



The Map of Bones (The Fire Sermon)

By Francesca Haig



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Book Two in the critically acclaimed The Fire Sermon trilogy—*The Hunger Games* meets Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* in this richly imagined post-apocalyptic series by award-winning poet Francesca Haig.

Four hundred years in the future, the Earth has turned primitive following a nuclear fire that has laid waste to civilization and nature. Though the radiation fallout has ended, for some unknowable reason every person is born with a twin. Of each pair, one is an Alpha—physically perfect in every way; and the other an Omega—burdened with deformity, small or large. With the Council ruling an apartheid-like society, Omegas are branded and ostracized while the Alphas have gathered the world's sparse resources for themselves. Though proclaiming their superiority, for all their effort, Alphas cannot escape one harsh fact: whenever one twin dies, so does the other.

Cass is a rare Omega, one burdened with psychic foresight. While her twin, Zach, gains power on the Alpha Council, she dares to dream the most dangerous dream of all: equality. For daring to envision a world in which Alphas and Omegas live side-by-side as equals, both the Council and the Resistance have her in their sights.

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The Map of Bones (The Fire Sermon) By Francesca Haig Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Haig's second Fire Sermon novel continues the postapocalyptic saga in which humanity has survived in the form of pairs of genetically "perfect" Alphas and sterile, "deformed" Omegas. Each Alpha-Omega pair is psychically connected so that if one twin dies, so does the other. The Alphas have systematically oppressed their siblings and are moving ahead on an aggressive plan to place them in suspended animation using taboo technology. Omega and seer Cass is determined to thwart this, especially since her own twin, Zach, is its mastermind. But to save Omegas everywhere, she has to rekindle an all-but-destroyed rebellion and locate the fabled Ark, a last-ditch storehouse of information and technology predating the nuclear war that destroyed civilization. Haig fleshes out her radiation-scarred dystopian setting and its intrigues, as well as touching upon the last survivors of the old world. It's a grim, atmospheric tale featuring unpleasant decisions and morally compromised characters, with very little brightness to balance it out, but Haig does interject the occasional positive note. Much is left unresolved, of course, setting up the final installment. Agent: Juliet Mushens, United Talent Agency. (May)

Review

"A beautiful, brutal story about what it means to be human, and what's worth fighting for." (Lauren DeStefano, New York Times Bestselling author of The Chemical Garden trilogy)

"A powerful post-apocalyptic story with unusual emotional depth and clear, often beautiful language, this is one genre fans won't want to miss." (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review on *THE MAP OF BONES*)

"Thrilling, emotionally engaging, booby-trapped with some incredibly inventive twists and turns and some excellent action sequences and, from beginning to end, it is intensely moving...Francesca Haig's writing is exquisite, loaded with turns of phrase and lines of dialogue that are so perfect and so beautifully realized, it reminds us how powerful the written word can be...You have got to read these books, they are storytelling at its absolute finest." (*Starburst Magazine* on *THE MAP OF BONES*)

"With captivating storytelling and an equally captivating heroine in Cass, Haig's latest in her Fire Sermon trilogy truly excites. An intricately crafted plot with intense conflict and distinctive, flawed characters make this story hard to put down." (*RT book reviews* on *MAP OF BONES*)

"Readers who enjoy the Hunger Games series, Pierce Brown's *Red Rising*, and like-minded dystopian literature will enjoy this first title in a trilogy." (*Library Journal* on *The Fire Sermon*, starred review)

"As an award-winning poet, Haig's prose is gorgeous and engaging, particularly when she describes the desolate landscape, now peppered with ruins from the Before. Fans of dystopias will appreciate this adventure-filled yet character-focused tale that offers hope and explores (in a refreshingly nuanced way) the moral complexities involved in defeating an oppressive and backward government structure." (*Booklist*, starred review)

"Debut novelist Haig builds a richly textured world and creates characters who immediately feel real. The suspense of the plot, driven by the fear and anger underlying this unbreakable bond between twins, never flags. Haig's experience as a poet shows in her writing, which is clear, forceful and laced with bright threads of beauty. With its well-built world, vivid characters and suspenseful plot, this book, the first in a planned trilogy, is poised to become the next must-read hit." (*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Fire Sermon*, starred review)

"Set in a vividly realised world of elite Alphas and their 'weaker' Omega twins, [this series] holds a mirror up to our obsession with perfection." (*Guardian*)

"A potential heir to the *Hunger Games*." (*Vulture*)

"*The Fire Sermon* is an undeniable page-turner... At the heart of Haig's worldbuilding is a precious love story between Cass and a fellow Omega on the run named Kip. The writing surrounding these two beautifully demonstrates Haig's craft. If you thought Peeta Mellark had a big fan club, just you wait. There will be copious amounts of kissy fan art and montage videos. You can count on it." (*Bookshots (LitReactor)*)

"Fantasy and sci-fi fans finally have a book they can bond over. This is going to be a series to watch." (*RT Book Reviews*)

"The best post-apocalyptic novel I've read in years – it's dark, deep, and doesn't conform to the dystopian tropes we've all come to expect." (*The Mary Sue*)

"A beautifully written tale of a dark and often unforgiving post-apocalyptic world . . . a spectacular introduction to the series." (*Fresh Fiction*)

"Words like 'masterpiece' and 'instant classic' are cliché, but in the case of Francesca Haig's astounding *The Fire Sermon*, they're the only words to use. It's a breath-taking, passionate, absolutely sensational work of imagination, perfectly structured, beautifully written, populated with fabulous characters and packed with intrigue, violence, compassion and underlined by a very important human message that is always present without ever becoming homily. *The Fire Sermon* is completely without equal – it leaves *Hunger Games*, *Divergence*, *Twilight* blah blah-yawn twitching in the dust." (*Starburst Magazine*)

"A hell of a ride. I would recommend it to anyone I can, regardless of age." (James Oswald, author of *Natural Causes*)

About the Author

Francesca Haig grew up in Tasmania, gained her PhD from the University of Melbourne, and was a senior lecturer at the University of Chester. Her poetry has been published in literary journals and anthologies in both Australia and England, and her first collection of poetry, *Bodies of Water*, was published in 2006. In 2010 she was awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship. *The Fire Sermon*, her first novel, was published in 2015. She lives in London with her husband and son. Visit FrancescaHaig.com and follow her on Twitter @FrancescaHaig.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edwin Courville:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love *The Map of Bones (The Fire Sermon)*, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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