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The Eighth Day

DIANNE K. SALERNI

He may have an extra day, but he's running out of time.

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In this riveting fantasy adventure that VOYA called "absolutely necessary for middle grades," thirteen-year-old Jax Aubrey discovers a secret Eighth Day with roots tracing back to Arthurian legend. Fans of Percy Jackson will devour this first book in a new series that combines exciting magic and pulse-pounding suspense. When Jax wakes up to a world without any people, he assumes it’s the zombie apocalypse. But when he runs into his eighteen-year-old guardian, Riley Pendare, he learns that he’s really in the Eighth Day: an extra day sandwiched between Wednesday and Thursday. Some people, like Jax and Riley, are Transitioners, able to live in all eight days, while others, including Evangeline, the elusive teenage girl who’s been hiding in the house next door, exist only on this special day. There’s a reason Evangeline’s hiding. As the descendant of the powerful wizard Merlin, her magic is highly sought by corrupt Transitioners who want to use her to destroy the seven-day world. Torn between protecting his new friend and saving the human race from destruction, Jax is faced with an impossible choice. Even with an eighth day, time is running out. Be sure to check out The Inquisitor’s Mark, the spellbinding second novel in the Eighth Day series.

Book Information
Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)
Series: Eighth Day (Book 1)
Paperback: 336 pages
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Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews
I almost passed this book up and decided I would give it a go. I am so glad I did. This book was pretty amazing. I was captivated by the story from the very beginning and stayed that way throughout the entire book. The characters were pretty super, the pacing was well done, the writing was exciting, and I just enjoyed this book immensely.

Jax celebrates his 13th birthday, goes to bed, wakes up in an abandoned world. He believes the apocalypse has come, but what has really happened is he is part of special group of people that can live in the eighth day. A day that exists between Wednesday and Thursday. There are others that experience this day and who live only within this day. Jax discovers all the secrets that surrounds this day and also the dangers. He unknowingly brings horrible danger to a friends front door, now its up to him and other Transitioners to save the eighth day and the world. This book was really really good. I didn’t really know what I was in for, I thought the book sounded more sci-fi, time traveling, parallel universe. Nope its fantasy, magic, myths.... and I loved it. One of my favorite aspects of this book, the myth that surrounded the Eighth Day. Merlin, Arthur, and even the Knights of the Round Table had a bit to do with the Eighth Day. I have read many Merlin or Arthur retellings, inspirations, and renditions. This one was quite original. I was fascinated by the idea. It was well thought out and well done. The story was definitely the main focus for me. The characters were good too. It did take me a bit longer to connect to them than I like, but once I did the connection was strong. There was tons of story building, so the character building lacked just a tiny bit at first. In the end I fell for everyone of the characters.

Imagine a day between Wednesday and Thursday, in which people are trapped, put there centuries earlier by King Arthur and his allies. These are the Kin, King Arthur’s adversaries and they are imprisoned in the Eighth Day to keep the rest of the world safe. Imagine, too, people called Transitioners, who can move between the Normal world and this Eighth Day and who have enhanced talents to protect and help them. And last, imagine a group of people who are plotting to break the Eighth Day spell, to exact revenge on King Arthur’s descendants, obliterate the people of the Normal world and release the Kin in their place. This is the central conflict in The Eighth Day, an exciting fantasy adventure by Dianne K. Salerni. It’s a story with a simple beginning that explodes into global proportions. Jax Aubrey has just turned thirteen and his parents are dead. His guardian, Riley is eighteen and does not seem up to the job. Jax doesn’t know what to think when he wakes up in the Eighth Day, but he soon learns there is a lot going on that he doesn’t understand. All this starts with Evangeline, the mysterious girl next door, who is trapped in the Eighth Day. All heck breaks loose when they become friends and Jax unknowingly puts many in danger. The Eighth Day has many characters with blurred alliances and motives that cross between
good and bad. Despite the complexities, you don’t need to be an expert on King Arthur and the players during that legendary time to enjoy this book. Salerni does a great job explaining the plots and subplots and recaps the complicated developments in a way that does not seem repetitive, but is definitely appreciated. The characters are propelled to the story’s ultimate conflict in a huge battle for control of the Eighth Day.

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