

How is the Representation of Nature Depicted in *Appleseed* by Matt Bell?

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Abstract

Matt Bell's *Appleseed* is a captivating novel that intertwines the past, present, and future, illustrating the consequences of human actions on nature. It conveys a vital message: when we nurture the environment, it nurtures us back; neglect it, and we face dire repercussions. The narrative follows three characters across different timelines—each representing humanity's evolving relationship with nature. The names and lives of these characters symbolise the intricate connection between humanity and the earth. Notably, the significance of bees is emphasised, highlighting their crucial role in sustaining both human life and the ecosystem. In essence, *Appleseed* serves as a poignant reminder of our responsibility towards nature and the potential consequences of our choices.

Keywords: Matt Bell, *Appleseed*, Consequences, Neglect, Different Timelines, Humanity and Nature

Introduction

Matt Bell is a creative author who is well-known for his work, especially *Appleseed*, which is a New York Times Notable Book. *Refuse to be Done*, is a craft book that offers insights into the writing, rewriting, and revision process of novels. In addition, he is the writer of the book *In the House atop the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods*, which is a collection of short stories, *A Tree or a Person or a Wall*, and the novel *Scrapper*. His prominent publications include *Tin House*, *Esquire*, and *The New York Times* have published his work. Bell's book *In the House atop the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods* has received numerous honours, most notably being named a Young Lions Fiction Award finalist. In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell employs the symbolic journey of the apples, trees, and animals to explore the themes of nature, human settlement, and the impact of advanced technologies on the environment. Chapman and his brother Nathaniel are the main characters of the novel, who lead a nomadic life going from place to place planting apple seeds. The narrative of the novel revolves around their lives. They lived a life that contradicted the modern human ways of life, which later interfered with advanced technologies and eventually led to the destruction of natural habitats.

The complexities of human-nature relationships, illustrate how the pursuit of progress can conflict with the preservation of the natural world, which is another area focused on by the author in the novel. The contentment that Chapman and Nathaniel find in nature and their simple life in the forest strongly contradicts the modern ways of life. Since both of them deserted urban life and were content with a simple existence in harmony with nature, therefore, when Nathaniel had to go back he reluctantly returned to his family. The novel also examines the ethical implications of technological innovations such

as nanotechnology and the creation of hybrid organisms, questioning their role in sustaining life amidst environmental challenges. Chapman's resistance to city life and his eventual return to the forest underscores his deep connection to nature and his rejection of modernity. The novel reaches its climax when a misunderstanding between Chapman and Nathaniel arises, leading to violence and symbolizing the discord between human intentions and actions. Despite all the misunderstandings, Chapman's final act of planting apple seeds over Nathaniel's grave signifies a cycle of life, death, and renewal, intertwining the themes of nature, technology, and human responsibility. Throughout the novel, Bell masterfully weaves together the stories of his characters with the broader narrative of environmental change, inviting readers to reflect on the consequences of human actions on the natural world and the potential for redemption through a harmonious coexistence with nature.

Climate change is a significant global issue that has worsened at an alarming rate. This is caused mainly by human activities. It has reached the level where rapid remediation is almost impossible to solve the environmental problems within a short period. To repair half of the damage we cause to the environment, it may take centuries of continuous efforts to repair half of the damage by putting the main focus on environmental stewardship, and pollution reduction, and the main and most important steps are to promote or spread awareness about sustainable development. Over the past five years, climate change has become a recurring topic in literature, especially in the genres of climate fiction (cli-fi) and eco poetry (Climate Change Youtube). Eco poetry is a part of literature that brings the topic of the environment in different ways, it explains environmental problems, appreciation of the environment, spreading awareness about the environment, etc, and deals with the relationship between humans and nature. Eco poetry often adopts an eco centric viewpoint that acknowledges the interconnectedness of humans and the natural world. When it comes to spreading environmental problems, the media have been instrumental in promoting environmental awareness, creating various channels to educate and involve the public. These collective initiatives have the potential to inspire people to take action, address the pressing issue of climate change, and pave the way for a sustainable future for generations to come.

Aims of the study

This study aims to analyse how Matt Bell's novel, *Appleseed* portrays, the environment, highlighting the author's skilful interweaving of different temporal frames- past, present, and future- throughout the narrative. Due to this narrative technique, some critics have classified the book under the futuristic literature genre. Matt Bell's *Appleseed* is a multifaceted exploration of environmental themes, structured around three interwoven narratives that span different periods. The novel serves as both a retelling of the Johnny Appleseed legend and a poignant commentary on humanity's relationship with nature, particularly in the context of climate change. Environmental representation in *Appleseed* is reflected in three different narratives: **Historical Perspective:** The first narrative follows brothers Nathaniel and Chapman in 18th-century Ohio as they plant apple orchards. Their efforts symbolize both a connection to the land and the destructive tendencies of colonization. Chapman reflects on the beauty of the wilderness, stating, "Abundance everywhere, everywhere gathering and joy and predation and sorrow: amid all this untamed splendor, every acre of forest is an empire in the shape of the world" (Bell 45). This quote encapsulates the duality of human interaction with nature—its potential for both nurturing and exploitation. **Near-Future Dystopia:** The second strand, set fifty years in the future, depicts a world ravaged by climate change, where corporate power dominates and natural resources are scarce. John, a survivor in this

landscape, articulates a grim reality: “The coasts quaked and drowned, the center burned up and blown away” (Bell102). This vivid imagery highlights the catastrophic effects of environmental neglect and serves as a warning about the consequences of unchecked human activity. **Far-Future Reflection:** The final narrative takes place a millennium later, in a world covered by ice, where a sentient being navigates a desolate landscape. This character's journey symbolises hope amid despair, as they seek remnants of a once-thriving civilisation. The novel suggests that even in dire circumstances, there is potential for regeneration and renewal.

Review of Literature

Appleseed is a complex narrative that intertwines myth, history, and speculative fiction to address pressing environmental issues. Through its rich characterisations and evocative prose, the novel serves as a clarion call for awareness and action, urging readers to confront the realities of climate change and the consequences of human choices. Bell's work is not just a story; it is an invitation to reflect on our collective responsibility towards the planet.

The review from Watershed Notes commends *Appleseed* for its complex narrative structure, where various storylines intricately intertwine and culminate towards the end. This sophisticated narrative design allows the reviewer to fully comprehend the profound message that Matt Bell aims to convey, enhancing the clarity and depth of the novel's overarching themes. *Appleseed* is a complex novel in which Matt Bell skilfully weaves multiple storylines to create a rich and compelling narrative. By skilfully crafting these storylines, Bell creates a unified and powerful reading experience that leaves a lasting impact on the reader.

According to the Goodreads review by Bob Brinkmeyer, while *Appleseed* succeeds in reconfiguring American myths and examining humanity's destructive impact on the environment, the reviewer found the narrative at times "bloated and so enigmatic" that it left them "frustrated and yearning for more speed and direction". Brinkmeyer acknowledged the book's strengths in these areas but felt the overly complex and obscure storytelling detracted from the overall experience. *Appleseed* is indeed a very complicated novel, so it will be difficult to understand what Bell wants to convey to the readers in the first reading. However, you will be able to get a clearer picture by the second reading, the important message that Matt wanted to convey it to the world will become clearer.

The review in The Brooklyn Rail commends Matt Bell for creating "finely drawn characters" and a narrative voice that is both "epic and intensely humane" in *Appleseed*. Despite noting a slow start and a tendency for lengthy lists in the novel, the reviewer considers it a "worthy high point" and a "major work," likening it to acclaimed titles like *Cloud Atlas* and "*The Road*. (Film)" The way Bell wrote *Appleseed*, featuring past, present, and future, is very unique. The novel is written in such a way that it is scary to imagine what will most likely happen shortly if we do not start to take preventive measures.

According to Laird Hunt from New York, *Appleseed* by Matt Bell is “Excellent... formally ambitious but still deeply humane... an appealing earnestness undergirded by deeply felt optimism influences *Appleseed*... Bell has achieved something special here. *Appleseed*, a highly welcome addition to the growing canon of first-rate contemporary climate fiction, feels timely, prescient, and true.”

Karen Russell, author of *Orange World* said that “*Appleseed* is a work of incandescent imagination. At once an eco-horror story about human greed and a regenerative new myth. I loved the soaring possibilities seeded throughout this wild novel, which pushes its readers to imagine ‘new ways of dwelling’ in and with non-human nature. Bell’s book is a chrysalis inside of which I could feel my mind changing, preparing for new flights.”

Quoting Kelly Link, author of *Get in Trouble* (This is a collection of stories), the book blends strands of mythological storytelling, speculative fiction, and environmental cautionary tales into a work that is both ambitious in scope and timely in its message. The novel spans different periods, from 18th century Ohio to a climate-ravaged future and a distant icy future, exploring themes of humanity's impact on the natural world, corporate exploitation of resources, and the struggle to find a sustainable path forward. By combining these diverse narrative threads, Bell has crafted a genre-defying work that grapples with pressing ecological concerns through the lens of imaginative fiction. As Link notes, *Appleseed* is a work of "incandescent imagination" that pushes readers to envision "new ways of dwelling" with the non-human natural world. The book's audacious vision and sense of urgency make it a standout contribution to contemporary climate fiction.

According to Adam Zemel's review, while it may be tempting to categorise Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed* as a climate change novel, doing so oversimplifies its scope. Zemel argues that discussions around climate change must consider a much broader range of interconnected factors, including technology, capitalism, globalisation, poverty, agriculture, our responsibilities to future generations, historical context, and humanity's complex role in the ever-evolving world. By weaving together these multifaceted elements, *Appleseed* transcends the typical climate fiction genre, grappling with the full breadth and depth of the climate crisis as a symptom of deeper systemic issues that have shaped human civilisation and its relationship with the natural world over time. (The Coachella Review).

According to Molly Odintz's review in Literary Hub, Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed* follows in the tradition of acclaimed science fiction authors Kim Stanley Robinson and William Gibson, crafting an epic tale that grapples with the impending climate crisis. The novel is split between a near-future dystopia on the brink of collapse and a distant future where the remnants of humanity struggle to understand the mistakes of the past that led to the "eco-pocalypse." Through this dual narrative structure, Bell explores the complex interplay of technology, corporate power, and humanity's unchecked exploitation of natural resources, as the characters across the timelines attempt to parse what went wrong and envision new paths forward. Odintz's description positions *Appleseed* as a sweeping, genre-blending work that draws on the speculative tradition to confront the urgent realities of climate change and its far-reaching societal implications. (Literary Hub).

Quoting the Kirkus Reviews, Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed* is an epic work that blends elements of science fiction, mythology, and techno-thriller to explore the challenge of saving the planet. The novel cleverly interweaves its various plot threads, culminating in a central message that the world as we know it may be beyond saving if it requires a monopolistic corporation to intervene. This suggests a profound commentary on the role of corporate power, environmental exploitation, and humanity's capacity to address the global climate crisis. By combining these diverse narrative strands, Bell has crafted a sweeping, genre-defying work that grapples with the urgent need to rethink our relationship with the natural world before it is too late.

Representation of nature depicted in *Appleseed* by Matt Bell

Chapman and Nathaniel have lived most of their lives in different forests so they know well what kind of land and climate will suit which kind of plants and trees. “I believe, brother,” he says, his face flush with the sun-beam’s warmth, “that you and I can put this place to its right uses, that you know best what might grow where, what land might take our seeds and make them thrive” (Bell 14). Not only that, but Bell also talked about the vanished earth, which represents that some things keep on going extinct due to several reasons but mostly because of unfavourable climate conditions leading to further existence for that particular species on earth. “In environmental communication, metaphors and images are also frequently used to represent environmental degradation. Tools such as eco-labels and carbon calculators can be applied for representing environmental friendliness, engagement and responsibility-taking.” (Boström & Ugglä 357) The discussion on environmental communication highlights how metaphors and tools like eco-labels foster a sense of responsibility for environmental degradation. This connects to the quoted dialogue, where the speaker's confidence in nurturing the land symbolises broader environmental stewardship. Both emphasise recognising our roles in caring for the planet and the potential for positive change through informed and responsible actions.

Humanity often takes the natural world for granted, failing to recognise its intrinsic value until it is diminished or lost. The quotes “Giants of a vanished earth, giving praise to a world gone.” (Bell 17) reflect a profound commentary on environmental issues. They suggest that humanity often takes the natural world for granted, failing to recognise its intrinsic value until it is diminished or lost. The imagery of “giants” signifies the monumental and irreplaceable aspects of nature lost due to human actions, such as deforestation and pollution. This highlights the urgent need for awareness and appreciation of our environment, urging society to acknowledge its fragility and the consequences of neglecting it. Ultimately, these quotes call for a deeper connection with the earth and a commitment to preserving its beauty and resources before they vanish completely. The imagery of “giants” signifies the monumental and irreplaceable aspects of nature lost due to human actions, such as deforestation and pollution. “Specific knowledge and expertise are particularly important for justification in environmental representation.” (Boström & Ugglä 359). This highlights the urgent need for awareness and appreciation of our environment, urging society to acknowledge its fragility and the consequences of neglecting it. Ultimately, these quotes call for a deeper connection with the earth and a commitment to preserving its beauty and resources before they vanish completely.

Bell also represents different NGOs, or organisations that are formed to protect or save the earth through an organisation called Earthtrust but, at the same time, organisations are the ones that fail in most circumstances mainly, because protecting the environment is not the responsibility of a single organisation or group but it is a collaborative effort. When these kinds of organisations are formed, they put a lot of effort into meeting the set goals but give up on the process, leading to more damage to the mindset of the people, resulting in negligence of further efforts from the people helping those groups. “Earthtrust. After the catastrophic California earthquake finally struck, it was Earthtrust that pushed an emergency funding bill through the last true Congress in Washington, a rushed... half of the country

abdicated and sold to Earthtrust for dollars an acre by a weakened government busy fleeing to dryer land in Syracuse” (Bell 18). After war or natural disaster occurred, many changes came into existence. Most natural disasters are occurring more frequently due to human reckless activities leading to climate change as well. “Organisational affiliation provides a context for identification and accountability, yet it reduces the degrees of freedom for multiple representations.” (Boström & Uggla 359) Boström & Uggla's quote illustrates the complex nature of organisational affiliation, which fosters a sense of identification and accountability among members. While this accountability can enhance ethical behavior, it may also limit the diversity of perspectives and innovative ideas, as individuals often feel compelled to conform to established norms. For example, in student organisations, members are held collectively responsible for actions that reflect on the group, potentially stifling unique viewpoints. Thus, while organisational affiliation promotes responsibility, it can also hinder the richness of creative expression within the group.

The advancement in technology brings a lot of changes in the society. “Window rolled down, he listens: no insects, no human voices, no sound but the hot wind. How many months has it been since he’s seen a blaze this fresh? He rubs his eyes, rolls shoulders sore from the road, opens the door, and steps out for a closer look” (Bell 25). Settlement and displacement are the nature of humans and the main reasons are the availability of natural resources and the exhaustion of natural resources. The best example of how the world is becoming off can be seen through these lines from the novel. The weather is becoming unbearable due to fewer trees or vegetation. The farmlands are converted to building apartments or commercial places. Then the novel shifts to a chapter titled C-432 which means “The Earth Reset.” C-432 is a humanoid-biosynthetic character in the novel who explores the world of the far future. This chapter is about the effect that will be caused by widespread glaciation in the far future and also is part of a new world where the cataclysm is global cooling, and their journey represents the Earth’s potential future and the impact of human actions on the environment. Bell represented the process of a forest through an apple orchard. Be it natural or man-made it takes almost the same amount of time to become a forest. When individuals or organizations embark on projects aimed at environmental protection, initial success is often observed. As Bell states, “Everywhere there will be newly productive industries, new concerns for timbering and the mining of coal and copper amid pastures cut from the forests, fruiting orchards replacing uninhabitable swamplands.” (Bell 38) However, it is important to note that both positive and negative consequences often follow such endeavours. In the pursuit of progress and improved living standards, certain aspects of the natural environment may be compromised or lost.

In the novel, Chapman's actions serve as a metaphor for the responsibility humans have in restoring and preserving the natural world. When a bird's nest falls to the ground, Chapman stops his work to carefully carry it to a safer location beyond the boundaries of his planned nursery, despite Nathaniel's criticism and demands for efficiency and productivity above all else. (Bell 41) This gesture symbolises the importance of prioritizing the well-being of nature and its inhabitants, even in the face of human-centric goals and objectives. Human beings have a moral obligation to work together in repairing and restoring the damage done to the environment. Just as Chapman put the fallen bird's nest back in a better place, we must strive to mend the broken pieces of our natural world to the best of our abilities. By fostering a sense of collective responsibility and prioritising the preservation of our ecosystems, we can create a more sustainable and harmonious future for all living beings. The chapter "C-432" in Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed* delves into the exploration of a humanoid-biosynthetic character navigating a future world impacted by widespread glaciation, symbolising Earth's potential future and the consequences of human

actions on the environment. Bell intricately parallels the process of establishing an orchard with the formation of a forest, emphasising the significant time and effort required for both natural and man-made cultivation. Through the character's journey and Bell's narrative, themes of environmental stewardship and the balance between progress and preservation are poignantly examined. "Everywhere there will be newly productive industries, new concerns for timbering and the mining of coal and copper amid pastures cut from the forests, fruiting orchards replacing uninhabitable swamplands." (Bell 38) The text highlights the importance of thoughtful consideration of climatic conditions, soil suitability, and ecological balance in agricultural endeavors, while also cautioning against the potential consequences of unchecked industrialisation and exploitation of natural resources. Additionally, Bell's portrayal of the protagonist's actions, such as rescuing a fallen bird's nest, serves as a metaphor for humanity's responsibility to restore and protect the natural world. Through its nuanced exploration of ecological themes and human impact, *Appleseed* invites readers to reflect on the interconnectedness of humanity and the environment, urging collective efforts toward sustainable stewardship and conservation.

As social animals, we humans tend to depend on something or the other, once someone takes initiative of something we tend to rely more on that person. Our psychology seems to be controlled by that particular thing, and we tend to rely more on it even if we were doing it independently before the emergence of that specific thing. "Mia says Earthtrust's built a huge facility at the Farm's center, a tower topped by a twenty-story needle aimed at the sky. An injection point, just like said" (Bell 55). Even though, things do not go as we planned or were told, even if we fail we have to keep trying. Likewise, to renew the environment we have to keep trying even if all efforts seem to be slow this way we can bring some positive change in our environment. There are very few efforts that can have an immediate effect as the environment is very highly polluted therefore, we should take it slow and steady but continuously only this way we can save our future. But only one or few efforts is not going to work to bring positive and visible change we need collaborative efforts. "A tree takes what it needs and sequesters it into wood; death alone will not make it release its catch, only rot and dissolution, but even before a tree dies it cedes some part of its life to termites scrawling trails beneath its bark to the birds nesting in its heights." (Bell 66) The more you destroy the environment, the sooner you will be consumed by the consequences which will in turn all the living creatures into dust and ashes.

In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell incorporates modern technologies, particularly hybrid creatures like nanobees, to symbolise humanity's manipulative relationship with the environment. "He'd created the nanobees because he loved real bees but real bees were gone; the supertrees he'd designed the nanobees to pollinate couldn't live anywhere but the VACs, existing only to serve human desire, each one a human wish planted in chemically enriched dirt, fulfilling Eury's want for all the biomass a tree might make." (Bell 269). The text highlights the detrimental consequences of artificial interventions and genetic manipulation on natural ecosystems through vivid descriptions and introspective reflections. Bell's portrayal underscores the irreplaceable value of natural processes and the inherent limitations of human-engineered solutions in addressing environmental degradation. The narrative prompts readers to reflect on the profound ecological impact of technological interventions and the imperative of adopting sustainable practices to mitigate further harm to the planet. In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell vividly depicts the far-reaching consequences of environmental pollution and degradation on interconnected ecosystems. Through poignant reflections and evocative imagery, the narrative underscores the pervasive nature of environmental toxins, highlighting their capacity to spread and contaminate entire ecosystems. "The poison will spread if it isn't

contained; the forest is a system of interlocking cause and effect, nothing can be made so discrete: a dead wolf eating a poisoned rabbit becomes poisoned itself, could poison the crow or raven who feeds on its corpse.” (Bell 301) The text elucidates the symbiotic relationship between human actions and environmental degradation, emphasizing the devastating impact on biodiversity, natural resources, and public health. Bell’s portrayal prompts readers to contemplate the ethical and collective responsibility in addressing environmental challenges, while also acknowledging the entrenched complexities and systemic barriers to meaningful change. “Now he knows everything he saw that season is gone.” (Bell 374) Ultimately, *Appleseed* serves as a sobering exploration of the irreversible ecological damage wrought by human activity and the urgent need for concerted global action to mitigate further harm and restore balance to the natural world.

In the concluding chapters of *Appleseed*, Matt Bell portrays a stark vision of a future where humanity faces the dire consequences of environmental degradation and resource depletion. Through poignant reflections and vivid imagery, the text underscores the urgency of taking immediate action to prevent ecological collapse and ensure the survival of both human and non-human species. Bell highlights the potential necessity of extreme measures, such as the blueprinting and eventual re-population of the human race, if proactive steps to address environmental challenges are not taken. The narrative serves as a sobering reminder of the intrinsic value of every remaining resource and the imperative of collective action to secure a sustainable future for all. “It isn’t only the animals and the plants the Loom will reprint, and repopulate. If worst comes to worst, Eury will blueprint the human race before it goes extinct; then, when it is safe, she will put everyone back—starting with herself” (Bell 401). Additionally, Bell explores the ethical and existential implications of potential technological interventions, such as the creation of humanoid robots, as humanity grapples with the repercussions of its impact on the natural world. Ultimately, *Appleseed* prompts readers to confront the urgent realities of the environmental crisis and advocates for proactive measures to mitigate its catastrophic effects.

In a dispassionate tone, the spectral multitude elucidates on the creation of dwarves by E, a process involving bioengineering techniques. These beings, originating from humans, undergo extensive modifications to enhance their physical robustness while sacrificing cognitive faculties and autonomy. Devoid of gender distinctions and reproductive capabilities, they are artificially rendered sterile. Additionally, each dwarf is intentionally imbued with a heightened sensitivity to sunlight, ensuring that any exposure outside their mountainous habitat would swiftly induce life-threatening anaphylactic reactions (Bell 414). E’s reserves of biomass beneath the mountains are questioned regarding their extent and utilisation. The inquiry delves into the toll exacted by the dwarfs, quantifying the depletion of E’s stockpile. To sustain operations, E finds herself compelled to continuously generate new life forms. However, this perpetuation of existence raises existential concerns, as the significance of maintaining the machinery diminishes with each newly created life. In a melancholic tone, E contemplates the implications of arriving at a promised future devoid of the preserved past. She questions the value of an Earth reset if it culminates in the absence of viable life forms, highlighting the inherent futility of such an outcome. Since pollution has increased, the taste of the apple does not taste the same anymore compared to the first apple that Chapman and Nathaniel had planted. “Holding the singer’s head by its topknot of hair, Chapman surveys his last orchard, grown from seed in ten flickering years, years that took only a few moments of his own time: trees growing bitter fruits, spitter apples; each tree a miracle, part brother, part witch, utterly itself” (Bell 422-423). Collectively, we endeavoured to ready ourselves for the

impending developments, yet our efforts proved inadequate. As the situation with Pinatubo escalated, governmental structures faltered, yielding to emergent regimes that held sway temporarily before succumbing to collapse once more. Concurrently, external actors sought to influence alternative trajectories. Mass displacement ensued, with civilians fleeing the outbreak of fresh conflict spanning every continent.

The increasingly erratic weather patterns, coupled with diminished ultraviolet radiation and global snowfall, initiated irreversible declines in insect populations, triggering cascading ecological collapse. This deterioration was exacerbated by the inability of plants to propagate without essential pollinators or human intervention, which remained unfeasible due to competing priorities. The catastrophic extinctions witnessed in the early twenty-first century paled in comparison to the subsequent devastation; once significant plant cover dwindled, the demise of animal species swiftly ensued. The marine ecosystem fared no better, experiencing a shortage of phytoplankton due to inadequate sunlight, leading to disruptions in the marine food chain. “Whatever life flourishes next- maybe this new tree you’ve brought back with you-I can only imagine it stands a better chance without us” (Bell 434). The character’s belief that the world would be better off without human influence suggests a recognition that humanity’s actions have been detrimental to the environment and that other forms of life may have a better chance of thriving if left alone. *Appleseed* by Matt Bell is a novel that discovers a wide range of themes, including environmental issues, technology, and human relationships. The relevance of environmental themes in *Appleseed* is significant, as the novel probes into the complex relationship between humanity and the natural world, and the impact of human actions on the environment. One of the key environmental themes in *Appleseed* is the concept of sustainability and the consequences of resource exploitation. The novel is set in a future where humanity has colonised the Moon and Mars, and the Earth is facing significant environmental challenges due to overpopulation and resource depletion. Bell uses this setting to discover the idea that humanity's survival is dependent on our ability to live in harmony with the natural world and to manage our resources sustainably. Another environmental theme in *Appleseed* is the impact of technology on the environment.

The novel depicts a world where technology has advanced to the point where it can manipulate the environment on a large scale. While technology has the potential to solve many of the world's environmental problems, Bell also sees the risks and unintended consequences of technological solutions. The novel raises important questions about the role of technology in environmental conservation and the balance between technological advancement and environmental sustainability. *Appleseed* also explores the theme of climate change and its impact on humanity. The novel depicts a world where climate change has led to significant environmental and societal changes, including the displacement of people and the loss of biodiversity. Bell uses this theme to highlight the real-world impacts of climate change and to encourage readers to consider the steps that need to be taken to mitigate these impacts. Overall, the relevance of environmental themes in *Appleseed* is clear. The novel serves as a warning about the consequences of environmental degradation and a call to action for readers to consider their impact on the planet. By discovering themes of sustainability, technology, and climate change, *Appleseed* encourages readers to think critically about the relationship between humanity and the natural world and to work towards a more sustainable future.

The environmental themes in Matt Bell's *Appleseed* are highly relevant and central to the novel's examination of climate change, corporate responsibility, and humanity's relationship with nature. The novel's speculative epic, tech thriller, and reinvented fairy tale elements combine to create a unique and thought-provoking meditation on these themes. The novel's opening chapter, set in the eighteenth century, follows two brothers, one human and one faun, as they plant apple orchards across the unsettled Midwestern frontier. This past strand of the novel highlights the impact of human intervention on the natural world and the consequences of our actions for future generations. Shortly strand, the consequences of climate change and humanity's unchecked exploitation of natural resources are explored in a world where governments are ineffectual and unsustainable resource consumption continues. The novel's present-day timeline feels jarringly prescient, with real-world parallels to the rise of Silicon Valley types and the influence of neoliberal "lone genius" types for whom saving the planet is just another business venture. The novel's final strand, set a thousand years in the future, explores the consequences of humanity's actions on a global scale, with North America covered by a massive sheet of ice and one lonely sentient being inhabiting a tech station on top of the glacier. This strand serves as a warning of the dangers of ignoring the environmental consequences of our actions and the importance of taking responsibility for our impact on the natural world. Overall, *Appleseed* is a powerful and thought-provoking exploration of environmental themes, offering a fresh and bracing take on the climate apocalypse subgenre and challenging readers to rethink their relationship with the natural world.

In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell vividly depicts the far-reaching consequences of environmental pollution and degradation on interconnected ecosystems. Through poignant reflections and evocative imagery, the narrative underscores the pervasive nature of environmental toxins, highlighting their capacity to spread and contaminate entire ecosystems. "The poison will spread if it isn't contained; the forest is a system of interlocking cause and effect, nothing can be made so discrete: a dead wolf eating a poisoned rabbit becomes poisoned itself, could poison the crow or raven who feeds on its corpse." (Bell 301) The text elucidates the symbiotic relationship between human actions and environmental degradation, emphasising the devastating impact on biodiversity, natural resources, and public health. Bell's portrayal prompts readers to contemplate the ethical and collective responsibility in addressing environmental challenges, while also acknowledging the entrenched complexities and systemic barriers to meaningful change. "Now he knows everything he saw that season is gone." (Bell 374). Ultimately, *Appleseed* serves as a sobering study of the irreversible ecological damage wrought by human activity and the urgent need for concerted global action to mitigate further harm and restore balance to the natural world.

In a dispassionate tone, the spectral multitude elucidates the creation of dwarves by E, a process involving bioengineering techniques. These beings, originating from humans, undergo extensive modifications to enhance their physical robustness while sacrificing cognitive faculties and autonomy. Devoid of gender distinctions and reproductive capabilities, they are artificially rendered sterile. Additionally, each dwarf is intentionally imbued with a heightened sensitivity to sunlight, ensuring that any exposure outside their mountainous habitat would swiftly induce life-threatening anaphylactic reactions (Bell 414). E's reserves of biomass beneath the mountains are questioned regarding their extent and utilization. The inquiry delves into the toll exacted by the dwarves, quantifying the depletion of E's stockpile. To sustain operations, E finds herself compelled to continuously generate new life forms. However, this perpetuation of existence raises existential concerns, as the significance of maintaining the machinery diminishes with each newly created life. In a melancholic tone, E contemplates the implications of arriving at a promised future

devoid of the preserved past. She questions the value of an Earth reset if it culminates in the absence of viable life forms, highlighting the inherent futility of such an outcome. Since pollution has increased, the taste of the apple does not taste the same anymore compared to the first apple that Chapman and Nathaniel had planted. “Holding the singer’s head by its topknot of hair, Chapman surveys his last orchard, grown from seed in ten flickering years, years that took only a few moments of his own time: trees growing bitter fruits, spitter apples; each tree a miracle, part brother, parth witch, utterly itself” (Bell 422-423). Collectively, we endeavoured to ready ourselves for the impending developments, yet our efforts proved inadequate. As the situation with Pinatubo escalated, governmental structures faltered, yielding to emergent regimes that held sway temporarily before succumbing to collapse once more. Concurrently, external actors sought to influence alternative trajectories. Mass displacement ensued, with civilians fleeing the outbreak of fresh conflicts spanning every continent

The increasingly erratic weather patterns, coupled with diminished ultraviolet radiation and global snowfall, initiated irreversible declines in insect populations, triggering cascading ecological collapse. This deterioration was exacerbated by the inability of plants to propagate without essential pollinators or human intervention, which remained unfeasible due to competing priorities. The catastrophic extinctions witnessed in the early twenty-first century paled in comparison to the subsequent devastation; once significant plant cover dwindled, the demise of animal species swiftly ensued. The marine ecosystem fared no better, experiencing a shortage of phytoplankton due to inadequate sunlight, leading to disruptions in the marine food chain. “Whatever life flourishes next- maybe this new tree you’ve brought back with you-I can only imagine it stands a better chance without us” (Bell 434). Persistently, we denied the profound reality that there existed no return to an original garden. Despite our meticulous efforts to replicate it precisely, the world could never again follow precisely the same course of growth and development (Bell 438). In the concluding chapters of *Appleseed*, Matt Bell portrays a stark vision of a future where humanity faces the dire consequences of environmental degradation and resource depletion. Through poignant reflections and vivid imagery, the text underscores the urgency of taking immediate action to prevent ecological collapse and ensure the survival of both human and non-human species. Bell highlights the potential necessity of extreme measures, such as the blueprinting and eventual repopulation of the human race, if proactive steps to address environmental challenges are not taken. “The environment or ‘nature’ cannot plead its case but must be represented. Numerous actors claim to speak on behalf of nature while at the same time, they may represent a country or region, an organization, a scientific or expert community, certain vulnerable groups, animals and/or future generations”(Boström and Uggla 355).

Appleseed by Matt Bell is a novel that offers a complex and nuanced representation of the environment and environmental issues. The representation of the environment in *Appleseed* is multifaceted, reflecting the novel's exploration of the relationship between humanity and the natural world. One of the key ways in which the environment is represented in *Appleseed* is as a fragile and vulnerable system that is under threat from human actions. “Sustainability issues are trans boundary in time and space. In dealing with environmental issues with global, long-term and often irreversible impacts, the issue of representation is fundamental to address.” (Bosström and Uggla 355). The novel depicts a world where the environment is facing significant challenges, including overpopulation, resource depletion, and climate change. Bell uses this representation to highlight the real-world impacts of environmental degradation and to encourage readers to consider the steps that need to be taken to mitigate these impacts. Another way in which the

environment is represented in the novel *Appleseed* is as a source of wonder and beauty. The novel is filled with vivid descriptions of natural landscapes, and Bell uses these descriptions to evoke a sense of awe and respect for the natural world. This representation serves to remind readers of the importance of protecting and preserving the environment and to highlight the intrinsic value of the natural world beyond its utility to humanity.

Appleseed also represents the environment as a system that is interconnected with human society. The novel depicts a world where the health of the environment is closely linked to the health of human society, and where environmental degradation can lead to social and economic instability. Bell uses this representation to highlight the need for a holistic approach to environmental issues and to emphasise the importance of considering the environmental impacts of human actions. Overall, the representation of the environment in *Appleseed* is significant and reflects the novel's exploration of the relationship between humanity and the natural world. The novel serves as a reminder of the importance of the environment and the need for humanity to take responsibility for its impact on the planet. By representing the environment as a fragile and vulnerable system that is interconnected with human society, *Appleseed* encourages readers to think critically about the relationship between humanity and the natural world and to work towards a more sustainable future.

Appleseed by Matt Bell delves deeply into environmental representation, intertwining themes of climate change, humanity's exploitation of natural resources, and the consequences of these actions on the planet. The novel presents a multi-layered exploration of environmental issues across different timelines, each highlighting various aspects of the ecological challenges faced by humanity.

“Dobson highlights three often-overlooked constituencies in political representation that reveal significant democratic gaps. First, he notes the disconnect between national citizens and global environmental impacts, where those causing ecological harm often reside outside affected areas, leading to a “democratic deficit.” Second, future generations are frequently neglected in political decision-making due to a presentist bias, raising questions about their representation in current governance. Lastly, Dobson argues for the inclusion of animals and the natural environment, proposing a “sustainability lobby” to advocate for these non-human interests. Addressing these gaps is crucial for creating a more inclusive and equitable political system that recognizes the needs of all constituents” Bosström and Ugglå 358

In the eighteenth-century Ohio setting, the novel portrays two brothers planting apple orchards on the frontier, symbolising humanity's early interactions with nature and the transformation of the wilderness for settlement and profit. This timeline reflects the initial impact of human intervention on the environment and the complexities of balancing progress with preservation. Moving forward to the second half of the twenty-first century, the narrative delves into a world ravaged by climate change, where one company monopolises all resources due to early investments in genetic engineering and food science. This timeline underscores the consequences of unchecked exploitation of natural resources and the emergence of a resistance movement striving to redistribute power and land, highlighting the struggle for environmental justice and sustainability. Lastly, in a distant future where North America is covered by ice, the novel presents a desolate landscape where a lone sentient being embarks on a quest to discover the last remnants of civilization. This timeline serves as a stark warning of the potential long-term consequences of environmental degradation and the importance of preserving the planet for future generations. Overall, *Appleseed* masterfully weaves together these timelines to offer a poignant reflection

on environmental themes, urging readers to contemplate the intricate relationship between humanity and the natural world, the repercussions of our actions, and the urgent need for environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Some of the most prominent symbolic uses of nature in the narrative are the trees the apple trees, animals the hybrid creature called C, and nano-bees these are all used as a symbol of nature in the narrative of the novel *Appleseed*. By the end of the novel, we can see that the story went to such an extent that there is a possibility that a day will come when scientists might need to create hybrid creatures that will fit the environment to survive. In Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed*, the ecological theme plays a pivotal role in shaping the overall narrative and character development. The novel, set in a future where humanity has colonised other planets, explores the complex relationship between humans and the environment, highlighting the devastating consequences of environmental degradation and the urgent need for sustainability. This ecological theme not only drives the plot forward but also deeply influences the characters' motivations, decisions, and arcs throughout the story. The narrative of *Appleseed* is structured around the ecological crisis that plagues the Earth, pushing humanity to seek new homes on the Moon and Mars. This backdrop sets the stage for a story that grapples with the ethics of colonisation, the exploitation of resources, and the quest for survival in a hostile universe. The ecological theme is woven into the fabric of the narrative, influencing the choices made by the characters and the conflicts they face. For instance, the protagonist's journey is driven by a desire to preserve and protect the natural world, even as he is caught up in the larger forces of colonisation and resource extraction.

Moreover, the ecological theme in *Appleseed* significantly impacts character development. The characters are shaped by their interactions with the environment and their understanding of the ecological crisis. Their beliefs, values, and actions are all informed by the state of the natural world, making the ecological theme a central component of their identities. For example, the protagonist's brother, who is a scientist working on terraforming Mars, is driven by a deep-seated belief in humanity's ability to reshape the universe to its needs. His character development is marked by a gradual realization of the limits of human power and the importance of living in harmony with the environment. Furthermore, the ecological theme in *Appleseed* serves as a lens through which the characters view the world and their place in it. It forces them to confront the reality of their actions and their impact on the environment. This confrontation leads to significant growth and change for the characters, as they are forced to re-evaluate their beliefs and priorities. The ecological theme, therefore, is not just a backdrop for the story but a catalyst for character development and narrative progression. The ecological theme in Matt Bell's *Appleseed* is integral to the overall narrative and character development. It shapes the plot, influences the characters' motivations and actions, and catalyses significant moments of growth and change. By weaving the ecological theme into the fabric of the story, Bell creates a rich and nuanced exploration of the human-environment relationship, highlighting the urgent need for sustainability and the importance of living in harmony with the natural world.

The novel portrays the lives of Chapman and his brother Nathaniel, who engage in planting apple seeds in various forests, reflecting the human interaction with nature. This activity is driven by both sustenance and economic motives, highlighting the initial harmonious relationship humans have with the environment. "if a Tree of Forgetting has grown even once, then Chapman might plant it anew, might find

in its fruit a magic by which a faun could forget he was ever anything but a man, surely a fate better than being both man and animal, torn between two worlds and forever home in none--“(Bell 45). However, the changing environment instils fear about an uncertain future, indicating a deep awareness of the impact of human actions on nature. There are many instances in the novel that portray Nature as a Source of Income: The passage illustrates how nature becomes a source of income, leading to the exploitation of resources. This metaphorically represents humanity's greed and disregard for the long-term consequences of their actions. Chapman and Nathaniel's extensive knowledge of the land and climate showcases a deep connection with nature, yet their actions still contribute to the exploitation of natural resources. “The Earth reduced to what belongs to man, populated by what man allows” (Bell 112). The loss of humanity, the death of Nathaniel as well as the creation of creature C symbolises the Loss and Extinction of nature in its habitat. Bell emphasises the theme of extinction and the disappearance of species due to unfavourable climate conditions. This serves as a metaphor for the broader impact of human activity on biodiversity. The reference to “Giants of a vanished earth” symbolises the tendency to appreciate nature only when it is irretrievably lost, highlighting the lack of proactive conservation efforts.

The novel critiques the inefficacy of organisations like Earthtrust, formed to protect the environment. Despite their efforts, they often fail due to the enormity of the task and the necessity for collective action. This critique extends to the larger societal failure to take responsibility for environmental preservation. “They’ve have sacrificed citizenship and home and belongings, rights and privileges it would have been inconceivable to relinquish before the troubles really began.” (Bell 79). Take a quote about Earthtrust. The advancement of technology and modernisation is portrayed as a double-edged sword. While it brings progress, it also leads to the destruction of natural landscapes. John’s desire to dismantle human ruins and rewild the West symbolises a yearning to restore nature to its former glory, contrasting with the prevalent trend of environmental degradation. The description of altered landscapes, with burned trees and dried farmlands, serves as a powerful metaphor for the environmental consequences of human actions. The transformation of farmlands into commercial spaces reflects the prioritization of economic growth over environmental sustainability. The chapter titled “C-432” explores a future shaped by widespread glaciation and global cooling, underscoring the long-term impact of current environmental practices. The journey of the humanoid-biosynthetic character represents a potential future where human actions have drastically altered the planet. Chapman’s actions, such as relocating a bird’s nest despite criticism, metaphorically emphasize the importance of prioritizing the well-being of nature. “We can’t keep pretending there’s nothing to do. We act or we do not” (Bell 386). This act represents the broader responsibility humans have to restore and preserve the natural world, even when it conflicts with immediate human-centric goals. In short, the novel uses ecological metaphors to critique human exploitation of nature, the failure of conservation efforts, and the impact of technology on the environment. Through the lens of ecocriticism, it underscores the need for a deeper appreciation of nature and a more proactive approach to environmental preservation and restoration.

Appleseed is another futuristic novel that deals with what the future will look like or how far humans with their so-called advanced technologies will be able to survive without nature. The character’s evolution and the interactions with the apple are recurring symbols in the novel, highlighting the themes of storytelling, belief, and the relationship between humanity and nature. Matt Bell intricately weaves ecological representation throughout the narrative, utilising the journeys of the characters Chapman and Nathaniel to highlight the complexities of human interaction with nature. The novel portrays their

nomadic lifestyle, centred around planting apple seeds, as a stark contrast to modern urban life, emphasising a deep connection to the environment. The characters' experiences reveal the impact of human actions on the natural world, as they witness environmental degradation and the consequences of technological advancements. Bell's narrative also reflects on the theme of extinction and loss. This poignant reminder serves to critique humanity's tendency to overlook the value of natural resources until they are irretrievably lost. Throughout *Appleseed*, Bell emphasises the interconnectedness of humanity and nature, illustrating that the pursuit of progress often conflicts with ecological preservation. The characters' actions, such as Chapman's careful relocation of a fallen bird's nest, symbolise the moral obligation humans have to protect and restore the natural world. The narrative ultimately invites readers to reflect on their relationship with the environment and the collective responsibility to foster a sustainable future.

Matt Bell also presents a profound exploration of environmental representation through the journeys of the main characters, Chapman and Nathaniel. Their nomadic lifestyle, characterised by planting apple seeds in various forests, highlights their intimate knowledge of the land and climate, emphasising the importance of understanding ecological systems. Bell poignantly addresses the theme of extinction and the consequences of human negligence towards the environment. It is further illustrated through the depiction of organisations like Earthtrust, which, despite their noble intentions, often struggle to achieve their goals due to the collective nature of environmental stewardship. The narrative critiques the failures of such organisations, suggesting that the responsibility for protecting the environment cannot rest on a single entity but requires a collaborative effort from society as a whole. As the story progresses, the character John embodies a desire to dismantle the remnants of human destruction and restore the natural world. His vision of "rewilding the West" emphasises the necessity of reversing the damage inflicted by modernisation. The narrative illustrates the consequences of unchecked industrialisation, where natural landscapes are transformed into barren, polluted environments, as depicted in the lines about dry farmlands and toppled wind turbines. In the chapter titled "C-432," Bell introduces a humanoid-biosynthetic character exploring a future marked by widespread glaciation, further emphasising the long-term impacts of human actions on the planet. This exploration serves as a cautionary tale about the potential future of Earth if current trends continue unchecked.

Ultimately, *Appleseed* invites readers to reflect on the interconnectedness of humanity and the environment, urging a collective responsibility toward sustainable stewardship. Through its nuanced exploration of ecological themes, the novel emphasises the need for thoughtful consideration of our actions and their consequences, advocating for a harmonious coexistence with the natural world. In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell presents a compelling exploration of environmental representation, emphasising the profound consequences of pollution and degradation on interconnected ecosystems. The narrative underscores the urgency of addressing environmental challenges through poignant reflections and vivid imagery, highlighting the pervasive nature of environmental toxins and their capacity to contaminate entire ecosystems. In *Appleseed*, Matt Bell intricately explores a range of environmental themes that highlight the complex relationship between humanity and the natural world. The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of ecological degradation, resource exploitation, and the urgent need for sustainable practices. Here are the main points based on ecological representation. Overall, *Appleseed* serves as a powerful exploration of environmental themes, urging readers to confront the urgent realities of ecological crises and consider their role in fostering a sustainable future. Through its

nuanced portrayal of the interconnectedness of humanity and the environment, Bell challenges readers to reflect on the ethical implications of their actions and the necessity of collective efforts in addressing environmental challenges. The novel ultimately acts as a call to action, emphasising the need for proactive measures to mitigate further harm and restore balance to the natural world.

In the concluding chapters of *Appleseed*, Matt Bell presents a stark vision of a future marked by the severe consequences of environmental degradation and resource depletion. The narrative emphasises the urgency of immediate action to prevent ecological collapse, underscoring the intrinsic value of remaining resources and the necessity for collective efforts to secure a sustainable future for all species. Bell articulates a potential scenario where extreme measures, such as the blueprinting and repopulation of humanity, may become necessary if proactive steps to address environmental challenges are not taken. The text delves into the ethical implications of technological interventions, particularly the creation of bioengineered beings like dwarves. These beings, modified for physical robustness at the cost of cognitive abilities and autonomy, raise existential questions about the value of life and the consequences of humanity's manipulative relationship with nature. Bell's portrayal of these beings reflects a broader commentary on the futility of attempting to engineer solutions to the ecological crises wrought by human actions. Through the lens of ecocriticism, *Appleseed* examines the ethical implications of technological innovations, such as genetic engineering and nanotechnology, and their role in sustaining life amidst environmental challenges. The novel questions whether these advancements can truly solve the problems they were intended to fix or if they risk further disrupting the delicate balance of the natural world. By weaving together these diverse narratives and environmental metaphors, Bell encourages readers to consider their relationship with the natural world and the urgent need to address the climate crisis before it's too late. *Appleseed* stands as a powerful and imaginative work that underscores the interconnectedness of all living beings and the responsibility, we share in preserving the fragile ecosystems upon which we all depend.

The environmental crisis, driven by human activities and exacerbated by technological advancement, has become a critical issue that demands urgent attention. As we grapple with the consequences of climate change, literature, and the arts have emerged as powerful tools for fostering environmental consciousness and promoting sustainable practices. In this context, Matt Bell's novel *Appleseed* offers a unique perspective on the environment, interweaving various temporal frames to create a compelling narrative that challenges conventional notions of human relationships with nature. Bell's novel, often classified as futuristic, explores the intricate connections between past, present, and future environmental realities, prompting readers to reconsider their assumptions about the natural world and humanity's role within it. By employing a multi-temporal framework, Bell invites readers to reflect on the long-term consequences of human actions and the potential for transformative change in the face of environmental catastrophe. The portrayal of the environment in *Appleseed* is particularly significant in the context of ecopoetry, a genre that emphasises the intrinsic value of nature and encourages conservation, preservation, and ecological stewardship. Ecopoetry is not merely a description of dwelling with the earth but an experience of it, evoking mental and sensory states that shape our interactions with the natural world. Through its innovative narrative structure, *Appleseed* embodies the core principles of ecopoetry, inviting readers to dwell in the world beyond the poem and fostering a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of

humans and the more-than-human world. In conclusion, *Appleseed* offers a unique and compelling contribution to the literary discourse on climate change and environmental consciousness. By interweaving various temporal frames and challenging conventional notions of human relationships with nature, Bell's novel serves as a powerful reminder of the urgent need for transformative change in the face of environmental catastrophe. Through its thought-provoking portrayal of the environment, *Appleseed* encourages readers to engage with the challenges of climate change and envision a more sustainable future for future generations.

Matt Bell emphasises the interdependence of ecosystems and the cascading effects of environmental pollution and degradation. The poisoning of one species, such as a rabbit, leads to a chain reaction affecting wolves, crows, and other interconnected beings (Bell 301). This illustrates how no part of the ecosystem is isolated; human actions ripple through the natural world, affecting biodiversity, natural resources, and public health. Bell's narrative highlights the intricate and often destructive relationship between human actions and environmental health. The passage "Now he knows everything he saw that season is gone" (Bell 374) underscores the irreversible damage caused by humans, urging readers to consider the ethical implications and collective responsibility in addressing environmental challenges. The novel explores the dual-edged sword of technological advancement. John's quest to rewild the West contrasts with humanity's general trend towards environmental degradation. Bell questions the ethical and existential implications of technological interventions, such as humanoid robots, and their role in addressing the repercussions of human impact on nature (Bell 401). The stark imagery of a future devastated by environmental degradation, as seen in Bell's description of the altered landscapes and the looming extinction of species, serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for action. The loss of essential ecosystems and the collapse of biodiversity are vividly depicted, emphasising the potential for a bleak future if proactive measures are not taken. Bell uses the narrative to explore the consequences of climate change and resource depletion. The increasing frequency of natural disasters and the transformation of farmlands into barren landscapes symbolise the dire effects of unsustainable practices. The future vision of a glaciated North America (Bell 434) warns of the long-term impact of current environmental negligence. The transformation of apple orchards into symbols of human impact on nature reflects the broader theme of ecological stewardship. Chapman's act of saving a bird's nest (Bell 41) represents the need to balance human activities with the preservation of natural habitats, highlighting the metaphor of the forest as a delicate, interconnected system.

The failure of organisations like Earthtrust to effectively combat environmental crises underscores the systemic barriers to meaningful change. The narrative critiques both corporate and governmental inadequacies, suggesting that true environmental protection requires a collaborative, sustained effort beyond individual or isolated initiatives (Bell 18). The depiction of a future where drastic measures, such as blueprinting the human race, become necessary (Bell 401) raises questions about the lengths to which humanity might go to survive its self-inflicted environmental wounds. This serves as a sobering reminder of the potential for drastic, ethically fraught decisions in the face of environmental collapse. *Appleseed* by Matt Bell employs ecological metaphors to vividly illustrate the consequences of environmental degradation and the interconnectedness of natural systems. Through the lens of ecocriticism, the novel critiques human exploitation of nature highlights the ethical implications of technological advancements, and underscores the urgent need for collective action to address climate change and resource depletion.



Bell's narrative serves as a powerful call to reconsider humanity's relationship with the natural world and to take meaningful steps toward environmental sustainability.

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