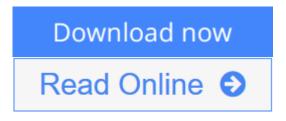
### ARTHUR C. ARTHUR C. CLARKE SUNSTORM STEPHEN BAXTER AVTIORS SALEME > 17

## Sunstorm (A Time Odyssey, Book 2)

By Arthur C. Clarke, Stephen Baxter



Sunstorm (A Time Odyssey, Book 2) By Arthur C. Clarke, Stephen Baxter

When Sir Arthur C. Clarke, the greatest science fiction writer ever, teams up with award-winning author Stephen Baxter, who shares Clarke's bold vision of a future where technology and humanism advance hand in hand, the result is bound to be a book of stellar ambition and accomplishment. Such was the case with Time's Eye. Now, in the highly anticipated sequel, Clarke and Baxter draw their epic to a triumphant conclusion that is as mind-blowing as anything in Clarke's famous Space Odyssey series.

#### SUNSTORM

Returned to the Earth of 2037 by the Firstborn, mysterious beings of almost limitless technological prowess, Bisesa Dutt is haunted by the memories of her five years spent on the strange alternate Earth called Mir, a jigsaw-puzzle world made up of lands and people cut out of different eras of Earth's history. Why did the Firstborn create Mir? Why was Bisesa taken there and then brought back on the day after her original disappearance?

Bisesa's questions receive a chilling answer when scientists discover an anomaly in the sun's core–an anomaly that has no natural cause is evidence of alien intervention over two thousand years before. Now plans set in motion millennia ago by inscrutable watchers light-years away are coming to fruition in a sunstorm designed to scour the Earth of all life in a bombardment of deadly radiation.

Thus commences a furious race against a ticking solar time bomb. But even now, as apocalypse looms, cooperation is not easy for the peoples and nations of the Earth. Religious and political differences threaten to undermine every effort.

And all the while, the Firstborn are watching ...

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

Set in the same universe as Clarke's 2001 and its sequels, Clarke and Baxter's second and final Time Odyssey book (after 2004's *Time's Eye*) will especially appeal to fans of hard SF who appreciate well-grounded science and humans with a can-do attitude to problem solving. In 2037, the same day the enigmatic alien Firstborn return Bisea Dutt, the heroine of *Time's Eye*, to her home in London, the city grinds to a halt as a sun storm sends a massive surge of energy to Earth, temporarily destroying the world's electronic infrastructure. This surge presages another, much larger sun storm, due to hit in 2042, which will utterly annihilate life across the globe. Against all odds, the nations of Earth come together to construct a huge space umbrella that will shield the planet from the worst of the barrage. The answer to why the sun's activity is being manipulated to wipe out life on Earth must wait, given the day-to-day difficulties and politics of the construction project. The five-year sweep of events, the plethora of characters and the cuts from Mars to Earth to the moon during the climactic sun storm give the story a movie montage feel, but the focus on the enormously challenging task at hand will keep readers turning the pages. *Agent, Scovil, Chichak, Galen.* (*Mar. 1*)

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#### From Bookmarks Magazine

Two giants—Clarke, one of the greatest SF writers, and award-winning *Evolution* (2003) author Baxter—have collaborated on an insidious vision of the future that's sure to thrill fans of 2001: A Space Odyssey and other SF classics. It may help to first read *Time's Eye*, which provides the back story to the aliens' cruel experiments and desire to wipe out Earth, but each book stands alone. Convincing characters, including a British astronomer and doomsday physicist, lead the collective countdown to destruction. The authors' scientific details (why the Earth's shield must be made of glass manufactured on the moon, for instance) complement the plot. But it's the climax, although flawed, that's sure to blow your mind.

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#### From **Booklist**

In this splendid sequel to *Time's Eye* [BKL O 15 03], Bisesa Dutt returns from Mir, the scrambled world of kidnapped human samples, just when Earth is stricken by a massive solar flare. Astronomer Royal Siobhan McGorran learns from scientists on the moon that the flare is only a precursor to one that will destroy all life on Earth, and Bisesa's travels offer clues that the flares are constituents in a lengthy plot on the part of the alien Firstborn to destroy the human race. A superbly drawn battle for the survival of Earth takes up the rest of the book. The details of humanity's survival device (an Earth-sized sun shield) and the fraying of society, and the characters of the astronauts, engineers, lunar settlers, and artificial intelligences (each with its distinctive personality) are filled out with skill and total conviction, and without at any point slowing the pace. Most of the novel and its predecessor are based on concepts that Clarke absolutely masters (e.g., that of watchful elder races, though the Firstborn have entirely different plans for humanity than the Overlords had in Clarke's classic *Childhood's End*, 1953). Since Baxter is gaining similar mastery, *Sunstorm* is his and Clarke's most seamless collaboration to date. *Roland Green Copyright* © *American Library Association. All rights reserved* 

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#### From reader reviews:

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