teacher, Anodea Judith, Ph.D., addresses all this and more in her groundbreaking book on mastering the life force. Taken from her decades of teaching on the subject and her doctoral work in Mind-Body medicine, this book contributes something entirely new to the literature on healing self and others.

center cannot hold quote: Love and Marriage for a Lifetime Susana K. O'Hara, 2013-05 Did you know that most marriages can be saved and made better? In *Love and Marriage for a Lifetime: Why It is Important and How to Do It*, Dr. O'Hara cites the high divorce rate and its harmful effects. She then offers expert advice on how to stay married through the hardest of times.

center cannot hold quote: The Complete Ravi PI Series Adi Tantimedh, 2019-04-23 Soon to be a TV series! Enter “an exciting and dynamic new world of storytelling in which spirituality and science are inextricably entwined” (Deepak Chopra) with this boxed set of the engaging, whip-smart, and witty Ravi PI series. In *Her Nightly Embrace*, Ravi Chandra Singh is the last guy you’d expect to become a private detective. A failed religious scholar, he now works for Golden Sentinels, an upmarket London private investigations agency. His colleagues are a band of gleefully amoral and brilliant screw-ups and together, they are hired to solve the problems of some of the most powerful people in town. But Ravi is in over his head with increasingly gonzo and complex cases—and the recent visions that he’s been having of Hindu gods aren’t helping. As Ravi struggles to stay ahead of danger, he wonders if he’s delusional—or if he might, in fact, be an unrecognized shaman of the modern world. Her *Beautiful Monster* continues the vivid series with Ravi’s colleagues at Golden Sentinels discovering that he sees gods in moments of heightened anxiety and stress. They are all surprisingly fine with it and even encourage him to incorporate his visions into his work, especially now that the cases have become more intense. But their latest case—a search for a dead Russian oligarch’s last will and testament—leads to more than anyone expected: a missing heir, murderous relatives, and geopolitical implications. So, when Ravi’s boss sends him to Los Angeles to wait out the heat, it’s almost a relief...until Ravi’s past catches up to him. Finally, in *Her Fugitive Heart*, Ravi simply desires to marry his girlfriend in peace, but events conspire to keep things anything but peaceful. An actress hires the agency to track down the source of a sex tape she never made, yet still appeared in. A weekend party in a deceased rock star’s country mansion where the investigators are charged with surveilling the rich guests for dirt goes way out of control. A terrorist leader goes missing in London before he can turn himself in to the CIA and the agency is hired to help track him down. And finally, Ravi’s boss’s secret plans to make himself a major player in the world stage blows up in his face and Ravi must go into hiding. The future of the Golden Sentinels and Ravi hang in the

balance in the gripping and unforgettable conclusion to the Ravi PI series.

center cannot hold quote: Struck Down, Not Destroyed Colleen Dulle, 2025-08-12 A bold, inspiring call not to lose spiritual hope from a Vatican reporter who has seen the Catholic Church's darkness—and has learned that it cannot overpower the light For too many Catholics, the darkness of creeping doubt, of drifting out into the spiritual cold of God's absence, is felt not outside the church but within it. With each of the church's moral failures—the sexual abuse, systematic mistreatment of women, shady financial management, its cozy relationships with corrupt political power—people lose faith or they wonder if they can, in good conscience, remain part of the church at all. For Catholic journalists who report on the church's failures in detail, the struggle to keep the faith can feel like an intolerable cognitive dissonance. In *Struck Down, Not Destroyed*, Vatican reporter for *America* magazine Colleen Dulle takes readers for the first time into her own experience of reporting: how the church has put her own faith into crisis, and how she has managed to stay Catholic by meeting again and again the spiritual reality at the heart of the church—God and the saints. With each chapter, Dulle revisits her reporting on a church crisis, revealing to readers that in every instance of anger, betrayal, and hurt, she was ultimately renewed in hope, courage, and resolve. Recounting efforts to pray honestly and finding herself yelling at God, attending Mass at churches where she was treated like the “wrong” kind of Catholic, or learning that one of her spiritual heroes was a sexual abuser, Dulle offers readers the gift of solidarity: they are not alone and there is hope. At the times when the church seemed merely human, just an institution for power and politicking, Dulle found herself spiritually upheld by difficult prayer, other faithful Catholics, fellow reporters, faithful priests, and, ultimately, the Holy Spirit. Dulle holds out this same promise for readers. She provides no easy solutions, nor does she pretend to resolve the feelings of dissonance; instead, she passes on the courage she received with a vivid reminder that the church's faith is still worth believing in and fighting for.

center cannot hold quote: Richard Nixon and the Quest for a New Majority Robert Mason, 2005-10-12 In recent years historians have paid substantial attention to the origins of modern political conservatism and the record of the Nixon administration in building a Republican majority in the late twentieth century. In *Richard Nixon and the Quest for a New Majority*, Robert Mason analyzes Nixon's response to the developing conservative climate and challenges revisionist claims about the activist nature of the Nixon administration. Nixon was an activist in intent, Mason contends, but not in deed. Nixon's silent majority speech of 1969 not only undermined the growth of the antiwar movement, Mason shows, but also identified a constituency for Nixon to cultivate in order to secure reelection. However, the implementation of his new-majority project was hindered by the resort to dirty tricks against political opponents and the ineffectual pursuit of a policy agenda. Although some Nixon initiatives were enacted, says Mason, they were not substantial enough to rival the Democrats' bread-and-butter issues. While Nixon built Republican strength at the presidential level, Mason argues that he did not succeed in mobilizing popular support for broad-based political conservatism.

center cannot hold quote: Her Fugitive Heart Adi Tantimedh, 2019-04-23 The Ravi PI series comes to its exciting conclusion with newlywed Ravi Chandra Singh and the secret agency Golden Sentinels having to save themselves from going under after the sudden arrest of their mysterious founder. Being a private investigator at the Golden Sentinels Agency never gets old for Ravi Chandra Singh and his gleefully amoral colleagues, the band of brilliant screw-ups with nowhere else to go. The crazy cases keep Ravi busy and he's almost used to visions of Hindu gods watching his life like their favorite reality show by now. Almost. All Ravi wants is to marry his girlfriend Julia in peace, but events conspire to keep things anything but peaceful. An actress hires the agency to track down the source of a sex tape she never made, yet still appeared in. A weekend party in a deceased rock star's country mansion where the investigators are charged with surveilling the rich guests for dirt goes way out of control. A terrorist leader goes missing in London before he can turn himself in to the CIA and the agency is hired on the hush-hush to help track him down. Ravi's efforts to avoid getting involved backfire and he finds himself in worse trouble than he could have imagined. And finally,

Ravi's boss' secret plans to make himself a major player in the world stage blows up in everyone's face and the investigators have to go into hiding. Forced to flee to the United States, an old client comes calling with a job Ravi and Julia can't afford to turn down while the future of Golden Sentinels hangs in the balance. Packed with exploits and run-ins with new faces and old faces from Ravi's past, *Her Fugitive Heart* is a madcap, exhilarating conclusion to the Ravi PI series.

center cannot hold quote: *Seagulls in My Soup* Tristan Jones, 2014-05-27 Join Tristan Jones as he tells tales of the humorous and fascinating adventures that his Saga of a Wayward Sailor began. Discover more anecdotes and unexpected adventures aboard a converted lifeboat ketch cruising the coasts of the Balearic region with Tristan, his one-eyed, three-legged dog, Nelson and the prim Bishop's sister, Sissie St. John. It's a prolific prose journey of surprising arrivals, machine gun-thwarting and ship-saving escapades of a wayward sailor and his motley crew.

center cannot hold quote: *Your Evolving Soul* Byron Belitsos, 2017-05-25 Sparks of genuine revelation are contained in many religions and esoteric systems. *Your Evolving Soul* declares that we've been graced with a new revelation for our time: the little-known *Urantia Book*, which has quietly sold over one million copies in a dozen languages. According to the author of this comparative analysis, the disclosures about self, soul, and spirit in the *Urantia Revelation* stand alone in their coherence and richness of detail. *Your Evolving Soul* is the first book to fully explain this advanced teaching for the ordinary reader, offering clarity and inspiration for those on any path. Belitsos compares the *Urantia Book's* futuristic teachings about the threefold design of the human self-system to the models of selfhood proposed by many previous thinkers, ranging from Plato and Saint Augustine to Carl Jung and Ken Wilber. He provides essential context for this discussion by illuminating the relationship of the *Urantia* text to scientific psychology and to the world's religions, with special emphasis on Christianity and Buddhism. *Your Evolving Soul* also provides an introduction to the cosmology, theology, and philosophy of the *Urantia* teaching, and reveals its many affinities with contemporary integral theory and modern theology. Through his lucid interpretation of the *Urantia Revelation*, the author offers a model of the human self and soul to be tested, examined, and compared—not a finished truth to be accepted as doctrine. Readers of this book will discover a plausible hypothesis of how our evolving soul becomes an immortal vehicle of our true identity. They also learn how our soul-making decisions can lead to the development of a creative, loving, unified, and perfected personality, now and into the afterlife.

center cannot hold quote: *The Courage to Love: Principles and Practices of Self-Relations Psychotherapy* Stephen Gilligan, 1997-05-17 This is a book about how psychotherapy may be used to cultivate the courage and freedom to love. In a time when love seems to be fading and hatred and despair rising, it presents love as a skill and force that can heal and invigorate, reconnect and guide, calm and encourage. In Gilligan's self-relations approach, psychotherapy is a conversation about competing differences. When these differences are treated violently or indifferently, problems arise; solutions develop when the skills of love are practiced. Those practical skills are described here, with an emphasis on postconventional ethics, Buddhist and aikido principles, and ideas of human sponsorship.

center cannot hold quote: *Metamodern Leadership* James Surwillo, 2017-07-11 *Metamodern Leadership* outlines the seven values that identify the character of our future leaders based on the circumstances that make the Millennial Generation who they are. It is at once an attempt to implore youth to seize their potential by tying their values to ancient wisdom, as well as a warning to everyone else to understand the impacts of disregarding the inevitable tendencies of a very distinct new demographic. This is the untold story of the personal responsibility required of the Millennial Generation, against the messaging and memes that portray them as entitled and lazy. It is an optimistic and pragmatic interpretation on the leadership mandates in the near future. The ancient virtue of leadership required broad knowledge as the basis for critical thinking and self-examination. The late twentieth century required myopic versions of leadership, which neglected the truths of centuries of wisdom. Our younger generations will lead and follow based on new foundations that seem counterintuitive to most yet will be the status quo within a decade. This distinction will lead to

pragmatism and problem solving for the future rather than the dogma and gridlock of today. We will require a generation of leaders who can once again link the complexities of the future with the ancient wisdom of progress.

center cannot hold quote: "Wake Up and Die Right!" Ben Foster, 2010-06-08 How might it happen that a boy of five or six would be tortured by the question of the existence of God? How would this happen, even if that boy were raised to be an atheist by atheist parents? If the boy was never baptized and never taken to church? Was never told about any religion? This book records the spiritual autobiography of a boy who, raised in a household which discouraged belief in anything religious, nevertheless came at a young age to worry about the place of God in his life and family, and suffered from intense fears that he would be condemned to hell because he had not been baptized. Looking back, here is the way the author describes his early years: "I grew up in a household with no place for God or religion. My mother and father were atheists. They did not believe in any divinities, and certainly not in the divinity of Jesus. Perhaps like some of their intellectual friends, they dismissed the idea that Jesus of Nazareth ever existed. This was in America in the 1930's and 40's, a time when scientists and intellectuals challenged the claims of Christianity. For my parents the questions of who Jesus was and whether he had actually walked the earth were irrelevant. "Is there a God in heaven? Is creation a gift to us from God? Does God love and care for his children? These were not questions my parents would entertain. Such statements had been denounced as meaningless by the scientists and the rationalists, who insisted that all discussions of God are pointless." The author recalls his childhood swept by the cold winds of atheism as especially painful because his mother, suffering from the loss of meaning of the atheist's vision, sank into a deep depression and then into madness. She suffered a series of nervous breakdowns and spent most of the author's early years in and out of mental hospitals. As a child the author felt "spiritually bankrupt." He felt he "counted for little in my parents' world. I counted for even less in the larger world. I looked out at the vast universe that the scientists described and saw it as a frightening place. Darkness and frozen space extended for millions of miles in all directions, and there was nothing out there to comfort us or give our lives meaning." The author was born into the Great Depression and went off to grammar school during World War II, both events exerting a terrible impact on his family, contributing to his mother's mental imbalance and his own feelings of insecurity. "I was four years old," the author writes, "when World War II began. As the war grew more widespread and destructive, I watched with terror the newsreel reports of Nazi bombings. I listened horrified to the newscasts on the radio. Every week fresh issues of Time and Life magazines entered our house, and they brought new images of cities in flames or bombed to smoking rubble. There were close-up photos of the dead on the battlefield, of soldiers bleeding to death, of bodies on a beach. "I recall in particular a photo of a boy my age standing in the ruins of his apartment building somewhere in Europe. He looks lost, frightened, and utterly alone. He wonders if his mother, missing since the bombing, is alive in the ruins. Rubble and twisted metal are all that remain of the city street he had called his home. "Turning the pages of that Life magazine, a terrible fear and sorrow seized me. I identified with the boy. I feared what had happened to him would happen to me." The author speaks of how, from a source he could not name, powerful religious emotions, primarily fear of a God of Wrath, took hold of him and "initiated me into a secretive life I kept hidden from my father. The fears were brought into focus when I casually used words that had a religious meaning I didn't understand. The words were these: 'Cross my heart and hope to die.' "I had heard other kids utter these words when they wanted to impress one another with the truth of an assertion. They often said them when it seemed fair!

center cannot hold quote: Saints and Latin Decadence Terrel Hale, 2001 What follows is not a story. It is descriptions of instinct and desire, of the secular and holy. It is, in a way, what I see the purpose of art being. This is a novel that doesn't behave. It does not participate in good manners. Samuel Beckett said that the task of the artist is to find a form to accommodate the mess. This novel trusts the reader to do the work of narrating connections and stretches the assumptions about what texts are. I disrupt old narratives not because I have no faith in narratives, but because I mean for

the reader to see in my gaps and verbal impasses the opening for new narratives. I have aided the metamorphosis from narrative into non-narrative by experimenting with typography. This is a book that has to be turned over and side-ways, in order that it be read both as pictures and text. This is a novel existing in the space of poetry creating an effect that adorns the action where the effect is more than the action. It is prose written with the intensity of poetry, a prose poem or something in between with more extended meditation in the same tradition of Edgar Allen Poe's Eureka or Baudelaire's Prose Poems or Bernadette Mayer's extended studies where the sentences keep accruing. Here there is no epiphany at any moment or no epiphany at all and because of this, this work is intentionally disorienting and disconcerting. One of my intentions was to be as close to nature as possible. Working outdoors was my inspiration and the primary object of my study. My aim was to respond...to the scene before me, to avoid conventional ways of seeing, and to fill my work with a sense of open air rather than studied light.

center cannot hold quote: The Extrapolated Man Doug Franklin, 2024-03-09 A wrecked starship. A dead man's mind. In a desperate race across Mars, Maggie must unravel their secrets before the Tharks erase them forever. The Extrapolated Man is a cinematic science fiction epic about the nature of sentience and identity. Mars was the New World of the solar system, the prosperous center of trade with the Belt and beyond, until a disastrous war with Earth resulted in a technological singularity that left both planets under control of weaponized lifeforms called Tharks. Long after the war, Maggie finds a recording of a dead man's mind in the ancient wreckage of an experimental ship. The discovery catapults her into a dangerous race with a psychopathic rival intent on stealing her find, and a hive of Tharks bent on erasing its very existence. To survive she must resurrect the dead man in the body of a battered warbot. Commander Gray of the United Colonies Space Force was a romantic born in the wrong era. His dreams of exploration were ruined by war with Earth, and ultimately he sacrificed both his dreams and his life in service to Mars. But when he wakes a century later in the body of a warbot, he realizes he has been given one last chance, for his ship is the only remaining faster-than-light vessel in existence. Gray must come to grips with his new identity and earn Maggie's trust if they are to rebuild his ship before the Tharks destroy all evidence it ever existed. The stakes have never been higher, for if they lose, humanity will remain planet-bound forever, but if they win, they stand to gain the stars.

center cannot hold quote: The Holy Blood Charles Covington, 2003-07 A smart, sexy, feisty, European religious history lecturer, Jena Van Rooykens, finds herself caught up in a roller coaster of a ride with the American academic system where the boundaries of education and commercialism are no longer recognised. The theft of the Christian relic - The Holy Blood of Bruges, allows an Oklahoma University to conduct authenticity testing and leads to the ultimate 'what if'. Cloning the DNA structure of 'The Holy Blood' is the logical next step, isn't it? God doesn't play dice, but is he playing Chess?

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