



## Time Storm

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**Time Storm** Gordon R. Dickson

"A masterful science fiction story told by a masterful science fiction writer".--Milwaukee Journal. A time storm has devastated the Earth, and only a small fraction of humankind remains. From the rubble, three survivors form an unlikely alliance: a young man, a young woman, and a leopard.

## Time Storm Details

Date : Published December 1st 1992 by Baen (first published January 1st 1977)

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Author : Gordon R. Dickson

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Time Travel, Science Fiction Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Time Storm for online ebook

### Steph Bennion says

This is a very original tale of a depopulated Earth decimated by fractures in time. Other reviewers have summed up the good and bad bits - my only comment is that the way in which Marc controlled the time storm never made sense to me! Still a good read, though.

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### Jody Kidney says

My favorite SF novel, ever.

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### Helga Ganguly says

I really enjoyed this book, It made me want to go back and read Job,a Comedy of Justice by Heinlein,an all-time favorite of mine. I thought the concept was fresh. We've seen a lot of apocalypse stories but they usually revolve around the primitive society rebuilding itself. Time Storm leaves very few people alive and the main character and his mind are the real battleground.

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### Raymund Eich says

Reading Dickson feels a lot like reading Poul Anderson. Time Storm features competent prose, and Dickson does a great job of increasing the novel's scope, from survival adventure, to rebuilding of civilization, to deep philosophy, to galactic scale. The deep philosophy section, where the narrator is in a depressive state, is slow, but has enough tension to keep the reader's interest. In high school, I checked this book out of the library about twice every year, so clearly it struck a chord in my teen psyche, though I can't articulate why.

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### Ubik says

One of my favorites that will have a place on my shelf for years to come. The main character, the leopard, the avatar, and the scientist were all very vibrant and fleshed-out. Of course I absolutely fell in love with Sunday! Even well after having read the book, I still think of him and smile. Though Ive yet to read anything else by this author, I tend to think that he wasnt to adept at capturing females because the two main females in the novel were my least favorite facets of it.

The pacing was perfect, there was enough science, but not too much to bog the book down, and overall just a very human and warm story that Im sure Ill be re-reading again sometime.

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### Jamie Jonas says

This could have been a true landmark of a science fiction novel. However, from a great initial set-up for roughly the first half of the story, Dickson seemed to wander further and further afield with his wild and woolly ideas of time manipulation until even I, as a seasoned sci-fi reader, was put off by all the vague and over-sophisticated diffuseness of the story. By the end I was desperate to finish so I could move on to something else.

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### **prcardi says**

Storyline: 3/5  
Characters: 2/5  
Writing Style: 3/5  
World: 2/5

The early portions of the rustic scavenging and exploration story were promising; it called to mind Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. The story was as much a psychological struggle as it was a physical struggle, our lead working through issues that had set him apart even before the bizarre, post apocalyptic event. Dickson always had his aims on the science fiction in this story though, thus the further the tale progressed the more he moved away from physical insecurity and mental turmoil. His aims were on astrophysics and his main character coming to understand and be able to work with the inscrutable event that had so changed everything. In the process, Dickson borrows eclectically from Buddhism and mysticisms, Westernizes them, and thrusts them into his big physics questions. The middle third of this story was a vastly underdeveloped group survival story where character motivations were often unclear or melodramatic, the deductions and choices insensible, the action and suspense posing as deep and serious but showing itself ridiculously shallow. The whole was a mess. There were several portions, however, that reminded the reader that Dickson was a highly creative author adept with intrigue and the weird. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that this was a fix-up.

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### **Denise K. says**

This is one of my favorite books. I read it many years ago, when I first started reading Sci-fi. I want to 're-read it to see if it is as good as I remember. I remember staying up at night, not being able to stop reading it.

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### **Jeffrey says**

classic science fiction novel.

Three survivors of the destructive time storms that are devastating Earth journey to stop them. There is Marc Despard, a leopard found on the way and a young woman with a bond to the leopard. Crazy Cat and speechless girl and Marc travel on earth and into space in a hunt to decipher the storms before they destroy the universe.

A winner.

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## Andromeda Strain says

this really deserve a read with cl r.reread i don t do this often but for this did it.this book will be forever in my heart.i always will love it

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## CD says

A simple tale that is one of my favorite re-read SF books.

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## George says

Do you like this sentence?

"Within the fixed boundary lines of the stabilized force lines set up to be used for cross-space transportation, the time storm had gone on in its normal pattern of developing and spreading temporal disintegration, until about three thousand years ago, when there began to be evidence of periodic checking of areas threatening to set off large-scale disturbances throughout the general, galaxy-wide pattern."

Yes? Then you will love this book.

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## Chris Bensen says

A very odd story that sticks with you for decades after reading it, about survival after a post-apocalyptic time storm leaving walls of time across the planet.

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## Otherwyrld says

### Edit

I completely forgot to mention the dedication which I reproduce in full here

*To the Librarians*

*During the 1930's and 1940's anyone writing science fiction did so almost exclusively for magazines. Then in the early 1950's the magazine market began to die and paperback books took over. But the paperback books were on the stand one week and gone the next. By the time an author's newest book came out his older books had disappeared.*

*As a result, during these later years, when the magazines were mostly gone and the paperback books were coming and going, there were only a few of us who could afford to be full-time writers of science fiction; and the fact that this was possible at all was only because libraries continued to be the only real market for hardcover science fiction. The libraries alone bought*

*science fiction books on a regular basis, shelved them, and made them continuously available to readers; and in this way libraries kept both science fiction and those of us who wrote it, alive.*

*To librarians everywhere, therefore, this book - the youngest of my literary children to see the light of day - is dedicated.*

Awww, I love it when authors dedicate their books to us.

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Many years ago I got rid of a large collection of Science Fiction books, reasoning that if I ever wanted to read any of them again I could always borrow them from the library. I kept a couple of dozen of my absolute favourite books for a later reread. Decades later, I'm only just starting to do so. This is one of those books.

In an apocalyptic near future a man called Marc, a teenage girl that doesn't speak and a Leopard called Sunday (how cool is that?) wander a deserted American landscape trying to avoid the time fractures that have destroyed the world. It seems like a fairly standard survival story until...

The story expands.

Marc starts to gather a group around him as he decides to investigate the time fractures and find a way of fixing them so that they can start building their world anew with the few people who are seemingly immune to the time changes. Until...

The story expands.

Marc and his growing group find a piece of a future USA and a strange being, half machine, half something else, who has the equipment to let Marc actually do something about the fractures. Using his own unique thought processes, Marc and his people actually succeed in stabilising the time fractures. Until...

The story expands.

As news of Marc's success spreads, his fame grows and he gathers around him a sizeable community. The only threat is another society that is built on conquering their neighbours, so hoping to avoid conquest themselves, Marc agrees to follow their Empress as she continues to subjugate North America. Until ...

The story expands.

Marc realises that everyone in his community is in danger from the mentally unstable Empress, so he escapes and uses his increasing mental abilities to shift everyone to thousands of years into the future. He hopes to find beings there that can aid him in expanding his control and put an end to the time storms altogether, which he now realises cover the entire galaxy. Until...

The story expands.

When he finally meets the future beings, Marc is dismayed to hear that they have not only stabilised the time rifts, but are actually using them to travel immense distances in a heartbeat. Allowed to test for a position as one of the elites that control the fractures, he refuses to accept their decision that he is a failure, and makes the aliens train him in their techniques. Until...

The story expands.

As soon as he knows how to control the fractures, Marc uses his unique mental abilities to look at the whole universe, and he realises that the aliens have made a fatal mistake in trying to control the fractures by tapping into the energy of a parallel tachyon universe. Unable to make them see that they are about to destroy the universe, he travels there himself and succeeds in saving both universes. The hero returns home, finally content that his battle is over and he can rest.

Even if you didn't know when this book was written, you can tell it was from the 1970s (though it owes a lot to the 60s as well). There is a very hippy, counter-culture vibe to it, with its talk of expanded consciousness, travelling by thought alone, alternative living styles and free love. If the story has a flaw it is with its female characters, as I don't think that the author quite knew how to write women during this period of the sexual revolution, so they sometimes come across as a little shrill or passive aggressive. This was not confined to this book or author though, a lot of Science Fiction was very much behind the times when it came to writing female characters. I've certainly read worse examples than this one.

The relationship between Marc, the girl (who later calls herself Ellen) and the leopard forms the emotional heart of the story (view spoiler). Marc is a difficult character to like because his normal state is very emotionally blocked off, making him almost sociopathic in nature at times, though these days he might be regarded as on the autism scale. However, this very lack of emotion is what allows him to see the patterns that enable him to control the time fractures and stop them sweeping across the landscape to literally turn it into a "crazy patchwork quilt of different times". It is only at the end of the story that he realises just what a cost such a lack of connection to his emotions has cost him.

This is an amazing story that manages its frequent changes of perspective with dexterity and really pulls you along to its epic conclusion (and you don't get much more epic than this one). At its heart though, it's still the story of a man, a girl and a leopard called Sunday trying to find their place in the world they no longer recognise.

A well deserved 5 stars.

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## Jay says

I think this would make an excellent movie. In my opinion Gordon R Dickinson wasn't considered a top SF author among the greats, did decent work but perhaps not among the 'best' - until he 'broke out' and wrote Time Storm. Sometime I will have to re-read this and see if I can recover some of the feelings I got reading this book. I admired him for the one or two places where he didn't pull his punches on plot issues. I really enjoyed the adventure aspect of it, not only would make a great movie but perhaps a mmorpg.

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