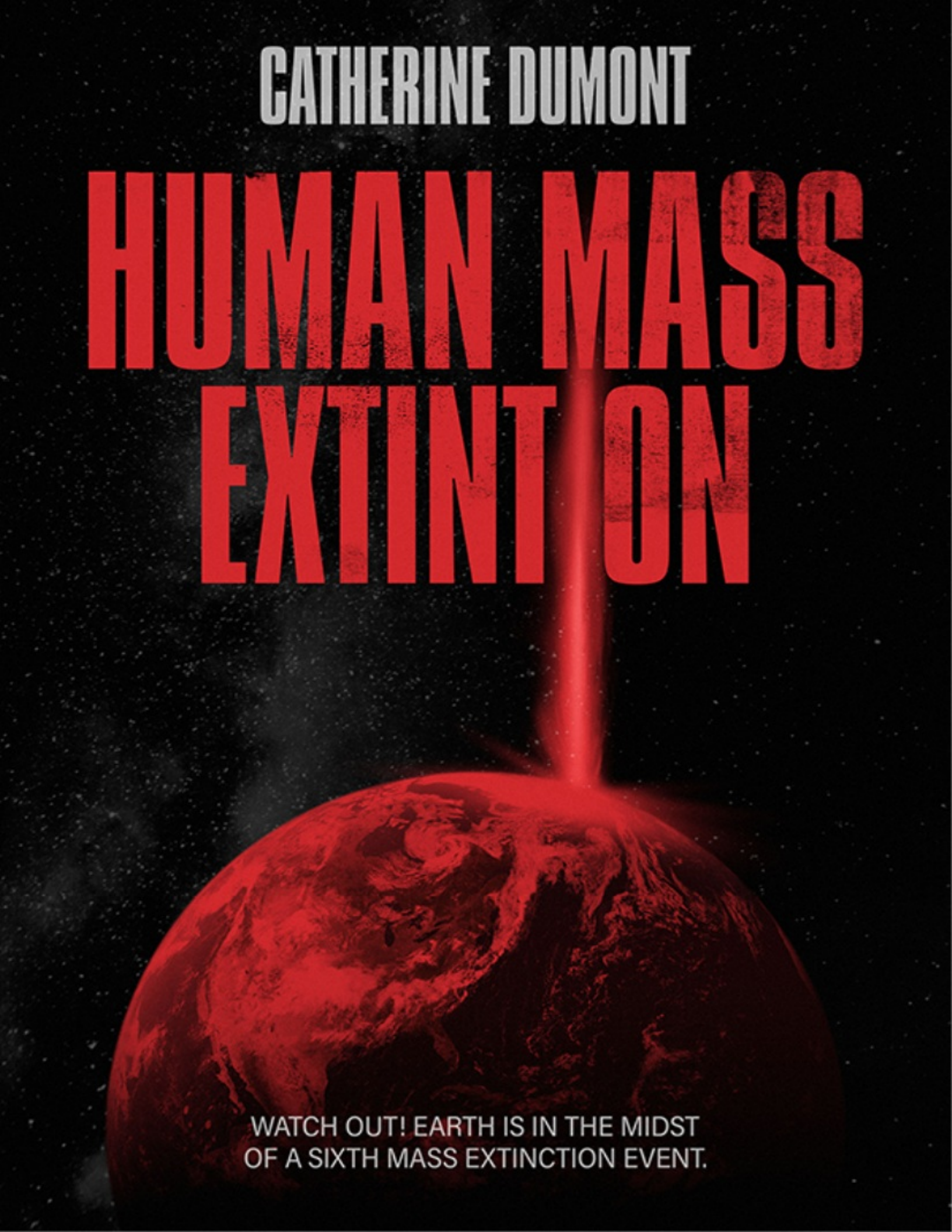


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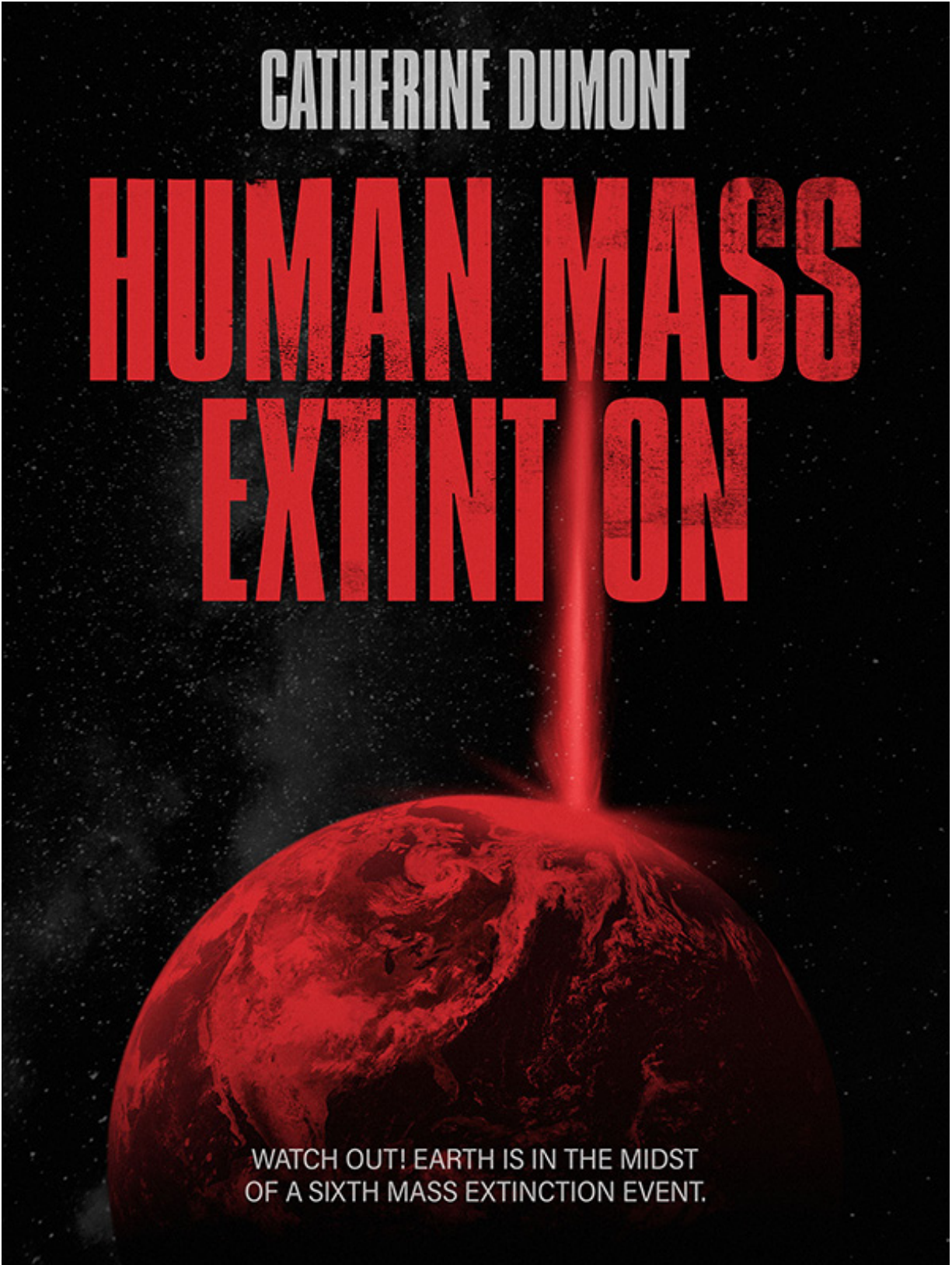
HUMAN MASS EXTINCTION

A red-tinted image of Earth from space, showing the Americas. A bright red beam of light descends from the top center of the frame, hitting the top of the Earth. The background is a dark, starry space.

WATCH OUT! EARTH IS IN THE MIDST
OF A SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION EVENT.

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HUMAN MASS EXTINCTION

The background of the entire cover is a dark, star-speckled space. In the lower half, a large, red-tinted image of the Earth is shown from a perspective that highlights the Americas. A bright, vertical red beam of light descends from the top center of the frame, hitting the northernmost tip of the Earth. The beam is slightly wider at the top and tapers as it reaches the planet's surface.

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1. The Sixth Mass Extinction

This story begins with a misunderstanding, or perhaps a bit of twisted information. In January 2022, scientists from the University of Hawaii and the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, Robert H. Cowie, Philippe Bouchet and Benoît Fontaine published the article *The Sixth Mass Extinction: fact, fiction or speculation?*¹ There, the authors explained that “*There have been five Mass Extinction events in the history of Earth’s biodiversity, all caused by dramatic but natural phenomena. It has been claimed that the Sixth Mass Extinction may be underway, this time caused entirely by humans*”.

The authors explained that many colleagues don’t support the idea of a Sixth Mass Extinction, and that they usually base on the IUCN “red list” (International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, which provides an exhaustive list of species and their dangers of extinction). However, for these authors that list is biased, since it includes almost all mammals and birds, but only a small part of the invertebrates. Their own study of invertebrates and molluscs is presented as evidence that species extinction rates are alarming.

By January 2022 the subject was not new: the scientific community had been debating the matter for years. The fact is that the article was shared on Twitter by the user @rainmaker1973, along with a photo of molluscs fossils. Shortly after, the one who re-tweeted the information was