



Time's Eye (Time Odyssey)

By Arthur C. Clarke, Stephen Baxter

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Sir Arthur C. Clarke is a living legend, a writer whose name has been synonymous with science fiction for more than fifty years. An indomitable believer in human and scientific potential, Clarke is a genuine visionary. If Clarke has an heir among today's science fiction writers, it is award-winning author Stephen Baxter. In each of his acclaimed novels, Baxter has demonstrated dazzling gifts of imagination and intellect, along with a rare ability to bring the most cerebral science dramatically to life. Now these two champions of humanism and scientific speculation have combined their talents in a novel sure to be one of the most talked-about of the year, a *2001* for the new millennium.

TIME'S EYE

For eons, Earth has been under observation by the Firstborn, beings almost as old as the universe itself. The Firstborn are unknown to humankind—until they act. In an instant, Earth is carved up and reassembled like a huge jigsaw puzzle. Suddenly the planet and every living thing on it no longer exist in a single timeline. Instead, the world becomes a patchwork of eras, from prehistory to 2037, each with its own indigenous inhabitants.

Scattered across the planet are floating silver orbs impervious to all weapons and impossible to communicate with. Are these technologically advanced devices responsible for creating and sustaining the rifts in time? Are they cameras through which inscrutable alien eyes are watching? Or are they something stranger and more terrifying still?

The answer may lie in the ancient city of Babylon, where two groups of refugees from 2037—three cosmonauts returning to Earth from the International Space Station, and three United Nations peacekeepers on a mission in Afghanistan—have detected radio signals: the only such signals on the planet, apart from their own. The peacekeepers find allies in nineteenth-century British troops and in the armies of Alexander the Great. The astronauts, crash-landed in the steppes of Asia, join forces with the Mongol horde led by Genghis Khan. The two sides set out for Babylon, each determined to win the race for knowledge . . . and the power that lies within.

Yet the real power is beyond human control, perhaps even human understanding.

As two great armies face off before the gates of Babylon, it watches, waiting. . . .

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sir Arthur C. Clarke may be the greatest science fiction writer in the world; certainly, he's the best-known, not least because he wrote the novel and coauthored the screenplay of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. He's also the only SF writer to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize or to be knighted by Her Majesty Elizabeth II. This god of SF has twice collaborated with one of the best SF writers to emerge in the 1990s, Stephen Baxter, winner of the British SF Award, the Locus Award, and the Philip K. Dick Award. Their first collaboration is the novel *The Light of Other Days*. Their second is the novel *Time's Eye: Book One of a Time Odyssey*.

As the subtitle indicates, *Time's Eye* is the first book of a series intended to do for time what *2001* did for space. Does *Time's Eye* succeed in this goal? No. In *2001*, humanity discovers a mysterious monolith on the moon, triggering a signal that astronauts pursue to one of the moons of Jupiter. In *Time's Eye*, mysterious satellites appear all around the Earth and scramble time, bringing together an ape-woman; twenty-first-century soldiers and astronauts; nineteenth-century British and Indian soldiers; and the armies of Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great. The characters march around in search of other survivors, then clash in epic battle. It's not until the end that the novel returns to the mystery of the tiny, eye-like satellites (and doesn't solve it). In other words, the plot of *Time's Eye* is a nearly 300-page digression, and *2001* fans expecting exploration of the scientific enigma and examination of the meaning of existence will be disappointed. However, fans of rousing and well-written transtemporal adventure in the tradition of S.M. Stirling's novel *Island in the Sea of Time* will enjoy *Time's Eye*. --Cynthia Ward

From Publishers Weekly

Clarke, with Baxter (Coalescent), probably the most talented of the former's several collaborators, have cooked up an exciting tale full of high-tech physics, military tactics and larger-than-life characters in the first of two novels related to the bestselling senior author's Space Odyssey series. In an awesome and unexplained catastrophe, the earth has been literally diced and put back together again. Each of the segments of terrain (and you can actually see the dividing lines between them) comes from a different era, some of them millions of years apart. As the novel opens, a 19th-century British army company, stationed on the Afghan-Pakistani border, captures an Australopithecine mother and child, just as a team of 21st-century U.N. peacekeepers crash their helicopter nearby. Later they join forces with Alexander the Great. Simultaneously, a Soyuz descent vehicle, having just left the International Space Station, crash-lands in the middle of Genghis Khan's army. Eventually, the armies of Alexander and the Khan converge on Babylon, the last remaining large city in Eurasia and a titanic battle seems imminent. Fans of *2001: A Space Odyssey* will have fun with the many references to that earlier novel. Although not flawless, this is probably the best book to appear with Clarke's name on it in a decade.

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From [Booklist](#)

Mysterious, incredibly superior alien beings assemble a new Earth out of bits and pieces of the old one, which they snatch from various eras. So a UN helicopter crew from 2037, a crew of astronauts from the same era, Genghis Khan and his Horde, Alexander the Great and his army, a British Indian outpost where Rudyard Kipling (rendered here in all his youthful complexity) is visiting, and a remnant of Babylon end up coexisting. Not at all peacefully, either, especially when one astronaut, a ruthless and foul-mouthed American woman, decides to aid and abet the Mongols in their career of world conquest, which can be halted only by the other civilized time travelers joining forces with a very well portrayed Alexander. In the end, civilization's prospects have been propped up, and one of the UN crew is off to find the aliens (her search

will be, one presumes, the subject of another book). With Clarke and Baxter collaborating smoothly, this is a fine exploration of themes that Clarke has explored regularly since *Childhood's End* (1953), at least, and good news for those who enjoy both men's work. Oh, yes, this book begins a new saga, entitled *A Time Odyssey*--does that ring a bell? *Roland Green*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sarita Springer:

This Time's Eye (Time Odyssey) book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Time's Eye (Time Odyssey) without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry Time's Eye (Time Odyssey) can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Time's Eye (Time Odyssey) having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Esta Banks:

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