



Before Reading

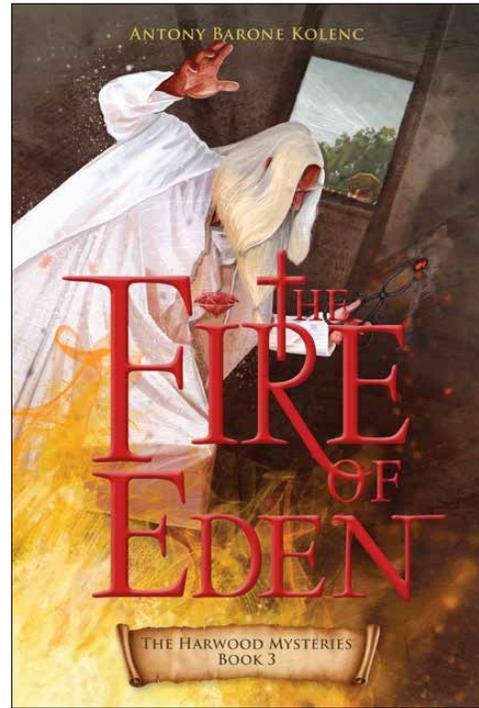
Explore the How to Read Historical Fiction section on pages vi and vii. Do some brief online research about life in twelfth-century England and in a typical abbey of that time. Watch a video, view illustrations, or read an article to gain some historical context.

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During Reading

Ask yourself questions such as the following:

- Which sacrament is Brother Andrew preparing to receive in this book? What do you know about that sacrament?
 - How are various characters tempted to sin over the course of the story? Which characters make bad choices in response to this temptation? Which characters make good choices? What do the characters learn as a result of these temptations?
 - Many of the characters in *The Fire of Eden* face difficult decisions in order to follow God's call for their lives. How do they discern what God is calling them to do? What decisions must they make in order to follow that call?
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After Reading

Ask yourself questions such as the following:

- What part does God's Word play in the story? How do the various characters react to God's Word?
- How do John and Odo each show different ways of responding to life challenges that are outside their control? How do their physical disabilities give them a perspective on life and faith that is not available to the other characters in the story?
- At certain times, Xan gives in to the sin of pride while trying to solve the mystery. What could Xan have done differently to remain humble while using his gifts? When using your own gifts, what can you do to remain humble?
- The characters in the story fear the Magician because of the power they believe he possesses. How does this fear cause them to behave? How might people in today's world react differently to somebody like the Magician? How might their reactions be similar to the reactions of the characters?