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# THE FIRE

by

## Katherine Neville

bestselling author of *The Eight*



### Advance Praise for THE FIRE

“Stellar ... Despite the staggering amount and quality of the research, nothing feels shoe-horned 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.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (★ starred review)

“[An] entrancing blend of history, chess, and high adventure.”

—*Booklist*

Twenty years ago, bestselling author Katherine Neville’s groundbreaking debut novel *The Eight* dazzled audiences set the literary stage for the era of the epic thriller. A quest for a mystical chess service that once belonged to Charlemagne, *The Eight* spanned two centuries and three continents, intertwining 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** (A Ballantine Hardcover: On Sale: October 14, 2008).

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 the chessmen the secrets of the power that comes with possessing them. 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 embarks on 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, Europe is poised 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. So 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 place where the service was first created more than one thousand years before: Baghdad.

Blending exquisite prose and captivating history with nonstop suspense, **THE FIRE** is an unforgettable story of peril, action, and intrigue.

### **THE FIRE**

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[www.KatherineNeville.com](http://www.KatherineNeville.com)