



**In groups, read the incipit of Brian Evenson's short story and imagine what is going to happen.**

In the early days of this world, lifeforms were not as distinct as they are today. There were no separate species but only a single fecund mire of creatures indiscriminately breeding, changing and striating with each new generation. With every blind coupling, new forms of creature came into existence.

*Mere speculation*, you might say, were you free to speak. Yes, speculation. Perhaps the truth, perhaps not. And yet the idea struck me as offering a compelling map for the future.

Which is why you are here.

**Brian EVENSON. "The Extrication." *The Glassy, Burning Floor of Hell*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2021, p.204.**