



The Book on Fire

By Keith Miller

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The Book on Fire By Keith Miller

Balthazar, book thief and bon vivant, arrives in Alexandria to steal from the famous library. But from the moment he steps off the boat, a veiled figure shadows him. Zeinab, literary prostitute and avenging ghost, will be his chaperone through the city of books. With her help, he succeeds in penetrating the underground library. But once inside, instead of ransacking it, he becomes obsessed with the youngest librarian, Shireen, who was born in the library and is herself more than half book. Their love story forms the heart of the novel. Balthazar schemes to get Shireen out of the library. But Zeinab has plans of her own . . . In sumptuous, evocative prose, *The Book on Fire* explores the relationships between creation and destruction, between belief and imagination, between desire and fulfillment. This new edition contains a bonus story, "City of Bones."

Ursula K. Le Guin said of Keith Miller's first novel, *The Book of Flying*, that it was "original in concept and elegant in language," and *Booklist* called it "A beautiful and haunting modern fable that reads like exquisite poetry." This second novel amply fulfills the promise of the first.

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the most beautifully written books I've ever read; a triumph of style, a hymn to the senses." *Vector Magazine*

"Essential reading for anyone who loved Robert Irwin's *The Arabian Nightmare* or Durrell's *Quartet*, yet also it's entirely its own book. What a world Keith Miller's is, gritty, surreal, intoxicating, full of wisdoms and madnesses, and always a terrible beauty deranging the senses." Ian Watson, author of *The Embedding*

"[A] pure, uncut fix of bibliophilia. It combines 'in perfect quantity design and story and song.' ... It has been a long time since a book has so completely taken me under its spell." John Miedema, author of *Slow Reading*

"Beautifully written and sensuous; its energy and delirium explode and give Alexandria a new fantastical dimension." Michael Haag, author of *Alexandria: City of Memory*

"A work that is a story, poetry, humor and verbal beauty ... A must read for any book lover, *The Book on Fire* is another masterpiece ... and one that should be on your bookshelf." *Fast Forward*

About the Author

Keith Miller was born in Tanzania and has spent most of his life in East and North Africa. His first novel, *The Book of Flying*, was published in 2004. *The Book on Fire* is his second novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rita Campanelli:

This *The Book on Fire* book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific *The Book on Fire* without we know teach the one who examining it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry *The Book on Fire* can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even phone. This *The Book on Fire* having great arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Erna Taylor:

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Patricia French:

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