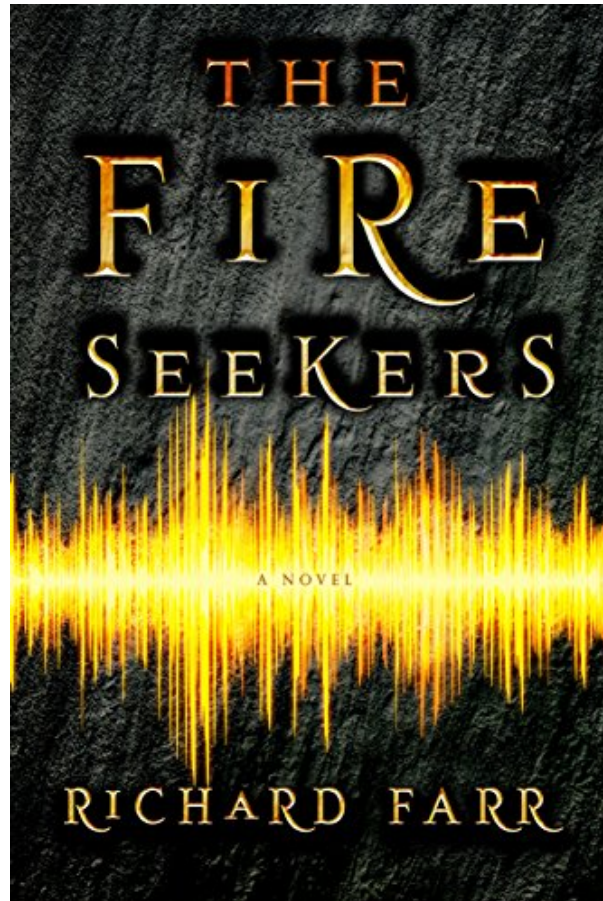
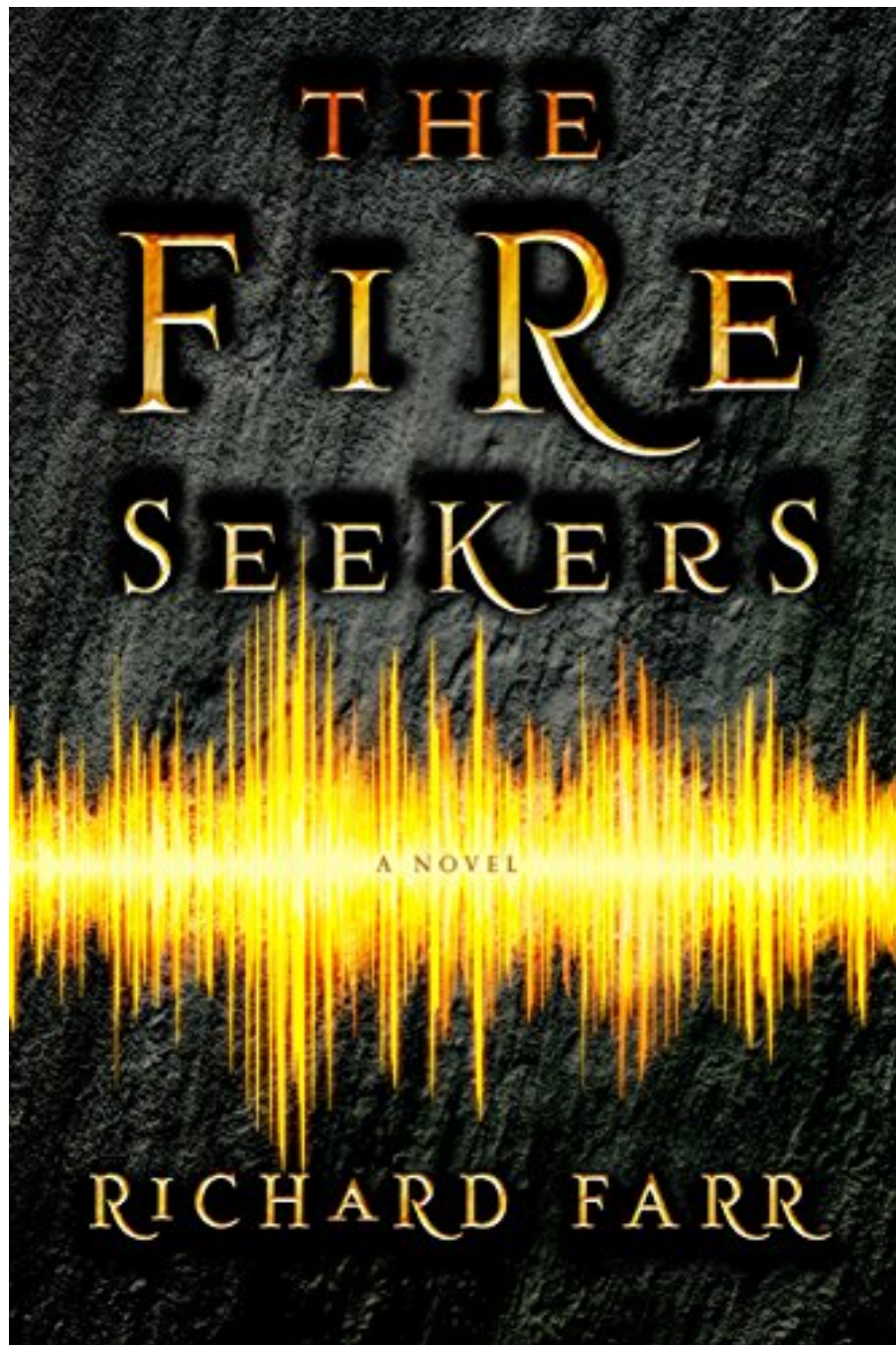


**THE FIRE SEEKERS (THE BABEL TRILOGY  
BOOK 1) BY RICHARD FARR**



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From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Daniel Calder lives an exceptional life. With an architect father and a computer genius mother, he travels the world in search of new Phaistos disc (round pieces of fired clay from ancient Greece) clues and adventures. But when his mother dies in a strange climbing accident, people across the globe disappear in the name of a new religion, and his father goes missing after a Phaistos disc translation is discovered to be too similar to the new religion's tenets, Daniel and his friends must determine just what has happened and rescue not only his father but all of humanity as well. This mystery novel places readers in a grounded realistic fiction at the beginning, and then takes an unexpected turn into the science fiction genre in the latter half, with the former portion being the more cohesive. Well-developed characters lead readers on a journey through the past toward a confusing and drawn out conclusion, which will leave them questioning the trip. Thorough integration of historical information into the narrative allows teens to learn about Phaistos discs and past civilizations, while keeping them intrigued. Strong religious overtones and an unforeseen ending may offend some Christian/Judeo readers. The first of a trilogy, *The Fire Seekers* has an unsteady start.—Elizabeth Speer, Cisco College, TX

Review

“[An] erudite thriller” —Kirkus Reviews

About the Author

Richard Farr is the author of the award-winning *Emperors of the Ice: A True Story of Disaster and Survival in the Antarctic, 1910–13*. He lives in Seattle with his wife and children, where he is currently working on the sequel to *The Fire Seekers*. Find him online at [www.richardfarr.net](http://www.richardfarr.net).

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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.

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- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

191 of 207 people found the following review helpful.

Ancient Saviors or Antediluvian Horrors?

By Tinfoot

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 an 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.

109 of 118 people found the following review helpful.

Not Sci Fi

By Avid Reader

I think Amazon made a mistake classifying this book as sci fi. And calling it YA sci fi just makes the mistake worse. I think they said YA because Daniel, the main character, is a teenager for most of the book. But he has the insight, problem-solving skills and world view of a 40 year old man so it doesn't make sense to me to limit the audience to YA readers.

And this is not a sci fi book. I think Amazon would have a Kindle best seller if they positioned it as a novel in the tradition of Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code". If you are reading this Mr. Farr, please don't be insulted. You are a much, much better writer and have filled your book with accurate ancient history rather than half-baked goofy ideas. BUT, "The DaVinci Code" was a huge best-seller and made a ton of money. So if you are reading this review, please show it to your Amazon editor. And if someone at Amazon is reading this review, please consider my suggestion and thank you for finally putting a good book in the Kindle First program.

Any reader who enjoys adventure along with learning interesting things about ancient civilizations should

enjoy this book. At one point I said to myself that I couldn't believe Daniel could get into any more threatening situations, but then he did.

A few reviewers have mentioned that very religious people might have an issue with the book. I guess that's possible. But "The DaVinci Code" said terrible things about Catholics and it was a best-seller and a profitable movie.

56 of 66 people found the following review helpful.

Huh? Sci-fi, no. Mystery, kinda. Action, yes. But it doesn't make sense.

By Ivan

This book was easily readable and I found the premise interesting. However, I had several problems.

First, I found the characters and situations preposterous or totally flat. The protagonist is Daniel, a teenage boy born to two geniuses. Dad speaks many languages and is a professor and minor celebrity. Mom used her gifts to make a boatload of money, sell the company, and home school her "average" son. This average kid cooks, extreme rock climbs, flies helicopters, scuba dives, knows karate - and all like a pro. It helps that Mom's idea of home school is to gallivant around the world, but it still stretches the imagination to the breaking point. And of course each of these skills is used to save the day at the very last moment. I found his relationship with both parents to be cliched. Of course he has daddy issues, it's that kind of book. Of course all his friends are geniuses of one sort or another. You would think that the insecurity being "average" around all these incredibly smart people might lead to some tension, but you would be wrong. His love interest is a cardboard cut out. His best friend is interesting, but not given enough space to really grow. His other friends are non-existent. The villain (if that's what you call him) is flat. His dad is flat. His sister is flat. The only one with any depth is Daniel and as we see, that's mostly in skills. The situations are seriously improbable and also cliched. This guy has answers! So guess what happens. The timeline of the book is hard to figure out as well. It feels like he just got home when suddenly he's off racing around the world with his best friend who was JUST released from the hospital with life threatening injuries. Does the book cover a few weeks? A few months? No idea.

Second, where was the sci-fi? I read a ton of sci-fi and in good sci-fi the world is skewed enough that it highlights the more human questions. Good sci-fi isn't always about the aliens or tech, it's about the people. But the sci-fi is there, it is always the stage that sets up the other drama. The question of what the disks are, who the Architects are, and what they are up to are asked frequently in the book, but no answers are given. I know this is the start of a series, and perhaps the author thought leaving the basic outline to another book is a good way to get return readers. I think basic outlines belong in the first book personally. Maybe he wanted more mystery. But to me, in a good serial mystery the mystery gets gradually deeper. One answered question gives birth to two new questions. Not answering the questions doesn't intrigue me, it annoys me and makes me wonder what was accomplished other than running around. And it certainly didn't set any stage or shape a world. It was only the very weak impetus to action.

Third was the ending. It just didn't work for me. I didn't like following one character through the whole book, only to have that voice replaced by another character that was still very one dimensional. It seems like society has crumbled and people have taken to the hills, but no explanation for this is given. But they could just be camping too.

The other thing that grated on me is the constant scorn that is heaped on anyone of any faith. Not just Christians, but Jews, Muslims, Hindus, even the new religion of the book. The author clearly has no use for such people. People of faith are stupid cows that believe in magic. The author grudgingly tries to be fair by making the mother go around randomly to various religious ceremonies, but just for the ceremony, and it

really doesn't help.

All in all, I won't recommend this book and probably won't read this author again.

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