

Advanced Information Sheet

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Description

A Treatise on Possibility: Perspectives on Humanity Hereafter by Rou Reynolds is a companion guide to the critically acclaimed sixth Enter Shikari album *Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible*.

Human possibility. If we get our act together, our long-term potential is virtually infinite. And infinitely beautiful. But currently humanity is being guided not by wisdom, cooperation and self-reflection but by archaic systems and false assumptions. There are warning signs everywhere: ecological destruction, mental health crises and obscene levels of inequality.

At a time when quite literally **Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible**, Rou Reynolds has gone in deep, head first, exploring the predicaments of modernity. Using his lyrics to navigate the complicated web of problems, he arrives on the other side with his *Treatise on Possibility*. Hard-hitting and thought provoking, this is a unique perspective on humanity as we approach a point of great change.

Contents

Lyrics Introduction; THE GREAT UNKNOWN; Crossing The Rubicon; { The Dreamer's Hotel }; Waltzing Off The Face Of The Earth (I. Crescendo); modern living...; the pressure's on.; T.I.N.A.; Marionettes (I. The Discovery of Strings); Marionettes (II. The Ascent); satellites* *; the kiñg;

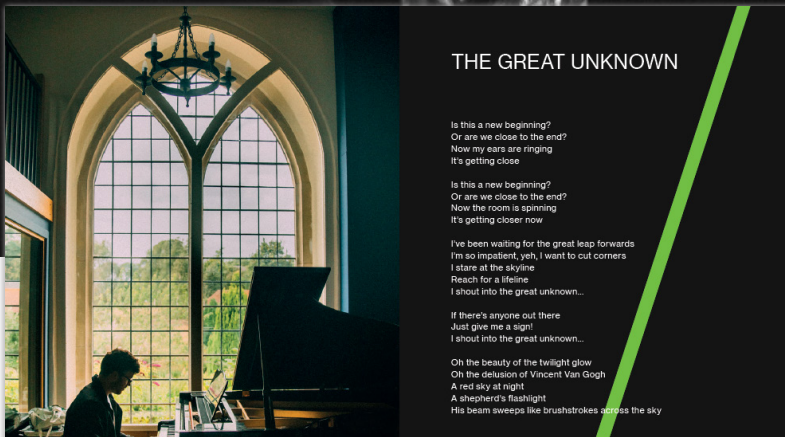
A Treatise on Possibility Preface; Introduction; An Overview of Our Predicament & Our Emotional Response; The Anthropocene; Human Nature, Social Structure, Communication & Mass Media; Human Complexity and the Importance of Compassion; The Mechanics of Control & Constraint; Epilogue; Notes

A Treatise on Possibility:

Perspectives on Humanity Hereafter

A companion guide to the album
Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible

Rou Reynolds



THE GREAT UNKNOWN

Is this a new beginning?
Or are we close to the end?
Now my ears are ringing
It's getting close

Is this a new beginning?
Or are we close to the end?
Now the room is spinning
It's getting closer now

I've been waiting for the great leap forwards
I'm so impatient, yeh, I want to out corners
I stare at the skyline
Reach for a lifeline
I shout into the great unknown...

If there's anyone out there
Just give me a sign!
I shout into the great unknown...

Oh the beauty of the twilight glow
Oh the delusion of Vincent Van Gogh
A red sky at night
A shepherd's flashlight
His beam sweeps like brushstrokes across the sky

has: 'Nah, that ain't gonna happen' or the slightly more self-absorbed: 'nah, that won't happen to me.' This ignorance or disregard for what is possible makes us very poor at being ready for 'black swan' events like pandemics. (Though I should point out that pandemics will probably become more frequent, more deadly and more economically damaging, as we continue exploiting our planet's land and wildlife, so they will become less and less of a rarity.)¹⁵

Another factor to consider: our economic system requires a constant cycle of production and consumption in order to function. It simply cannot deal with being put on hold (i.e. during a pandemic, when we go into a lockdown), and it reacts with a debilitating recession. This is not comparable to a war in that we won't have cities and supplies destroyed – our capacity for production has not dropped and neither has our purchasing power. The system simply can't deal with being paused, it requires an unbroken cycle of production and consumption or else it reacts in the same way a soldier would react should you press pause on the *Paper Pie* episode they're watching. With a hissy fit.

Imagine how our economy would fare if COVID-19 had been a more: stubborn and easily transferable virus. It would be obliterated. Our economic system was designed at a time when we had little understanding of viruses and disease, and now that they will likely become more frequent, it is simply unequipped and incompetent when it comes to global pandemics.

The lyrics for *Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible* do not predict the 2020 pandemic by any means, but they do highlight the systemic shortfalls in our socioeconomic structure, the shortfalls which led to our drastically ill-prepared position in relation to COVID-19 and the economic woes it leaves in its wake.

Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible is an album inspired by the recent political shocks over the past 5 years. It is about the obstacles to truth, trust, creativity, cooperation, compassion, and true communication. And it is about realising what our species is now capable of, both destructively and creatively.

This book dives deep into these subjects, far deeper than one can within the 4 minute confines of a song. I wanted to do this because now is the time for detailed analysis, for confident and thoughtful criticism. And ultimately, for rebellion.

2 An Overview of Our Predicament & Our Emotional Response

2.1 The Great Unknown

Due to our own actions or inactions, and the misuse of our technology, we live at an extraordinary moment, for the Earth at least – the first time that a species has become able to wipe its self out. But this is also, we may note, the first time that a species has become able to journey to the planets and to the stars. The two times, brought about by the same technology, coincide – a few centuries in the history of a 4.5 billion year old planet.¹⁶

Carl Sagan (from *Pale Blue Dot*, 1994)

To Be, Or Not To Be

Nature is being destroyed at such a rate (tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years) that many of Earth's vital life support systems are now in total decline.¹⁷

The effects of climate change are now no longer just projected but experienced.¹⁸ Democracy itself is under intense strain from post-truth politics, populism and creeping autocracy.¹⁹

We have an accelerating worldwide refugee crisis, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, yet another economic crisis.

Maybe the tragic effects of the pandemic and the recession it leaves in its wake will push us to reform society and industry, finally setting us on a more sustainable path. It is often in times of crisis that the most political transformation and progress takes place...

Or maybe the end is actually nigh... It certainly feels like we are watching a perfect storm of crises building up on the horizon, each one influencing the other, further destabilising our existence. Don't just take it from me: Nafeez Ahmad, a social scientist that specialises in complex systems theory, writes: 'Civilization's breach of planetary boundaries is now triggering multiple interconnected crises which are shrinking the safe operating space for human survival. And it could either result in

"All I can do today is warn. And hopefully, I'll be presenting you with a more truthful lens through which to view the world than you will find in most corporate media. In *Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible* I hold a mirror up to society, with the aim of revealing our shared experience, the bigger picture that is so often covered by mists of complexity and everyday toil.

This is my treatise on possibility."

Rou Reynolds, 2021