

# FALL OF THE AX

NOEL GRAY



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# PROLOGUE

**The Echo of My Life:** *I hear the fall of the ax and my life is over. I hear my voice screaming and my last words penetrate the air and join the sounds of all those who have screamed before me. They, and now I, march in the parade of the blameless dead, its ageless line our only monument. If this killing of the innocent cannot be stopped then an echo like mine will one day be all that is left of the Universe's one true miracle. Time and space will then be silent, empty, soulless, un-admired, and creation will then be left to blind physics. Can someone stop this insanity? In these last moments of my life I am dreaming that you can. You may one day hear these words of mine. If you do then I pray you will hear more than just an echo, more than just a screech in the wind, more than crying dreams trapped in my mind as it vanishes forever: And what will you hear, what is it that I am screaming?*

# The Garden

I am in a concentration camp where I, and many others like me are waiting to die. Such camps concentrate consciousness, giving fuel to our imaginations in their battle against the uncontrollable horrors that eat our minds every night. In the twilight of the twentieth century these camps are said to exist no longer. They do exist. They have become places with other names, disguised as ghettos, suburbs, provinces, and even larger parts of nations. Whatever they have become, and whatever they are now called, they all rely on concentration although most have given up their walls of wire. Their new walls are more durable. They are crafted from durability itself. They are the walls against difference, differences that are declared unholy, or worse, cancerous to the future health of the nation. Rogue cells in need of radical treatment.

The treatment we await is called ethnic cleansing: two words for murder. Two old words bleached of their dignity by being forced into a marriage neither deserve - two words crying out the close of the millennium, and ushering us to our graves. Words wearing masks always clear the path to the grave, bullets and knives their fleet

messengers.

I am waiting, and while I do I listen to three daydreams - dreams that are interwoven but also, in a way, apart from each other. Each dream has its history and together they stand alongside another history; three brief histories in the company of a fourth, much longer one. Perhaps they are as much inside this fourth history as they are alongside it? I do not know, I cannot say. All I can hear are three daydreams; the fourth remains for someone else to speak and hear.

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# Books by Noel Gray

## Fiction:

War Of The Web - *Book 1: Battle of the Clouds*

Virtual Crimes

Fy-Sy Fables - *Colonising Creativity*

The Dead Gondolier (*and other crimes of Venice*)

Hiding From Time

The Prisoner Of Fata Morgana

The Last Reverse Tale

Fall Of The Ax

Frog Legends

Word World - *The Adventures of Piano and Ditto*  
(*a story for lonely children*)

In The River Of Lost Footsteps

## Non-Fiction:

Exits

Realities

Edges

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Dr. Noel Gray is an independent, international scholar and freelance writer. He has written extensively on the philosophy of geometry, the kaleidoscope, and numerous other subjects relating to science and technology. His fictional works often blend together several literary genres: magical realism, fables, mythology, science fiction, and crime. He is also a pioneer in the new genres: Fy-Sy, and Sotto Realism. He is currently compiling, *The Deranged Dictionary of Fictive Science*. He lives in Italy.

### **Fall Of The Ax**

Four prisoners are imprisoned in a concentration camp where they try to escape into their imaginations in response to the horrors they are unable to avoid. One prisoner narrates the imagined realities of the other three, as they all, one by one, finally succumb to the brutality of their captors.