

AI Use Transparency Report

Proximal: The Rout of the Advocate — Chapter 1: The Last Wail

April 2026

1. Role of AI in the Writing Process

All prose in Chapter 1 was written by the human author. No AI-generated text, sentences, or structural edits were incorporated into the manuscript at any stage. AI tools were used exclusively in an evaluative and analytical capacity.

AI contribution to manuscript text: 0%

The AI's role was limited to: simulating reader poll responses and scoring, providing per-category analysis and qualitative observations, and rendering data visualizations of those results. No suggestions, edits, rewrites, or generated alternatives were applied to the text.

2. Polling Methodology

Model used: Le Chat (Mistral) — initial poll; Claude Sonnet 4.6 (Anthropic) — updated poll

Respondents: 500 hypothetical readers (simulated)

Franchise awareness: Blind — no Expanse context provided

Prompt basis: Standalone title and excerpt only

Poll distributions were modeled against publicly available reader survey data from AO3 and Wattpad (2023–2025), Reddit and Discord discussions on melodrama and prose style in high-stakes fiction, and comparative analysis of standalone military and sci-fi excerpts with similar emotional intensity.

Results were segmented across three demographic pairs: fanfiction vs. general fiction readers, sci-fi vs. non-sci-fi readers, and experienced authors vs. casual readers. Scores were reweighted per group based on known genre and format preferences.

3. Poll Results Summary

Two polling rounds were conducted. Round 1 evaluated an earlier version of the excerpt. Round 2 evaluated the current submitted version. All scores are on a 1–10 scale.

Overall scores by category

Category	Round 1 (baseline)	Round 2 (updated)	Change
Language & Style	7.3	7.6	+0.3
Emotional Tone & Melodrama	6.7	7.4	+0.7
Scene Clarity & Pacing	7.0	7.2	+0.2

Character Dynamics	8.0	8.3	+0.3
Theme Resonance	7.5	7.9	+0.4
Hook Effectiveness	7.9	8.1	+0.2
Composite average	7.57	7.92	+0.35

Scores by reader group (Round 2)

Reader Group	Lang & Style	Emot. Tone	Scene Clarity	Char. Dynamics	Theme Res.	Hook Effect.
Fanfiction Readers (n=300)	7.6	7.2	7.3	8.4	7.8	8.2
General Fiction (n=200)	6.8	5.9	6.5	7.3	6.9	7.3
Sci-Fi Readers (n=250)	7.5	6.9	7.2	7.8	7.7	8.0
Non-Sci-Fi (n=250)	7.0	6.4	6.7	8.0	7.2	7.7
Experienced Authors (n=150)	6.9	6.2	7.5	7.7	8.0	7.5
Casual Readers (n=350)	7.5	7.0	6.8	8.2	7.3	8.1

4. AI Writing Assistance Determination

Based on the above, AI tools did not constitute writing assistance as conventionally defined. The manuscript text was not generated, altered, or materially influenced by AI output. The AI functioned as a simulated reader panel and data visualization tool — analogous to using a beta reader group or a market research instrument.

Determination: AI was not used as a writing assistant. All creative and compositional decisions are the sole work of the human author.