



The Fireman: A Novel

By Joe Hill

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From the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of *NOS4A2* and *Heart-Shaped Box* comes a chilling novel about a worldwide pandemic of spontaneous combustion that threatens to reduce civilization to ashes and a band of improbable heroes who battle to save it, led by one powerful and enigmatic man known as the Fireman.

The fireman is coming. Stay cool.

No one knows exactly when it began or where it originated. A terrifying new plague is spreading like wildfire across the country, striking cities one by one: Boston, Detroit, Seattle. The doctors call it Draco Incendia Trychophyton. To everyone else it's Dragonscale, a highly contagious, deadly spore that marks its hosts with beautiful black and gold marks across their bodies—before causing them to burst into flames. Millions are infected; blazes erupt everywhere. There is no antidote. No one is safe.

Harper Grayson, a compassionate, dedicated nurse as pragmatic as Mary Poppins, treated hundreds of infected patients before her hospital burned to the ground. Now she's discovered the telltale gold-flecked marks on her skin. When the outbreak first began, she and her husband, Jakob, had made a pact: they would take matters into their own hands if they became infected. To Jakob's dismay, Harper wants to live—at least until the fetus she is carrying comes to term. At the hospital, she witnessed infected mothers give birth to healthy babies and believes hers will be fine too. . . if she can live long enough to deliver the child.

Convinced that his do-gooding wife has made him sick, Jakob becomes unhinged, and eventually abandons her as their placid New England community collapses in terror. The chaos gives rise to ruthless Cremation Squads—armed, self-appointed posses roaming the streets and woods to exterminate those who they believe carry the spore. But Harper isn't as alone as she fears: a mysterious and compelling stranger she briefly met at the hospital, a man in a dirty yellow fire fighter's jacket, carrying a hooked iron bar, straddles the abyss between insanity and death. Known as The Fireman, he strolls the ruins of New Hampshire, a madman afflicted with Dragonscale who has learned to control the fire within himself, using it as a shield to protect the hunted . . . and as a weapon

to avenge the wronged.

In the desperate season to come, as the world burns out of control, Harper must learn the Fireman's secrets before her life—and that of her unborn child—goes up in smoke.

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The Fireman: A Novel By Joe Hill Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of May 2016: I admit, when I hit a saggy part in a story, I do skip ahead to see if the plot will pick up again. At no point in Joe Hill's doorstep-weight novel did I have that urge, for each and every page had me entranced. Set in New Hampshire right about now, *The Fireman* opens with a man spontaneously combusting outside the office of school nurse Harper Grayson. He's not the first victim of *Draco incendia trychophyton*, the spore responsible for this transformation, but he's the signal that Dragonscale has spread to Harper's small town. It also spreads to Harper soon after she realizes she's pregnant. Highly contagious and 100 percent fatal, Dragonscale soon plunges the world into chaos. (An oddly affective moment is when Harper logs onto Google and finds, instead of the search engine, the words "Goodby.") But Hill smartly focuses on Harper and her attempts at survival, keeping the stakes small but extremely personal as the uninfected hunt down and murder the infected, supposedly to protect the rest of the town but really to indulge in sociopathic tendencies now unleashed. *The Fireman* starts with a hot burn, simmers as Harper joins a group of infected hiding in a summer camp, and then heats up again as the near-utopian community ruptures. Hill weaves questions about the power of leadership, group-think, love, catastrophe, and family into the plot. His smartest move is to give no clear-cut answers to these questions, making *The Fireman* more substantial and real than a typical apocalyptic thriller. And his humdinger of an ending provides just the right closure. --Adrian Liang

From Publishers Weekly

In Hill's superb supernatural thriller, the world is falling apart in a maelstrom of flame and fury. A spore dubbed Dragonscale infects people, draws patterns on their skin, and eventually makes them spontaneously combust—and it's rapidly spreading. School nurse Harper Grayson volunteers at a local hospital in Concord, N.H., until it burns down. Soon she discovers that not only is she infected but she's also pregnant. As the beautiful filigreed markings of Dragonscale start to flourish on her body, she vows to do anything to bring her baby safely into the world. Her husband, Jakob, doesn't want the baby and attacks Harper when he realizes she wants to keep it. Harper flees and encounters John Rookwood, a near-mythical figure known as the Fireman. He takes her to Camp Wyndham, where the infected have learned to control and harness what they call the Bright—the flames that smolder just beneath their skin. Harper finds purpose there, but Jakob has found a purpose too: he's joined the Cremation Crews, brutal marauders who kill the infected on sight. When the peace of the camp is threatened, Harper, John, and their friends band together. The good-hearted Harper is a captivating heroine, the peaceful eye in a storm of evil that threatens to harm everyone she holds dear, and it's impossible not to root for her. Hill has followed 2013's *NOS4A2* with a tremendous, heartrending epic of bravery and love set in a fully realized and terrifying apocalyptic world, where hope lies in the simplest of gestures and the fullest of hearts. (May)

From School Library Journal

America is burning—people and entire cities are going up in flames, thanks to a spore called Dragonscale that is infecting humans worldwide. Nurse Harper Grayson is in her element trying to help the afflicted at the local hospital, but when she becomes infected around the same time she discovers she is pregnant, her husband goes insane and tries to kill her. Harper escapes and finds refuge with other infected people at a rural camp. With the help of The Fireman (a mysterious man who can shoot fire from his fingertips) and others, Harper discovers the cause of Dragonscale and how to control it. While this entry is not as scary as Hill's *Horns* or *Heart-Shaped Box*, the horror of mob mentality will remind teens of Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery," William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies*, and the author's father Stephen King's *The Stand*. With likable characters, glib dialogue, suspense, and inevitable doom, the book feels like a popular television

series script, and teens will appreciate the pop culture references—Harry Potter, Narnia, The Walking Dead, Mary Poppins, and more. VERDICT An apocalyptic tale for fans of suspense and horror, even though the long length will deter reluctant readers.—Sarah Hill, Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Merry Springs:

This The Fireman: A Novel 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 guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Fireman: A Novel without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry The Fireman: A Novel can bring any time you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Fireman: A Novel having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Eliseo Watkins:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources in it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information particularly this The Fireman: A Novel book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Willie Isaac:

Hey guys, do you wishes to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the title The Fireman: A Novel suitable to you? The particular book was written by well known writer in this era. The book untitled The Fireman: A Novel is the main of several books in which everyone read now. This book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know before. The author explained their thought in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to know the core of this e-book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world within this book.

Jack Morgan:

The book untitled The Fireman: A Novel contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site

and also order it. Have a nice study.

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