

LANGUAGE LEVEL: A2-PRE-INTERMEDIATE

# DANIEL PINCHBECK

## MADMAN OR PROPHET?

¿Loco? ¿Chiflado? Daniel Pinchbeck predice cambios apocalípticos y el resurgir de un nuevo mundo en el 2012. Dice haber visto y hablado con Quetzacoatl, el dios maya.

**A** lot of people think Daniel Pinchbeck is crazy. He admits this is possible. He's the author of *2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl*, which describes what will happen on December 21st, 2012. According to an ancient<sup>1</sup> Mayan calendar, this is the day the world will end.

### THE GODS

Pinchbeck is an explorer and journalist. He travelled to the Amazon to experience shamanic<sup>2</sup> traditions

in 2003. Pinchbeck took the psychedelic drug 'ayahuasca' and saw the Mayan god Quetzalcoatl. The god told him enormous changes were coming. Quetzalcoatl's predictions begin with a global financial crisis.

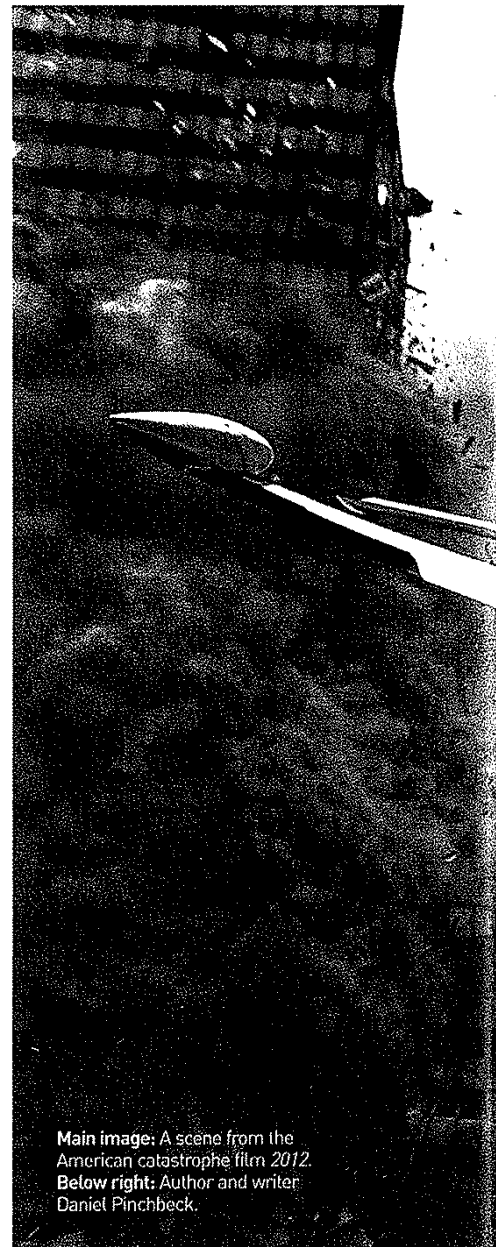
In the American film *2012*, novelist Jackson Curtis is ridiculed because he has an unusual<sup>3</sup> theory. He believes that in a real crisis people forget their own needs and work together. Pinchbeck believes something similar will really happen in 2012: Quetzalcoatl told him

### The Mayan Calendar

The Mayan civilisation used more than one calendar. There's the Tzolkin calendar of 260 days, and the Haab calendar, with its 18 months of 20 days, plus five days. The gods rested<sup>9</sup> for the five days in each cycle. These calendars don't count years: instead they combine to create a cycle of 52 years. They were for personal and

commercial use. The Mayans used the Long Count calendar to measure longer periods of time. It measures time from a single day in the distant past – calculated to be August 11th, 3114 BC<sup>10</sup> – and consists of Baktun, which are periods of 144,000 days. The end of each Baktun was a great event with magnificent

celebrations. The 13th Baktun ends on December 21st 2012 and many people believe this to be the last Baktun. They say the Mayans predicted the end of the world on that date. Mayan experts suggest, however, that this is nonsense<sup>11</sup>, and that the Mayan calendar consists of at least 20 Baktun!



Main image: A scene from the American catastrophe film *2012*.  
Below right: Author and writer Daniel Pinchbeck.

that a revolution in the way people think will save our world. Pinchbeck says, "Human evolution will advance from a biological or physical stage<sup>4</sup> to a psychic one."

### THE BEAT GENERATION

Pinchbeck was born in New York in 1966. He's the son of the abstract artist Peter Pinchbeck and the Beat writer Joyce Johnson. Johnson was Jack Kerouac's girlfriend in the 1950s. Pinchbeck admits it was curious to read his mother's letters to Kerouac in the collection *Door Wide Open: A Beat Love Affair in Letters*. Kerouac died in 1969 and Pinchbeck never met him.