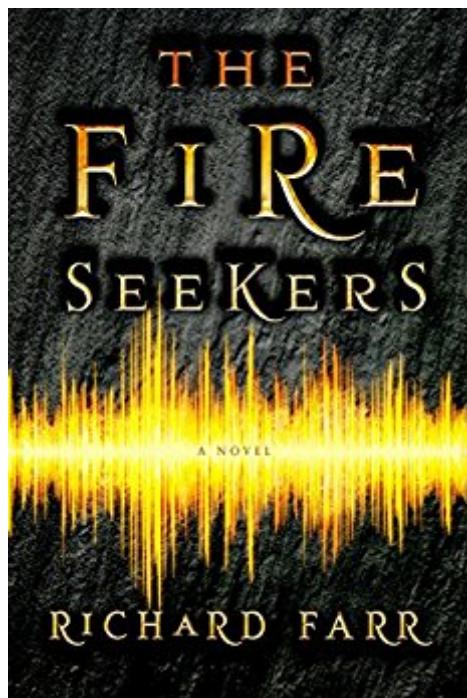


The book was found

The Fire Seekers (The Babel Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

The time of our immortality is at hand. An undeciphered language in Crete. A rash of mysterious disappearances, from Bolivia to Japan. An ancient warning at the ruins of Babel. And a new spiritual leader, who claims that human history as we understand it is about to come to an end. Seventeen-year-old Daniel Calder's world falls apart when a freak accident brings personal tragedy—and he discovers there's a link between the accident and a wildly successful new cult, the Seraphim. Catapulted into a violent struggle for humanity's past and future, he's not even sure who the enemy is, or if he's battling a phantom that doesn't exist. But as Daniel puts his life on the line, he is forced to conclude that our very survival as a species will depend on who, and what, we choose to believe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I opened up to the first page of THE FIRE SEEKERS, I had an involuntary groan at the 1st person narrative (I had forgotten peek at the LOOK NOW feature before hitting the BUY button). Just who I am as a reader, yet I mention this to emphasize the enjoyment I had BECAUSE OF

Richard Farr's skillful use of internal discourse, external action, and an absolutely entertaining melding of our hero's personality and the unraveling mysteries with a clarity that never left me muddled nor divorced me from the unique voice of our teen hero. That's a laudable achievement in respects to me as a reader who is usually pre-disposed against 1st person styles. After a lengthy prologue and mid-way into the first chapter, I knew I had to stop and go to the grocery store for what I call "reading snacks"... meaning I was definitely in it for the long haul. Take an ancient, terrible mystery, not unlike the core of H.P. Lovecraft's own varied mythos, infuse it into an international thriller with all the exotic trimmings, then mix in a dash of outlandish teenager adventuring (and humor) that did bring to mind the movie THE GOONIES, and you get the first book in the planned BABEL TRILOGY. With such a epic scope of compiling oodles of historical fact with fun novelization of "what ifs", it makes the "From the Author: Some Notes on Fact and Fiction" at the end of the book rather interesting, do-not-miss reading in itself, replete with Farr's own wry humor (this last portion alone constitutes 7% of the book's length, going chapter by chapter). And yes, the book does quite openly lead to the next installment, so for those who prefer tidy endings, even in a pending series, you may wish to wait till all three are out. I personally wish all three were out right now. I would immediately dig into the next one... then the last one, I am sure. Some profanity is sprinkled throughout, and those of particular sensitivity towards secular (even jocular) treatment of divinities may also want to pass. However, in reference to predominately explicit content often found in modern thrillers, THE FIRE SEEKERS is on the cleaner side of the spectrum, being on the whole a PG-13 (to borrow from the old movie ratings) body of work.

Building a story around the origins of languages and human cognitive awareness, the author uses a small group of intelligent young protagonists who set out to discover the truth behind a collection of ancient clay disks containing writing that predates the earliest recorded languages, and a mysterious cult trying to use them to create a pathway to heaven. I normally find first person narrative to be a bit self indulgent, but the character of Daniel tells his story in a concise way with a mix of humor and a self effacing manor. The situations that he and his two young colleagues are faced with are intensely described. The author also backs up historical references with lengthy annotations in a final chapter. While this is definitely a young adult mystery, it had enough intellectual gravitas to hold my attention, and the characters are engaging. The search for the origins of civilization is rife with possibilities, and although on occasion I did find it hard to suspend my disbelief, the story pulled back onto a realistic path fairly quickly. As with most multi-part stories, there is a cliffhanger ending in Book 1, and I rushed to the Kindle store to order Book 2...only to

discover that it won't be published until February 2016. Come on, Mr Farr...get on that word processor and give us more of the story!

Genius parents and genius friends and a young man, Daniel, who feels less than them, why I don't know, he is dyslexic but definitely not lacking in intelligence, especially common sense factors and wry humor. He can see patterns in ancient artifacts, he can fly a helicopter, he is a skilled diver and mountain climber, a great friend, and in my world, he would be awesome at 15. An amazing adventure story is told by Daniel as a first person narrative, which is a good thing, as otherwise I would not understand most of it. Daniel's father is fascinated by a pottery disk with an unknown language and odd patterns, he feels this disk, found about 100 years ago, may be very ancient and may be as important as the "Dead Sea Scrolls". He and others locate other disks, and work on deciphering the ancient texts. In the meantime, a new "prophet" arises, a hypnotically charismatic former student of Daniel's father, claiming that he has been visited by gods and that man's time has come to not just join them but become gods themselves. The story ties in ancient legends and beliefs and civilizations and concepts of what is consciousness and what is it to be human, and what is our destiny. There is much in the story about terrorism, greed, scientific curiosity, religion, friendship, bravery, love, and it is seasoned with wit, and it would be interesting to see how the saga plays out.

I bought this book because it was advertised on my kindle so often. It was the most confused and confusing book I have ever read. I found myself rereading some passages several times to see how the author went from one idea to another and what it was that was trying to be said. It was not until I read the author's reasoning behind the writing that anything made sense. He says that what he did was to borrow from all kinds of sources and put them in his book even when they had been cut from other books. More than just the confusing style there was no sense in the people that were presented. Most of them were so smart they could not even see the people right in front of them because they were so busy showing off their intelligence. The son that is the only real person in the book is ignored, placed in dangerous spots from an early age on and ends up alone. The attempts at atheism were contrived and awkward and made no sense when these people that do not believe in religion give up everything to search for old religious artifacts. I would not recommend this book to any serious reader for pleasure. Why I even finished it is just because I thought some place it would have some redeeming quality, it did not.

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