# Contents

Foreword by Arthur C. Clarke vii  
Preface xi  
1 Fiddling While Rome Burns 1  
2 The Swarm around Us 15  
3 Catastrophic Scenarios 39  
4 The World on Fire 55  
5 Holes in the Ground: The Evidence for Past Impacts 75  
6 The Story of the Stones 93  
7 Coherent Catastrophism 109  
8 Stonehenge and the Pyramids 137  
9 False Security: The Atmosphere’s Shield 169  
10 Great Efforts, Great Ignorance 187  
11 So Began Project Spaceguard 207  
12 Showdown at Los Alamos 221  
13 Keeping Our Fingers Crossed 241  
Epilogue: The Crash of ’94 247  
Notes 261  
Glossary 275  
Bibliography 287  
Index 297