

# CANTATA & THE EXTINCTION THERAPIST

## TWO PLAYS BY CLEM MARTINI

FOREWORDS BY NAHEED NENSHI &  
CHRISTINE BRUBAKER

Clem Martini's award-winning play, *Cantata: Rumours of My Crazy, Useless Life* provides a window into the experience of people going through the hidden, high-stakes struggles of elder care and mental illness. In *The Extinction Therapist*, Dr. Marshall's therapeutic practice offers group support to those threatened with extinction including a woolly mammoth, a testy short-eared shrew, the uncompromising smallpox virus, an insecure tyrannosaurus rex. They all convene to receive therapy, in an attempt to come to terms with the complicated, volatile feelings associated with their life-and-death circumstances.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Clem Martini is a celebrated playwright, novelist, and screenwriter with over thirty plays, and thirteen books of fiction and nonfiction to his credit. His text on playwriting, *The Blunt Playwright* is employed by colleges and universities across the country. His books include *Upside Down: A Family's Journey Through Mental Illness*, the W.O. Mitchell Award-winning *Bitter Medicine: A Graphic Memoir of Mental Illness* and the Alberta Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award-winning, *The Unravelling*. He is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada, a recipient of the ATB Financial Healing through the Arts Award and a Professor of Drama in the School of Creative and Performing Arts at the U of Calgary.



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### Reviews

"It is a testament to Martini's skill as a writer that *Cantata* holds its audience spellbound." — *The Calgary Herald*

"Rapturously well written ... Absolute triumph ... rare great play."  
— *The Hamilton Spectator*

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