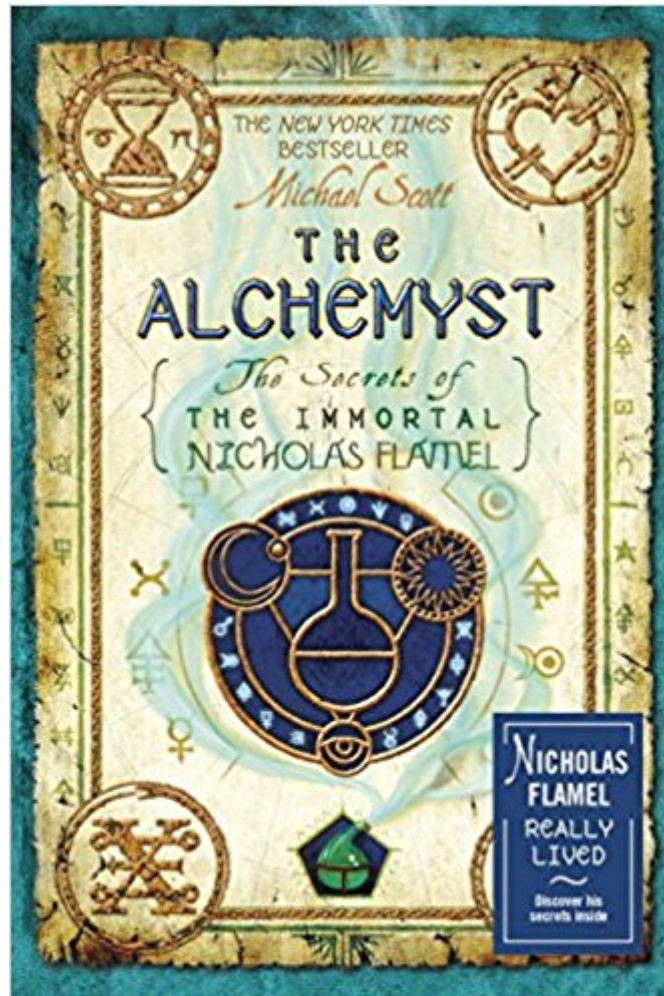




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The Alchemist: The Secrets Of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel



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 with The Alchemyst, book one. The truth: Nicholas Flamel was born in Paris on September 28, 1330. The legend: Nicholas Flamel discovered the secret of eternal life. The records show that he died in 1418. But his tomb is empty. Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. It's the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world. That's exactly what Dr. John Dee plans to do when he steals it. Humankind won't know what's happening until it's too late. And if the prophecy is right, Sophie and Josh Newman are the only ones with the power to save the world as we know it. Sometimes legends are true. And Sophie and Josh Newman are about to find themselves in the middle of the greatest legend of all time. "[A] A riveting fantasy While there is plenty here to send readers rushing to their encyclopedias those who read the book at face value will simply be caught up in the enthralling story. A fabulous read. SLJ, Starred Read the whole series! The Alchemyst The Magician The Sorceress The Necromancer The Warlock The Enchantress

Book Information

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Mystery & Detective

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Twin 15-year-old siblings Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs in San Francisco across the street from one another: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. In the very first chapter, armed goons garbed in black with "dead-looking skin and... marble eyes" (actually Golems) storm the bookshop, take Perry hostage and swipe a rare Book (but not before Josh snatches its two most important pages). The stolen volume is the Codex, an ancient text of magical wisdom. Nick Fleming is really Nicholas Flamel, the 14th-century alchemist who could turn base metal into gold, and make a potion that ensures immortality. Sophie and Josh learn that they are mentioned in the Codex's prophecies: "The two that are one will come either to save or to destroy the world." Mayhem ensues, as Irish author Scott draws on a wide knowledge of world mythology to stage a battle between the Dark Elders and their hired gun—Dr. John Dee—against the forces of good, led by Flamel and the twins (Sophie's powers are "awakened" by the goddess Hekate, who'd been living in an elaborate treehouse north of San Francisco). Not only do they need the Codex back to stop Dee and company, but the immortality potion must be brewed afresh every month. Time is running out, literally, for the Flamels. Proceeding at a breakneck pace, and populated by the likes of werewolves and vampires, the novel ends on a precipice, presumably to be picked up in volume two. Ages 12-up. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review. Grade 6-9—Scott uses a gigantic canvas for this riveting fantasy. The well-worn theme of saving the world from the forces of evil gets a fresh look here as he incorporates ancient myth and legend and sets it firmly, pitch-perfect, in present-day California. At the emotional center of the tale are contemporary 15-year-old twins, Josh and Sophie, who, it turns out, are potentially powerful magicians. They are spoken of in a prophecy appearing in the ancient Book of Abraham the Mage, all but two pages of which have been stolen by evil John Dee, alchemist and magician. The pursuit of the twins and Flamel by Dee and his allies to get the missing pages constitutes the book's central plot. Amid all this exhilarating action, Scott keeps his sights on the small details of character and dialogue and provides evocative descriptions of people, mythical

beings, and places. He uses as his starting point the figures of the historical alchemist Nicholas Flamel and his wife, who have found the secret of immortality, along with mythical beings, including the terrifying Scottish crow-goddess, the Morrigan; the three-faced Greek Hekate; the powerful Egyptian cat-goddess, Bastet; and Scathach, a legendary Irish woman warrior and vegetarian vampire. While there is plenty here to send readers rushing to their encyclopedias of mythology and alchemy, those who read the book at face value will simply be caught up in the enthralling story. A fabulous read.

—Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I will put this simply. Let's start with the flaws as there are so few. It uses many large words. That's it. It kinda ruins immersion for those who read a lot in a short period. Now to the long list of great things. It is an amazing story that sucks you up and keeps you sucked in. The words are written amazingly. It is a series book so you will have to buy others but it has a ton to offer. It has facinating fantasy elements and amazing ways to execute slow moments. There are slow moments but you won't know if you keep reading. They pass by and are wonderful.

Even though I just started this book, I already love it! I adore the Fantasy & Sci-Fi genre but more so in film & television than in books. Character/City names & other terminology used in such stories really throws me as it's often unpronounceable. And some of the world building is just so extravagant that it's stifling (while I admire the lush imagery conjured with such impeccable writing, the setting & rules/regulations of magic/science is actually really hard to follow. I prefer the film/television version of extravagant world building like Lord of the Rings. The books were so overwhelming that I couldn't even get through the first chapter of the first book! But the films were breathtaking!). This book, however, is really fun & easy to read! I love the descriptions of the setting & the magic. I love the blend of real life history & technology with magic & fantasy (this book reminds me a lot of "National Treasure" and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice

I love books that are based in history. When you can mix magic and history that is even better. I've been meaning to read this for years. It did not disappoint. I can't wait to start the next one.

Several friends recommended this, but it turns out it's too much of a Young Adult novel for my taste. I have tried to figure out what it is that leaves me mildly unsatisfied with YA fiction, and I just don't

know what it is. Even authors whose work I love, like Elizabeth George, leave me with that sort of empty feeling when they write for young adults (I'm thinking here of George's Whidbey Island series). The most interesting parts of *The Alchemyst* were those drawn from the historical figure it is based on, Nicholas Flamel. Best I can say is that it is well written, and belongs in the top drawer of YA fiction featuring witches and sorcerers.

This is my new favorite book and I recommend the series to anyone who enjoys history, mystery, exotic places, exciting characters, and adventure of course! From the very first chapter the author gets the ball rolling and before you know it you'll be staying up until wee hours of the morning telling yourself, "Just one more chapter". History buffs rejoice for this novel and its series contains mythologies from every corner of the earth and more.

I remember forever ago when I was beginning middle school, my English teacher recommended this book to me when he noticed I was a book and fiction enthusiast. It feels so nice to read it again. It's just as amazing as I remember although the excitement had faded away, I'm still very grateful for the mild sense of nostalgia it gave me.

While I must admit that this book does a good job of telling an entertaining story, it's tailored to a younger audience. The characters are a bit over dramatic and portrayed at the extreme of their respective stereotypical spectrum of good or evil. The author falls into some noticeable habits that can become annoying. For example the characters often seem to say things in a calm voice in times of extreme danger/stress which the other characters always interpret as being even more scary/forceful. The author, in the second half of the book appears to be attempting to copying the plot from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Chronicles of Narnia* where one of the children is going to betray the other. In conclusion, I'm glad I read it, I'm disappointed to pay 10 for a book which was probably only worth 3. Live and learn.

First of all this is considered a young adult series. It is aimed to the tweens/teens and 20 somethings. So keep that in mind when you are scoffing at the pop references and dialogue. The author is establishing some familiarity and recognition to our current 'pop' culture. Kids (people) like and need to identify with in some way or another. Second, I read a lot of books. I have read a lot of terrible books that were edited and written poorly. I just don't see it with this series. There are a couple mistakes on the kindle version but it was easy enough to let them go and read the books for

what they were. Again, I don't see the validation in saying these books were written "terribly" enough for people to stop reading them. It seems a little excessive. To each there own. That being said.. I am 36 and thought these books were a hoot. I started this book and kept going, one right after another. I love how he intertwined real characters from history and made them into real and believable characters. The story is a little out there but hey, it is about magic and immortals and 7 headed sea monsters! The imagery and imagination it provokes is just a really fun time. I even enjoyed the fact that there was no swearing or sexy stuff or even excessive violence, it's full of drama, mystery, battles and suspense and stands on its own without them. My only criticism is that he does introduce A LOT of characters, by the end its a little frustrating because he switches between times, worlds and characters quite a bit. However, it didn't make me like it any less. Books of the series in order 1. The Alchemyst 2. The Magician 3. The Sorceress 4. The Necromancer 5. The Warlock 6. The Enchantress (coming 2012) I loved these books. They were a great casual read.

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