

The 451 App (22 August 2022)
P. L. Thomas

“So! A book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it.”

[*Fahrenheit 451*](#), Ray Bradbury

everyone had electronic devices of course
when it began appearing harmlessly (it seemed)
a red fireman’s hat icon with 451 in yellow

no one could delete the 451 App (if anyone tried)
and no one could ever determine just what it did
until of course the date 22 August 2022 arrived

[hindsight](#) they said even then is 20/20 (foolishly)
but in the days that followed there was a certain clarity
about the words and ebooks forever wiped away

the 451 App turned from fireman’s hat to flame
that flickered and glowed on everyone’s device
as if waving good-bye to something no one could name



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