



# The Blue Flower: A Novel

By Penelope Fitzgerald

Download now

Read Online ➔

## The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald

“An astonishing book . . . Fitzgerald’s greatest triumph.” —*New York Times Book Review*

*The Blue Flower* is set in the age of Goethe, in the small towns and great universities of late eighteenth-century Germany. It tells the true story of Friedrich von Hardenberg, a passionate, impetuous student of philosophy who will later gain fame as the Romantic poet Novalis. Fritz seeks his father’s permission to wed his “heart’s heart,” his “spirit’s guide”—a plain, simple child named Sophie von Kühn. It is an attachment that shocks his family and friends. Their brilliant young Fritz, betrothed to a twelve-year-old dullard? How can this be?

The irrationality of love, the transfiguration of the commonplace, the clarity of purpose that comes with knowing one’s own fate—these are the themes of this beguiling novel, themes treated with a mix of wit, grace, and mischievous humor unique to the art of Penelope Fitzgerald.

“An extraordinary imagining . . . an original masterpiece.” —Hermione Lee, *Financial Times*

 [Download The Blue Flower: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Blue Flower: A Novel ...pdf](#)

# The Blue Flower: A Novel

*By Penelope Fitzgerald*

## The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald

“An astonishing book . . . Fitzgerald’s greatest triumph.” —*New York Times Book Review*

*The Blue Flower* is set in the age of Goethe, in the small towns and great universities of late eighteenth-century Germany. It tells the true story of Friedrich von Hardenberg, a passionate, impetuous student of philosophy who will later gain fame as the Romantic poet Novalis. Fritz seeks his father’s permission to wed his “heart’s heart,” his “spirit’s guide”—a plain, simple child named Sophie von Kühn. It is an attachment that shocks his family and friends. Their brilliant young Fritz, betrothed to a twelve-year-old dullard? How can this be?

The irrationality of love, the transfiguration of the commonplace, the clarity of purpose that comes with knowing one’s own fate—these are the themes of this beguiling novel, themes treated with a mix of wit, grace, and mischievous humor unique to the art of Penelope Fitzgerald.

“An extraordinary imagining . . . an original masterpiece.” —Hermione Lee, *Financial Times*

## The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #68413 in Books
- Published on: 2014-10-14
- Released on: 2014-10-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .83" w x 5.31" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

 [Download The Blue Flower: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Blue Flower: A Novel ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Penelope Fitzgerald wrote her first novel 20 years ago, at the age of 59. Since then, she's written eight more, three of which have been short-listed for England's prestigious Booker Prize, and one of which, *Offshore*, won. Now she's back with her tenth and best book so far, *The Blue Flower*. This is the story of Friedrich von Hardenberg--Fritz, to his intimates--a young man of the late 18th century who is destined to become one of Germany's great romantic poets. In just over 200 pages, Fitzgerald creates a complete world of family, friends and lovers, but also an exhilarating evocation of the romantic era in all its political turmoil, intellectual voracity, and moral ambiguity. A profound exploration of genius, *The Blue Flower* is also a charming, wry, and witty look at domestic life. Fritz's family--his eccentric father and high-strung mother; his loving sister, Sidonie; and brothers Erasmus, Karl, and the preternaturally intelligent baby of the family, referred to always as the Bernhard--are limned in deft, sure strokes, and it is in his interactions with them that the ephemeral quality of genius becomes most tangible. Even his unlikely love affair with young Sophie von Kuhn makes perfect sense as Penelope Fitzgerald imagines it.

*The Blue Flower* is a magical book--funny, sad, and deeply moving. In Fritz Fitzgerald has discovered a perfect character through whom to explore the meaning of love, poetry, life, and loss. In *The Blue Flower* readers will find a work of fine prose, fierce intelligence, and perceptive characterization.

### From Library Journal

Fitzgerald never repeats herself, and her latest novel, named Book of the Year by 19 British newspapers in 1995, is her most original book yet. Here she reconstructs the life of 18th-century German romantic poet Novalis, focusing on his boisterous family, his struggle to articulate his longings, and, most tellingly, his passion for 12-year-old Sophie, a simple child he intends to marry despite the furious reservations of family and friends. Fitzgerald doesn't make it entirely clear what draws Friedrich von Hardenberg (Novalis's real name) to little Sophie?but that is precisely the point. Throughout, he is carried aloft by an inchoate desire for something beyond that is summed up in his little story of the blue flower: "I have no craving to be rich, but I long to see the blue flower....I can imagine and think about nothing else." As a counterpoint to her protagonist's beautifully captured romanticism, Fitzgerald successfully evokes the sights, sound, and smells?and the constant sorrows?of domestic life in 18th-century Germany. A little treasure; highly recommended.?Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal"

Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### From Kirkus Reviews

The German poet Novalis (1772-1801) was really Friedrich Leopold von Hardenberg: and Fitzgerald (The Gates of Angels, 1992; Offshore, 1987, etc.) here re-creates him, his family, his doomed young lover Sophie von Kuhn, and Sophie's huge family--not to mention the era all of them lived in--in the most human-sized and yet intellectually capacious narrative a reader could wish for. Times were once better for the Hardenbergs, who've sold two estates, may have to sell another, and meanwhile live in a more manageable house in town. The pious and old (he's 56) father of the many-childrend family is Director of the Salt Mining Administration of Saxony, one of the few vocations (the military is another) not forbidden to members of the aristocracy, and the same calling the oldest Hardenberg son, Fritz, will follow upon conclusion of his studies at the universities of Jena, Leipzig, and Wittenberg. To say he's a salt inspector, though, is a little like saying Shakespeare was an actor. Not only have Fritz's studies brought him among faculty the likes of Fichte, Schiller, and Schlegel--but he himself is already a visionary poet helping bring the 18th century to its close ("The universe, after all, is within us. The way leads inwards, always inwards").

What transpires, then, in the inward universe, when Fritz first sees 12-year- old Sophie von K•hn standing at a window looking out? Says he: `` `Something happened to me.' " This cheerful, careless, laughing child-woman becomes Fritz's star, his guide, ``his Philosophy." Against all precedent (Sophie isn't of the real nobility), and in keeping with the changing times (there's been the revolution in France), he gets his father's permission to become engaged--but dreadful sorrow lies just ahead. A historical novel that's touching, funny, unflinchingly tragic, and at the same time uncompromising in its accuracy, learning, and detail: a book that brings its subject entirely alive, almost nothing seeming beyond its grasp. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kathryn Glover:**

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They should answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this particular The Blue Flower: A Novel to read.

#### **Gary Farrell:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Blue Flower: A Novel can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Yvette Barstow:**

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because all of this time you only find e-book that need more time to be read. The Blue Flower: A Novel can be your answer given it can be read by an individual who have those short time problems.

#### **Melissa Ray:**

This The Blue Flower: A Novel is fresh way for you who has interest to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having

little bit of digest in reading this The Blue Flower: A Novel can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books build itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book style for your better life and also knowledge.

**Download and Read Online The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald #23RHK8D1GUO**

# **Read The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald for online ebook**

The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald books to read online.

## **Online The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald ebook PDF download**

**The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald Doc**

**The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald Mobipocket**

**The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald EPub**

**23RHK8D1GUO: The Blue Flower: A Novel By Penelope Fitzgerald**