

Relaunch of The Highly Acclaimed Fiction Book That Anticipated Our Future: Twenty Twenty

Thursday 20 August, 2020

Twenty Twenty written by the admired author, Nigel Watts is a blueprint for 2020 that was originally published in 1995 by Hodder and Stoughton, which eerily and accurately predicts a global pandemic that occurs in the year 2020

causing the world to communicate largely through virtual technology, with people wearing masks, a drastic reduction of air travel leading to 'virtual tourism', and nature fighting back for its survival due to mankind's destruction of our planet. Tragically, Watts took his own life in 1999 and now 25 years later, Watts's widow, former BBC presenter and broadcaster, Sahera Chohan relaunched this timely and relevant book this August; the book's anniversary month.

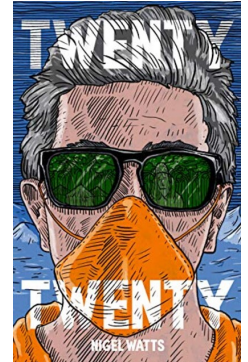
The book received rave reviews when it launched from The Times, Time Out, Sunday Times and more. **The Times said:** "*Twenty Twenty* is about the end of the world, viral apocalypse, virtual reality...[it] asks the big questions at a time of global destruction and spiritual uncertainty...an intriguing synthesis between ancient mysticism and the brave new world of virtuality. It is a book to make the pulse race, the mind dance and the heart sink."

Twenty Twenty foretells the events of the year 2020, where an ageing writer infected with a deadly virus and despairing of mankind's continuing damage to the planet retreats to a derelict factory in the icy wastes of northern Canada. Meanwhile, at a remote research institute in the Californian desert, William Morrison, a virtual reality test pilot, and Julia O'Brien, a British anthropologist, are working on a VR simulation of the Amazonian Kogi tribe. William and Julia appear to have little in common, until they discover an uncanny connection that finds them being drawn towards a derelict factory in northern Canada. As the story escalates to its dramatic conclusion, Watts powerfully manipulates the reader's perceptions of reality, whilst blurring the boundary between creator and created.

Sahera Chohan says: "This April 2020, when Covid-19 was at its peak, I pulled out Nigel's novel, *Twenty Twenty* from the bookshelf and knew immediately that I had to relaunch this powerful book and bring it to a new audience. The story could not be more significant and true. Nigel had somehow uncannily predicted our future and now that everyone is spending more time at home, it is the perfect time to read this book - and possibly take a bit of guidance from it and to know how it ends, well you will need to read the book!"

Watts has drawn his name in the sands of time, putting him side-by-side with some of the greatest futuristic authors – Orwell, Huxley and H.G.Wells – securing *Twenty Twenty* not just as a book of our time, but an enduring and influential novel.

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