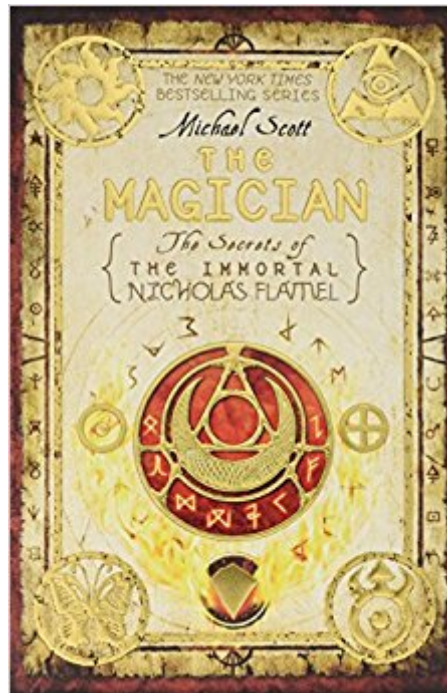




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The Magician (The Secrets Of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel)



Synopsis

Nicholas Flamel appeared in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter—but did you know he really lived? And he might still be alive today! Discover the truth in Michael Scott's New York Times bestselling series the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel in *The Magician*, book two. After fleeing Ojai, Nicholas, Sophie, Josh, and Scatty emerge in Paris, the City of Lights. Home for Nicholas Flamel. Only this homecoming is anything but sweet. Perenell is still locked up back in Alcatraz and Paris is teeming with enemies. Nicollo Machiavelli, immortal author and celebrated art collector, is working for Dee. He's after them, and time is running out for Nicholas and Perenell. For every day spent without the Book of Abraham the Mage, they age one year—their magic becoming weaker and their bodies more frail. For Flamel, the Prophecy is becoming more and more clear. It's time for Sophie to learn the second elemental magic: Fire Magic. And there's only one man who can teach it to her: Flamel's old student, the Comte de Saint-Germain—an alchemist, magician, and rock star. Josh and Sophie Newman are the world's only hope—if they don't turn on each other first. “Readers will be swept up by a plot that moves smartly along, leaving a wide trail of destruction and well-timed revelations.”—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Read the whole series! *The Alchemyst* *The Magician* *The Sorceress* *The Necromancer* *The Warlock* *The Enchantress* From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6

Flamel and company return in this fast-paced follow-up to *The Alchemyst* (Delacorte, 2007). The immortal human Nicholas Flamel; Scathach, the veggie vampire warrior; and the mortal twins of legend, Josh and Sophie, are still on the run from the malicious Dr. John Dee. Flamel retains two of the pages of the legendary Book of Abraham, and Dee will do anything to get them. After hopping a ley line to Paris, our heroes barely escape the machinations of Dee's partner in crime, Niccolò Machiavelli. While finding shelter with fellow immortals (Joan of Arc turns out to be a particularly helpful ally), Josh attempts to deal with the fact that his twin sister is now incredibly powerful. Having had her powers "awakened," Sophie's new abilities make him surprisingly jealous—a fact that Dee may find useful. Scott tapers down the sheer breadth of gods, goddesses, legends, and myths already introduced in his first novel, which is a bit of a relief. Even though the plot moves forward at breakneck speed, the author is careful not to lose sight of his characters' struggles or inner demons. Fans of the previous novel will certainly find much to love, root for, and fear in this successful second installment.

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The Alchemyst (2007), the first book in *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* series, introduced a wide-ranging group of historical figures who have achieved immortality and are engaged in a present-day struggle for the fate of the world. This second entry picks up exactly where the first left off. Allied with the legendary Nicholas Flamel on the "good" side are teenage twins Sophie and Josh, who are supremely gifted but with powers that are untrained. Countering them is a new archvillain, Niccolò Machiavelli, who, along with other figures from history and legend (Joan of Arc, a trio of Valkyries), swells the already impressive cast. Plundering every imaginable culture of their heroes and heroines is a clever feat, sure to draw all manner of historically and mythologically minded readers. One weakness starts to show through, however. In a six-book series such as this, each installment begins to feel like a lengthy, glorified chapter rather than its own book complete with a satisfying story arc and resolution. That said, this keeps the pace as an exciting and impeccably thought-out fantasy, well suited for those left in the lurch by Harry Potter's recent exeunt. Grades 7-10. --Ian Chipman

I am loving this series.if you have not read the Alchemist read it first.these books are such a wonderful blend of reality,history,mythology and of course fiction.

"We are now in Paris, the city of my birth, the city where I first discovered the Codex and began the long quest to translate it. That journey ultimately led me to discover the existence of the Elder Race and revealed the mystery of the philosopher's stone and finally the secret of immortality. I love this city. It holds many secrets and is home to more than one human immortal and ancient Elder. Here, I will find a way to Awaken Josh's powers and continue Sophie's education. I must. For their sakes - and for the continuance of the human race." - from the Day Booke of Nicholas Flamel,

Alchemyst

Two days have passed since fifteen-year-old twins Josh and Sophie Newman set off for their summer jobs on an ordinary Thursday. Just two days, but they have been the two most extraordinary days either twin will ever live - filled with danger and magic and mythical beings so unbelievable they stagger the mind. It started when a small, dapper man - the powerful human immortal Dr. John Dee, as it turns out - showed up at the bookstore where Josh worked. Before a quarter of an hour had passed, Dr. Dee had triumphed in a battle of magics with Josh's boss, Nick Fleming - who is, in reality, the immortal human Alchemyst Nicholas Flamel - completely destroyed the bookstore, kidnapped Nick's wife and stolen all but two pages of the Book of Abraham the Mage. Also known as the Codex, Abraham's book is an ancient and dangerous book of spells, prophecies and magical formulae. Dr. Dee and the Dark Elders he serves wish to use the Codex to bring the Elder Race back to preeminence on the earth, making humanity slaves at best, a food supply at worst. Luckily, the two pages Josh managed to tear out of the book before Dee stole it are the two most vital to the Dark Elders. Without the spell of Final Summoning contained on those two pages, the Dark Elders' plans cannot go forward. Convinced that Sophie and Josh are the twins of prophecy - those Abraham said would either save the world or destroy it - Nicholas Flamel has enlisted the aid and protection of the Warrior Maid, Scathach, as he seeks those who can Awaken the twins' powers and instruct them in the five elemental magics. Sophie was Awakened by Hekate in the Elder's California Shadow Realm, but unfortunately, Dee attacked before Josh could be Awakened. After visiting the Witch of Endor in Ojai (who taught Sophie the Magic of Air and also gave her the gift of all of her memories and knowledge) the beleaguered Nicholas, Scathach, Josh and Sophie have fled to Paris, the city of Flamel's birth and the home of Dr. Dee's dangerous ally, the human immortal Niccolo Machiavelli. In just two days, it seems that Josh and Sophie have gone from being ordinary 21st century teens to having their life threatened by the unreal, the mythic and the impossible at every turn. Josh, for one, is not happy about the situation. Nicholas Flamel has repeatedly told the twins that they MUST trust him, that he is trying to protect them both, but Josh is not convinced that this is entirely true. He has witnessed Flamel putting his twin in great peril, he

saw the Alchemyst risk Sophie's life at her Awakening with his own eyes. Frightened, angry, and feeling both isolated by and jealous of the changes in Sophie, Josh has decided to put his life in Flamel's hands for now, but he will not trust the man, not without knowing Flamel's full agenda. While Nicholas, Scathach and the twins seek sanctuary with one of the Alchemyst's former students in Paris, Perenelle Flamel is facing her own difficulties on Alcatraz. Dr. Dee has filled the cells of the former penitentiary with the most horrible of monsters, all of whom are a great threat to humanity. Perenelle must find out why, even as she seeks to escape and rejoin Nicholas and the twins, but for The Sorceress, as for her husband, time is running out. Without the Codex to reveal to recipe for the potion of immortality, Nicholas and Perenelle will age at least a year with each passing day. Within a month, their many centuries will catch up to them and they will wither and die. The breakneck adventure Michael Scott began in The Alchemyst continues here in The Magician. As before, Mr. Scott uses his incredible knowledge of folklore, mythology and history to populate the novel with a host of heroes, villains and beasts. The Comte de Saint-Germain, Niccolo Machiavelli and Jeanne D'Arc are all major players in this fascinating story. Varied mythical beasts and beings such as Aerop-Enap, Mars Ultor, the Valkyries and the Nidhogg all make appearances. In addition to his unparalleled grasp of the legends and histories of a myriad of cultures, Mr. Scott also uses an extensive knowledge of the settings, including Alcatraz Island and the Catacombs of Paris, to bring his story to vivid life. It's impossible to finish this book without wanting to begin The Sorceress, book three in the series, immediately and, if the successive novels in this series prove to be as wonderful as the first two, I have a feeling I'm going to devour them one after the other.

Perfect gift, great book series, very creative, product arrived in great condition!

What fun! In THE MAGICIAN, Michael Scott continues the harrowing saga of two normal American teenagers who find that the world they thought they knew is actually populated by immortals as well as creatures from myth and legend. They also find that more than a few of their fellow humans are possessed with magical abilities and that they themselves are among those. Some of the beings who join them on their challenging adventures to outwit the malevolent characters of Dr. John Dee and Machiavelli are themselves delightful to get to know. Scathach, the vegetarian vampire, is a great companion, and Count Saint-Germain, the rock musician who also happens to be an immortal who has mastered the Magic of Fire, is a friend indeed. The juxtaposition of the very ancient with the very modern lends the book a measure of good-natured humor to offset the fearsome, non-human antagonists that our hero and heroine must face. Another marvelous example of Scott's

ability to intermix the horrific and the humorous comes when the sorceress Perenelle frees Areop-Enap, a monstrous spider Elder, from its magic-guarded cell. When the monster leaps at her, Perenelle whaps it on the head with the flat side of her sword and exclaims, "Oh, stop that!" to which the hideous spider replies, "That hurt! ...You're always hurting me. You nearly killed me the last time I saw you." I do not mean to give the impression that the book is all humorous repartee, for much is indeed given over to very serious and dangerous adventures, but episodes of side-splitting laughter on the part of the reader do recur with fair regularity. The author obviously knows a wide variety of myths and legends and brings them to life in the here and now with a vivid, creative imagination. His literary pot is constantly being stirred, mixing the ancient with the modern and the serious with the humorous. It is this continually changing tone and tenor that makes the book somewhat more than a mere fantasy story for younger readers. I am well past the "younger" reader category, yet I found the book to be a light, delightful adventure. It is also a very fast read--I tend to read slowly but devoured it in three sittings. In truth, I hated to put it down at all, for one does get caught up in the adventure and is dying to know what happens next. Have I any criticisms of THE MAGICIAN? Well, it certainly isn't great literature with multi-layered symbolism and universal observations on the human condition, but we knew that before picking it up, and we expected to find some light, escapist, diversionary reading, which is precisely what the book delivers. It is most obviously the second book in Scott's "Nicholas Flamel" trilogy, and one does need the background provided in the first book (THE ALCHEMYST) to avoid being somewhat lost in the beginning of THE MAGICIAN. If you are coming to this book first, you may be making at least a small mistake; read the books of this series in order! Likewise, do not expect this book to provide a satisfactory denouement to the story line. It definitely leaves the reader hanging, on purpose, of course, since Scott does want us to buy the third book, THE SORCERESS. This book, therefore, has neither a satisfying beginning nor ending, but that is to be expected of the middle book in a trilogy. Two descriptions I did find joltingly unrealistic, and both continued to bother me through the rest of the book. Scott's descriptions of the wailing police sirens in the streets of Paris, France seem to describe the constant wailing or warbling tone of American sirens. Those are not used in France, where a rapidly alternating high-low tone signals the presence of an emergency vehicle. (To hear one, simply do a Google search on the phrase "French police siren.") The other inappropriate description is of a breakfast in Saint-Germain's home and includes fare such as sausage and pancakes, definitely not characteristic of a French breakfast! These glitches were enough to damage rather seriously the effect of chasing (and being chased by) monsters in the French capitol. Despite a few stylistic flaws, THE MAGICIAN is a fine frolic in fantasy literature and provides a nice bit of escapist reading for

adolescents through grown-up adults. It is an effective sequel to THE ALCHEMYST and an equally effective prelude to THE SORCERESS (a copy of which I have already ordered from .com). If one is exploring these reviews to choose a gift for a young but enthusiastic reader of fantasy literature, I recommend giving all three books as a set so they can be enjoyed in the proper sequence. (My reference to this series as a trilogy is predicated on the publication of THE SORCERESS as the latest and third book in Scott's "Nicholas Flamel" series; if all six planned volumes come to pass, I suppose I be referring to a hexad.) And as my final thought (I promise--this IS my final thought!), couldn't these books be transformed into some very entertaining motion pictures? If we can do it to C. S. Lewis' CHRONICLES OF NARNIA and to J. K. Rowling's HARRY POTTER books, we can surely do it to Michael Scott's creations!

Very good series so far. I have read the first two books in the series, this being the second. The story is interesting and the writing keeps you turning pages. I also find it interesting that a lot of the main characters and mythology are loosely based on real people, myths, and theories. Adds a nice bit of realism to the book that draws you in and keeps you wanting to read more. Several of the characters and mythos mentioned in the book have so intrigued me that I have often gone web crawling and wikipedia visiting to read more about them.

I have always read to my boys, ages 13 11 and 8, at bedtime. We started with little easy books. When my oldest was about 5 we began chapter books. We've read the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, The Harry Potter series, Wizard of Oz, just about anything we can get our hands on. We came across the book The Alchemist at a book fair last year. They loved the edge of your seat action. They would beg for me to read just one more chapter, which I usually did! This is book two of the series. We love it just as much as the first!! I even find myself reading ahead! I highly recommend this book to kids of all ages!! It is fun, full of interesting creatures, and little twists on history! It even prompts my boys to go look up the historical information to compare. Buy it! It's worth it....

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