

## NOW AND WHEN

**It's time.**

**What time is it?**

She said: 'it feels like midnight, *psychological* time.'

He said: 'it is 4.7 billion years, *geological* time.'

She said: 'a three-quarter moon, *lunar* time.'

He waited, then said: 'the technological age, *historical* time.'

She said, with longing: 'soon enough, *social* time.'

He remembered: 'it may be 30,000 years after the birth of modern civilization, *evolutionary* time.'

She paced herself, saying: 'perhaps it is current *standard time*.'

He said, 'you mean based on *Coordinated Universal Time* as opposed to a national uniform time, referred to in International Legal Time, and determined by measuring the distance east or west of Greenwich, England.'

She considered his remark before saying: 'it could be that we are at the beginning of a new cycle of development, *biological* time.'

He shifted position, then said: 'we may not know for a million light-years, *astronomical* time, or even for the amount of time it takes light to reach the Earth from the optical limit of the universe.'

She reflected, 'It may have happened already.'

He experienced a delayed reaction: 'it is something we may only be able to observe experimentally within a billionth of a second, *atomic* time.'

She said, 'It may begin today or tonight, *Earth* time, or when lightning strikes a dry forest, *geophysical* time.'

He said, 'or at least before the next 26 million-year mass extinction cycle, *geospheric* time. Or perhaps after the next ice age.'

She anticipated his last remark, saying: 'it's late, *cultural* time.'

He timed it perfectly. 'Let's synchronize.'

She said, '**when?**'

He said, '**Now.**'