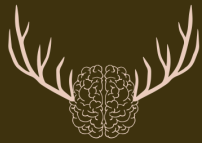




Read the new novel by
E. G. Bamforth
Out May 2023

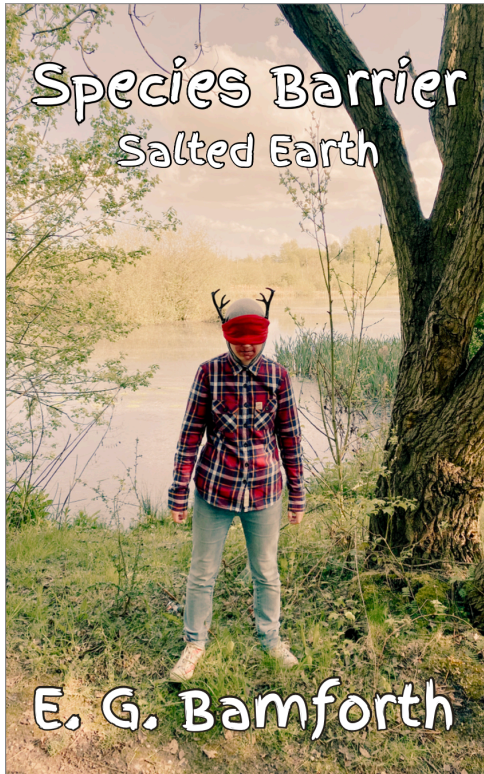



This is the worst case scenario- a biological Chernobyl

When the Appalachian Six meet to discuss their experiences, they become embroiled in a health crisis that stretches across the United States. As the crisis continues to develop, the reach of the Antlered Priest begins to spread throughout Appalachia as officials try to suppress the extent of the epidemic. To tackle this phenomena, they must go across the seas to investigate a similar disease that claimed the lives of nearly two hundred people. As the group begins to understand the implications that mad cow disease has for this new outbreak, including environmental contamination, they discover that the Antlered Priest may have a closer connection to one of them than initially thought and he is calling to them.

A fascinating and terrifying novel which presents a terrifying health scenario-
A. R. Eviewer




He walks through the forest and guides us to salvation


The Appalachian Six return to the USA as the outbreak claims more lives. Out of chaos, a new faith is born as the Antlered Priest gathers followers from well beyond Appalachia's borders. Now acknowledged to be a new form of prion disease, confusion about its origins causes further panic. Panic gives way to violence as revelations about how the species barrier breach was covered up comes to light, along with how the disease is spreading through environmental contamination. They also deal with the consequences of their own exposure to the disease and consider if the Antlered Priest can offer them salvation.

The chilling conclusion to the trilogy that examines our relationship with the climate and the spread of disease.
A. R. Eviever



Character Profile:
The Antlered Priest

Role



Taking the form of Jed Evans, a teenager from Appalachia, the Antlered Priest first haunts the group as the outbreak manifests, controlling the sickened deer and later sickened humans. As the outbreak grows, he moves with it, later being able to stalk the group in urban areas. In the last novel, he is driven into a reservoir by special forces, but this is revealed to have been planned by his followers as the water is then contaminated.

Description

The Antlered Priest serves as a representation of the NvCJD (New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease) outbreak, caused by chronic wasting disease jumping to humans. He takes an altered form of one of the first victims and harrasses people who enter areas of the Appalachian Forest affected by by CWD. He is later worshipped as the outbreak spreads. His antlers represent the origin of the disease whilst his humanoid appearance represents the breach in the species barrier. His exposed skull demonstrates the wasting aspect of the disease and the link to the brain. His blindness represents the unwillingness to see the threat posed by CWD until it was too late. His inability to speak emphasises the breakdown in communication about the disease and the neurological symptoms of it. His antagonistic appearance in the woods and his later connection to water represents the ongoing exploitation of natural environments and the impact this has ecologically. Likewise, the blood on his mouth represents both the consumption of diseased meat and the greedy way in which natural resources are exploited and poisoned.

Photographer credit- Bamforth, D. 7 May 2023.