



## The Magic Circle: A Novel

By Katherine Neville

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**The Magic Circle: A Novel** By Katherine Neville

**A collection of prophecies from before the time of Christ gives a female scientist the chance to save the world in this captivating thriller from the #1 international bestselling author of *The Eight***

In the last week of Jesus's life, the Emperor Augustus orders the purge of all prophecies that question his divine power. Thus, in the crater of a dormant volcano, the books of the Sibylline oracle are sealed—lost to the world until the nineteenth century when Clio, a brilliant archaeologist, discovers them. The Sibyl's words remain as potent as ever, having the ability to change the destiny of mankind. But who will be bold enough to harness their power?

More than a century after their discovery, some of the secret prophecies fall into the hands of nuclear scientist Ariel Behn when her beloved cousin is assassinated. If Ariel can discover the mystery behind the prophecies, she will be able to prevent a potentially worldwide catastrophe—but in order to do so she must travel to Russia, Vienna, and Paris where too many people are desperate to protect the secrets of these ancient writings.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Katherine Neville including rare images from her life and travels.

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## The Magic Circle: A Novel By Katherine Neville Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Neville's reach exceeds her grasp by a long shot in her chaotic third novel (after *The Eight* and *A Calculated Risk*), a bewildering attempt to blend historical fiction, New Age adventure and modern techno-thriller. Utah nuclear technician Ariel Behn receives a set of mysterious manuscripts from her Native American cousin Sam, who has narrowly survived their attempted theft. As possessor of the scrolls, Ariel finds her life in similar danger, especially after her company sends her to Russia with handsome, mysterious Wolfgang Hauser. During a torrid affair with Wolfgang, Ariel comes to suspect that he may be after the scrolls himself. At the same time, various members of her glamorous, far-flung family inform her that Hitler, Genghis Khan and the ancient Romans all sought the scrolls, which seem to hold the key to a secret power grid beneath the earth. Alternating family history with thorny historical passages, Neville brings the narrative back to Utah for a ludicrous wilderness showdown among the scrolls' pursuers. Neville has buried a decent story in so many expository layers of far-fetched historical gibberish and New Age nonsense that even her most devoted readers may find themselves exasperated. Author tour.

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From [Booklist](#)

Nuclear scientist Ariel Behn's beloved cousin, Sam, is murdered, and Ariel learns that she is heir to a cache of manuscripts that may unlock the secrets not only of the past but also of the coming millennium. This promising premise allows the action to move back and forth in time and place, jumping from first-century Rome and the Holy Land up to the late 1980s and on to the contemporary world. There is something here for thriller fans and for those who enjoy historical fiction. But Neville weighs down her book with, first, the complex Behn family tree and, second, a head-whirling miasma of mythology, astronomy, religion, and geography--all fascinating millennial topics in themselves but never quite successfully integrated with the story here. Nor does the ending offer the payoff that has kept readers going through more than 550 pages. Still, individual sections of the book are compelling, and fans of that emerging subgenre--the millennial thriller--will want to add this one to their reading list. *Ilene Cooper*

From Kirkus Reviews

Like Neville's 1988 debut, *The Eight*, another daft, overstuffed, sprawling sofa of a yarn involving dozens of famous figures, places, and objects, along with a mysterious manuscript that nobody ever gets to read, yeah, and the collapse of communism. Ariel Behn, a nuclear security worker and part-time code-breaker, is devastated when her beloved brother, Sam (he isn't really her brother and . . . well, it's complicated), turns up dead. Among other things, he had a manuscript for Ariel that, suddenly, all sorts of people are eager to lay their hands on. Then a decidedly undead Sam (bad guys tried to assassinate him and got the wrong man) contacts his sister and says he sent her the encoded document, though it's never arrived. The devilishly handsome Wolfgang Hauser of the International Atomic Energy Agency also shows an interest in the manuscript, as does Uncle Lafcadio, arriving from Austria, violin teacher Dacian Bassarides (Ariel's grandfather, we eventually learn), and Ariel's boss, Pastor Owen Dart. Meanwhile, in numerous historical asides, we meet Ariel's great-aunt Clio (she finds something important in the Sibyl's cave in 1890), Jesus, Aleister Crowley, Pontius Pilate, four Roman emperors, Joseph of Arimathea, Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, and . . . What are they all after? It seems a set of ancient sacred objects, or "Hallows," possess immense magical powers, and the manuscript describes maybe locates those objects. There's more than one manuscript, of course. Elsewhere, Ariel learns just how diverse and cosmopolitan her huge family is: Adolf Hitler, or "Lucky," was a close family friend; various other relatives turn out to be fascists; and wolfish Wolfgang, a Nazi who's crazy about Ariel while he thinks she's thoroughly Aryan, is crushed to learn that her

grandfather was a gypsy. The heroine's devastating discoveries concerning her family's murky history are intriguing and worthwhile; pity Neville didn't just junk the rest of it. Still, fans of *The Eight* should stagger away with bemused grins. (Author tour) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Timothy Reed:**

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or even goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. Consider the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, individual feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this *The Magic Circle: A Novel*.

#### **Brandon Francis:**

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#### **Kathleen Bonds:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you who want to start reading a new book, we give you this particular *The Magic Circle: A Novel* book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Joe Timmons:**

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