

- 1 "The consequences of the scientists' unbridled experimentation were everywhere. New diseases had emerged, resistant to all known treatments. The environment was in ruins, polluted beyond repair. And the human population had dwindled to a few scattered enclaves, each struggling to survive in a world that was hostile to their existence.
- 5 The corporations had created a society where people were commodities, where profit was the only goal, and where the boundaries between what was human and what was not had become blurred. The enhanced were given all the privileges and opportunities, while the unmodified were treated as second-class citizens, forced to live in squalor and poverty.
- 9 The unchecked power of the corporations had created a world where people were valued only for their ability to consume, where the natural world was seen as a resource to be exploited, and where the pursuit of profit had become the only purpose of human existence. And in this world, science and technology had become the ultimate tools of control, used to shape and mold the very fabric of human society.
- 14 The scientists had played God, creating new forms of life that were not meant to exist. And in doing so, they had upset the delicate balance of nature, unleashing a chain reaction of events that had led to the end of the world as they knew it. They had promised a better world, but what they had delivered was a nightmare. They had unleashed forces that they could not control, and in doing so, they had doomed humanity to a bleak and uncertain future.
- 19 For Jimmy, this was the legacy of the unregulated experimentation that had taken place before his birth. He had grown up in a world where science and technology had been seen as the keys to a better future, but he now realized that they had been the cause of his world's downfall. In their quest for knowledge and power, the scientists had destroyed everything that was good and beautiful about the world. And now, as he looked out over the ruins of that world, he wondered if it was possible to ever truly recover from the damage that had been done"

Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*, Anchor Books, 2003, p. 281-282

- 1 "Cosmic Joker, the eternal subversive who toys with us as he likes, has created an epoch in which everything, even the most serious and dignified matters, are presented in comic form. The most serious matters, like the Great Game, are wrapped in a blanket of giggles, so no one can see how gnarled and dirty they really are. And so the Great Game is played out, hidden behind a veil of jokes and fun, in broad daylight, in front of everyone. The most cruel and bloody events seem hilarious, and no one suspects the truth. It's like a magic trick: now you see it, now you don't, now you see it again.
- 8 The Great Game is the pursuit of profit. It's a race to see who can amass the most, and the quickest. The winner takes all, and the loser is left with nothing. It's a game that's played by those who have everything, against those who have nothing. The rules are simple: exploit as many people and resources as possible, and do it as quickly as you can. The players are corporations, politicians, and wealthy individuals. The pieces are the workers, the environment, and the future. The stakes are the survival of our species.
- 14 We've created a world where everything is for sale. We've turned our homes into warehouses, our cities into shopping malls, and our bodies into billboards. We're bombarded with ads and commercials telling us what to buy, what to wear, and who to be. We've become addicted to consumption, and we've lost sight of what's really important. We've forgotten that we're part of a larger ecosystem, and that our actions have consequences. We've forgotten that we're mortal, and that our time here is limited.
- 20 In this world, there's no place for the contemplative, the sensitive, or the nonconformist. There's no place for those who ask questions, who challenge authority, or who refuse to play the Great Game. There's no place for those who value life over profit, who value truth over power, or who value love over hate. In this world, there's only one thing that matters: winning. And the winners are those who are willing to do whatever it takes to come out on top, no matter the cost to others or to the planet."

Tokarczuk, Olga. *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2018, p.105-106