

THE
FUTURE
HAPPENS TWICE

THE PERENNIAL PROJECT



MATT BROWNE

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Debrya Handsen, a 33-year-old professor in computational linguistics at the University of Minnesota, is ready for a career change. She decides to leave her academic post and move to Nevada, where she joins a top secret project that is being sponsored by the American government.

Using powerful telescopes on the far side of the Moon, the project's astronomers have discovered an Earth-like planet that is eighty-two light years away; simultaneously, a major breakthrough in bio-engineering presents the project with the unique opportunity of long-distance space travel.

At first Debrya has no idea why the study of language is to play such a central role, and why twin studies are also so important. During her orientation week she discovers a disturbing secret that makes her wish she had never joined the project. Soon she is faced with the dilemma of revealing the dark secrets of the project or being part of the most ambitious undertaking in the history of humankind.

Matt Browne's beautifully worked space epic explores the bounds of human hope and plumbs the depths of human duplicity. Tender relationships between the budding astronauts are pitched against the disillusion they feel when an embattled President confronts them with their true origins and purpose. The author's fascination with the fields of bioengineering and information technology sustains the reader's interest all the way through this roller-coaster ride.

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