

*This science fiction mystery looking to the year 2028 provides the reader with a frightening prophetic glimpse into the future that is both realistic and plausible. The Armageddon Clock is seconds away from midnight and planet Earth has a fifty-fifty chance of survival relying on an ex-convict with the incredible gift of psychokinesis.*

# 2028

**Only a few seconds before midnight  
on the Armageddon Clock...**

by Thomas Mathias

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## 2028

The year is 2028 and the President of the United States must deal with his re-election, challenged and complicated by a crumbling society, massive global starvation, unmanageable refugee and immigration problems, and a nuclear world crisis, all leading up to the conceivable possibility of planet extinction.

The only hope of slowing down the Armageddon Clock rests with the newly found psychokinetic power of an ex-convict and two research scientists.

It was an early spring night cooled down after a brief rain shower. The full moon joined forces with a gentle breeze to persuade the large 200-year-old oak trees to cast moving shadows over the landscape of the university campus. This particular university campus was unique. The school had received a sizeable grant from the leadership group “Safe One” to continue the research originated in 2026 in the field of Neurophysiology or more simply - human behavior.

Jim Bennett scarcely noticed the familiar surroundings as he ran from the vine- draped science building. I’m Jim Bennett and although I was running full out, my mind was racing much faster than my body. Afraid there would be no place to hide, I stumbled up the last terrace leading to the basketball field house, looming like a large medieval castle before me. I knew that I had to escape, hide, and buy a little time to sort out the unbelievable series of events discovered only minutes before. I was more familiar with the field house than any other building

on campus as I had played basketball there as an undergraduate more than a decade ago.

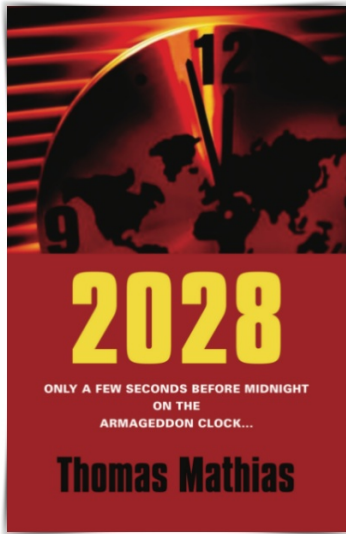
It was an unusually cool night for springtime and the deserted field house offered little warmth to diminish or control my shivering. One good side effect of the cold was that my galloping heart rate had slowed down to a slow trot and I was able to catch my breath. In trying to make sense out of what I had just witnessed, I tried to organize the events from the last few hours into some kind of logical order in my mind. The difficulty for me to think logically was that my mind was racing from A to Z, and back again, somewhat like a lab rat in a maze. I was vaguely aware of the tests and experiments that were taking place in the lab by Dr. Ryan and Dr. Doyle, but never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined anything like my recent discovery.

Although I was cold and scared, the field house was a comfortable environment bringing back memories as a starter on the championship basketball team, and fortunate to be named to the all-conference team my senior year. I was good, but not close to being the best; a decent rebounder - quick, but not fast in the stretch. I was a dependable scorer within fifteen feet and occasionally from outside. I thought briefly of trying to extend my talents on to the professional level, but rationality quickly brought me back to reality.

After graduation, I returned home and for the next few years managed the small family farm mostly due to the fact that my father was ailing and there were no brothers to help. There was one older sister who had married and moved away. It was only after my father died from a farming accident, and a stroke took my mother shortly after, that my sister and I sold the farm and divided up the assets and life insurance. Never being close to my sister, who was a thousand miles away, we drifted apart, communicating only on holidays and birthdays.

I then decided to return to school and pursue a doctorate degree in the health science field or even become a medical doctor. I had always been fascinated with the study of DNA and how it could be altered to treat various ailments. Acknowledging the fact that tigers give birth to tigers, snakes give birth to snakes, and dogs give birth to dogs, it was verified that a molecule called deoxyribonucleic (DNA) contains the biological instructions that make each species unique and is passed from adult organisms to their offspring during reproduction. It didn't take me long to decide on the field of study involving nuclear medicine and its DNA involvement. I was totally fascinated with the entire process. Vast amounts of new information on DNA research surfaced almost daily. Although a fast reader, I still found it difficult to keep up-to-date on new developments and subsequent applications. It was discovered that DNA is present in the nucleus of each cell and many DNA cells are present in each molecule. The whole package is known as a chromosome. An organism's complete set of nuclear DNA is called its genome. The complete instruction booklet on DNA or genome illustrates how a human being contains about three billion bases, and twenty thousand genes in twenty-three pairs of chromosomes. Very few valid conclusions or meaningful experimentations could be made without the powerful modern day computers where the speed and capabilities double or triple each year. I was fascinated with the entire process.

Actually, DNA was first observed by a German biochemist named Frederich Miescher in the late 1800s, but it was 1953 when researchers studying X-ray diffractions patterns solved the structure of DNA. After 2020 the application of DNA experiments and their results reached a 'Star Wars' type progression. Many diseases could be basically anticipated prior to the disease's activation. This would have proven to be most



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