



The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2)

By Katherine Neville

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Katherine Neville's groundbreaking novel, *The Eight*, dazzled audiences more than twenty years ago and set the literary stage for the epic thriller. A quest for a mystical chess service that once belonged to Charlemagne, it spans two centuries and three continents, and intertwines historic and modern plots, archaeological treasure hunts, esoteric riddles, and puzzles encrypted with clues from the ancient past. Now the electrifying global adventure continues, in Neville's long anticipated sequel: *THE FIRE*

2003, Colorado: Alexandra Solarin is summoned home to her family's ancestral Rocky Mountain hideaway for her mother's birthday. Thirty years ago, her parents, Cat Velis and Alexander Solarin, believed that they had scattered the pieces of the Montglane Service around the world, burying with them the secrets of the power that comes with possessing it. But Alexandra arrives to find that her mother is missing and that a series of strategically placed clues, followed swiftly by the unexpected arrival of a mysterious assortment of houseguests, indicates that something sinister is afoot.

When she inadvertently discovers from her aunt, the chess grandmaster Lily Rad, that the most powerful piece of Charlemagne's service has suddenly resurfaced and the Game has begun again, Alexandra is swept into a journey that takes her from Colorado to the Russian wilderness and at last into the heart of her own hometown: Washington D.C.

1822, Albania: Thirty years after the French Revolution, when the chess service was unearthed, all of Europe hovers on the brink of the War of Greek Independence. Ali Pasha, the most powerful ruler in the Ottoman Empire, has angered the sultan and is about to be attacked by Turkish forces. Now he sends the only person he can rely upon—his young daughter, Haidee—on a dangerous mission to smuggle a valuable relic out of Albania, through the mountains and over the sea, to the hands of the one man who might be able to save it.

Haidee's journey from Albania to Morocco to Rome to Greece, and into the very heart of the Game, will result in revelations about the powerful chess set and its history that will lead at last to the spot where the service was first created more than one thousand years before: Baghdad.

Blending exquisite prose and captivating history with nonstop suspense, Neville again weaves an unforgettable story of peril, action, and intrigue.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Fans of Neville's debut, *The Eight* (1988), which long before there was a *Da Vinci Code* featured a complex historical setting, ciphers, conspiracies, puzzles and a hunt for an object that could change the course of the world, will welcome this stellar sequel. Alexandra Solarin, child chess prodigy now grown, finds herself immersed in the Game, searching for a legendary chess set, the Montglane Service, which when assembled spells out the formula for the secret of immortality. The quest for the set ranges from the harem of Ali Pasha in 19th-century Albania to present-day Baghdad and Washington, D.C., and involves such historic figures as Charlemagne, Isaac Newton, Lord Byron and Napoleon. Despite the staggering amount and quality of the research, nothing feels shoehorned or extraneous. The story's relentless pace is matched by characters both sympathetic and real. In the end, readers will be heartened to find signs pointing to the continuation of the Game in future novels. (*Oct.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Twenty years after *The Eight*, Neville finally unveils the next chapter in Cat Velis' story. Alexandra Solarin, Cat's daughter, receives an invitation from her mom to visit her in Colorado. When Alexandra arrives, she finds that her mother has vanished and that the clues left behind reveal a sinister mystery. To find her mom, Alexandra will have to pursue the same "game" that Cat did years earlier, searching for the pieces of an ancient chess set with mystical properties. Unfortunately, the people accompanying her on her journey might not be trustworthy. Alexandra's quest is intertwined with the story of a young girl in 1822 named Haidee, faced with a parallel challenge involving the great English poet Lord Byron. Fans of *The Eight* who have long awaited the rest of the story will be delighted with this entrancing blend of history, chess, and high adventure. --Jeff Ayers

Review

Praise for Katherine Neville's *The Eight*

"A big, rich, two-tiered confection of a novel . . . a rousing, amusing game."

—San Francisco Chronicle

"A fascinating piece of entertainment . . . few will find it resistible."

—Los Angeles Times Book Review

"Readers thrilled by *The Da Vinci Code* will relish the multilayered secrets of *The Eight*."

—Matthew Pearl, author of *The Dante Club*

"With an alchemical skill, Neville blends a modern romance, historical fiction, and a medieval mystery . . . and comes up with gold."

—People

"A feminist answer to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*."

—The Washington Post Book World

"Impossible to put down."

—Boston Herald

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Kelly:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you that The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2) book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Sandy Reid:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2) the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2) giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Lynn Jones:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your limited time to read it because this all time you only find guide that need more time to be study. The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2) can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you who have those short extra time problems.

Jessica Harris:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got college students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And you also know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. Numerous books that can you take to be your object. One of them is actually The Fire: A Novel (The Eight Book 2).

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