

The Magician Study Guide

The Magician by Michael Scott (Irish author)

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Plot Summary

The Magician: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel is the second novel in the Nicholas Flamel series by Michael Scott. In this novel, twins Josh and Sophie find themselves suddenly transported to Paris moments after escaping Dr. John Dee in Ojai, California. Sophie, whose magic has only just been awakened, is exhausted from her efforts in helping them escape first Dr. Dee and later, Niccolo Machiavelli. The twins are finally offered a few minutes to decompress and begin thinking about all that has happened to them. Josh is worried that he cannot trust Flamel while Sophie is all too willing to accept everything that is happening around them. When Dr. Dee and Machiavelli attack again, this time with Valkyries and an ancient monster, it does not seem that it matters which immortal they can trust but whether than can survive creatures that are not even supposed to exist. The Magician is an exciting second installment in the Flamel series that will leave readers begging for more.

Niccolo Machiavelli is called away from an auction just seconds before finally winning the masks he has waited centuries to own. Dr. Dee, a man Machiavelli does not like, but willingly works with because they both serve the Dark Elders, wants Machiavelli to locate Nicholas Flamel and his twin companions and retain them until Dee can arrive in Paris. Machiavelli, who is the head of the Direction Generale de la Securite Etericure, or DGSE, is able to use all his resources to chase after the immortal and his companions. Just as Machiavelli seems to have trapped Flamel, Josh, Sophie, and Scathach outside the Sacre-Coeur Sophie conjures up a fog with spell she recalls from the Witch of Endor's memories.

Flamel knows that they must find a place to rest and regain their strength. Therefore, he has Scathach sit with the twins in a diner while he goes to make a phone call to the Witch of Endor in Ojai. As they wait, Scathach and the twins come under attack by local police officials. Scathach manages to fight them off and get the twins out of the diner safely. They reunite with Flamel who tells them they are to meet a friend under the Eiffel Tower. The four split into groups of two. Sophie goes with Scathach and learns more about Scathach's long history while Josh goes with Flamel and sounds him out about some of the things Dee told him in Ojai.

At the Eiffel Tower, Josh, Sophie, Flamel, and Scathach meet up with the Comte de Saint-Germain, an old student of Flamel's who is now something of a rock star. Germain creates a fireworks show over the Eiffel Tower with his fire magic in order to distract Machiavelli and his police force and allow the group to escape. Flamel, however, remains behind to distract Machiavelli's policemen. Flamel is eventually caught, but he uses a spell to change matter into sugar and cause ants to cover the policemen.

At Germain's home, Scathach is thrilled to find Joan of Arc, who has recently married Germain. Joan and Germain welcome Scathach and the twins in their home, giving them food and a safe place to rest. Later, Joan teaches Josh how to use a sword, specifically Clarent, the twin of Excaliber. Germain teaches Sophie how to use fire



magic. Just before dawn, while everyone is sleeping, the house is attacked. Josh finds himself coming face to face with an ancient monster called Nidhogg. As Josh and Scathach fight Nidhogg in the kitchen, Joan and Sophie fight two Valkyrie in the living room. Nidhogg takes Scathach and leaves. Josh follows. Josh fights the monster using Clarent, and finds himself filled with a kind of power each time he stabs the creature. As the creature begins to die, Dee catches up to Josh and convinces him to go with Dee and Machiavelli.

Flamel realize what Josh has done and goes after him, but reaches him too late. Nidhogg releases Scathach, but then she is taken into the water by a servant of Machiavelli known as Dagon. Flamel, Joan, Sophie, and Germain go after Josh, finding him the catacombs where his powers have been awakened by Mars Ultor. Mars gives Josh his memories. However, when Flamel and the others come to rescue him, Dee becomes so angry that he kills Mars. Dee and Machiavelli try one last time to take the twins from Flamel because they have finally come to realize that these twins are the twins of legend, but the twins use their powers together as one and defeat them once again.



Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 1-5

Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 1-5 Summary

The novel begins with a brief excerpt from Nicholas Flamel's journal informing the reader that Flamel and the twins whom he believes are the twins spoken of in the Book of Abraham are in Paris after escaping Dr. John Dee in Ojai, California. Dee has the Book of Abraham now except two pages Josh managed to tear free and this fact leaves Flamel and his wife, Perenelle, only weeks to live. This brief note explains the important elements of the events that take place in the first book of the series.

In Chapter 1, Niccolo Machiavelli is at an auction at which he hopes to buy Japanese Kabuki masks he has wanted to add to his collection for centuries. However, as the bidding begins, Machiavelli is called away by his cell phone. The caller is Dr. John Dee. Dee wants Machiavelli to track down and capture Nicholas Flamel and twins who are believed to be in his custody. Machiavelli learns of Dee's latest failure in capturing Flamel and agrees to help only because they both serve the Dark Elders.

In Chapter 2, after traveling a ley line, Josh Newman finds himself in a closet in Paris. As he, his sister Sophie, Flamel, and Scathach leave the closet, they realize they are trapped inside a church in Paris known as the Sacre-Coeur. As they try to find a way out, Machiavelli rushes toward them in his car, having been alerted of a silent alarm inside the building from his job as head of the Direction Generale de la Securite Etericure or DGSE, the French secret service.

In Chapter 3, Sophie alerts the others of Machiavelli's presence because she can smell the snake-like scent of his magic. A second later all the candles in the building are extinguished as a wax monster comes to life. Scathach tries to fight it, but the soft wax only absorbs her blows. Sophie finally destroys the creature by melting its wax with the heat of her aura. Flamel finally gets the locked door open and they escape the church just in time to see Machiavelli and a large police force arrive at the bottom of the stairs.

In Chapter 4, as Flamel and Machiavelli speak, Flamel tells Sophie with sign language to create a fog. Quickly a thick white fog that smells of vanilla fills the area. Sophie, Flamel, Scathach, and Josh make their way carefully down the steps right in front of the police and escape into the street.

In Chapter 5, Perenelle wakes in Alcatraz due to the sound of ghost voices. Perenelle's magic has been absorbed by a sphinx that has been sent to imprison her, but the ability to hear ghosts is a gift she was born with and therefore she can still use it despite the sphinx. This gives Perenelle an idea about how she might escape her current situation.



Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The first chapter of this novel introduces a new character. Niccolo Machiavelli was an Italian historian, philosopher, humanist, and writer based in Florence during the Renaissance. Machiavelli is a member of the elite group of people made immortal by the Dark Elders. Due to this fact, Machiavelli finds himself forced to do the bidding of the Dark Elder who gave him immortality. If Machiavelli displeases this mysterious Dark Elder, he faces the possibility that the gift will be taken from him and he will become a pile of dust. For this reason, when Dr. John Dee calls and asks Machiavelli to find Flamel and detain him, Machiavelli agrees.

Readers of the previous novel will recall that Dee is a servant of the Dark Elders who has been chasing Flamel for hundreds of years in an attempt to get the Book of Abraham. Dee wants to use the book to raise Danu Talis, the home of the Elders, and restore Earth to its previous splendor. However, Flamel knows that if this happens, the humans will be turned into slaves or killed for food for the Elders and he cannot allow this to happen. For this reason, Flamel has fought for hundreds of years to keep the book from the Dark Elders, even making himself immortal so that he can continue to protect the book. However, the spell that keeps Flamel and his wife, Perenelle, immortal must be taken once a month and the recipe is constantly changing. For this reason, Flamel needs to get the book back before the end of the month or he and Perenelle will die.

The Book of Abraham has a passage that talks about a set of twins who will be more powerful than any other magic users. Flamel believes that Josh and Sophie are those twins because of the color of their auras. For this reason, Flamel took Sophie to have her powers awakened and to learn how to use air magic. Flamel hopes to have Josh's powers awakened as well and to have the twins learn each of the four elemental magics. However, they must first escape the servants of the Dark Elders who want to capture the twins for their own use.



Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 6-13

Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 6-13 Summary

In Chapter 6, Sophie is exhausted from using magic. Flamel knows they must find a safe place to hide soon, but he has not been to Paris in so long that he does not know who might still live there. They are nearly attacked by a police officer, so Flamel incapacitates him. This causes some of Josh's doubts about Flamel to come back to the surface.

In Chapter 7, Machiavelli orders the police to keep searching for Flamel despite the resistance of one man. Machiavelli then talks to his good friend and long-time servant, Dagon, about what Flamel might do next. As a result, Machiavelli finds himself searching his private files for an immortal who lives in Paris that Flamel might turn to. This results in two names, Catherine de Medici and the Comte de Saint-Germain. Machiavelli decides to put his resources on Saint-Germain.

In Chapter 8, Flamel takes Scathach, Josh, and Sophie to a small diner before he goes off in search of a phone. Flamel wants to call the Witch of Endor in order to learn if there are any friendly immortals in Paris. As they wait, Scathach makes Sophie promise not to use her powers anymore because overuse of the powers could cause Sophie to suffer spontaneous combustion. Scathach also attempts to distract Sophie to help her deal with the Witch of Endor's memories.

In Chapter 9, Flamel finds a small video store that offers internet and international phone calls. Flamel uses a fake story about wanting to do a story about the destruction of her store in order to speak with the Witch of Endor who does not have a phone. Flamel tells the witch what he needs and she tells him to wait under the Eiffel Tower for a few minutes at the top of the hour for three hours. If no one shows up, then there is no friendly immortals in Paris.

In Chapter 10, back at the small diner, Scathach and the twins are confronted by several police officers. Josh and Sophie escape out the back while Scathach fights the intruders. Josh tells Sophie they should go and risk the situation on their own. Josh does not trust Flamel or Scathach based on some things Dee told him in Ojai. However, Sophie looks at Scathach as the sister she always wanted and refuses to leave. After Scathach disposes of twelve officers, they reunite with Flamel and begin to make their way to the Eiffel Tower.

In Chapter 11, Dee is angry that Machiavelli allowed Flamel and the others to get away. As Machiavelli surveys the damage to the diner, he tells his servant, Dagon, to contact the Disir.

In Chapter 12, Josh suggests the four of them break into pairs to avoid detection. Flamel agrees, but insists that Josh go with him and Sophie with Scathach. Josh



reluctantly agrees. As they make their way through the city, Sophie learns more about Danu Talis and Scathach's long history while Josh confronts Flamel about some of the things Dee told him.

In Chapter 13, Perenelle has identified a ghost she believes can help her escape the sphinx. The man is Juan Manuel de Ayala, the explorer who first discovered Alcatraz Island. Juan is heartbroken that the beautiful island was used as a prison, therefore when Perenelle tells him she is being held prisoner there, he begins to help her by making noise that frightens the sphinx and sends it in search of the source.

Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 6-13 Analysis

In these chapters, Sophie finds herself exhausted from using magic. Due to this, it is important they find a place to rest. The idea that Sophie could combust if she does not rest before using her magic again makes this need to rest even more important. Tension fills the novel as Flamel goes in search of help while Machiavelli seems to be moving in on the group, seeming to have information that puts him a step ahead of Flamel and his companions.

In these chapters, the reader also learns more about Scathach and Flamel's past. The reader learns about Danu Talis, the great island where the Elders lived. This is also where Scathach lived until she made the decision to come to Earth and help the humans who were being mistreated by the Elders and their companions. The reader might recognize the similarities in some of this story with stories of Roman and Greek gods. At the same time, the reader is introduced to some more recent history with Flamel's stories of Richelieu.

Perenelle, Flamel's wife, is left on Alcatraz Island where Dee took her after leaving Ojai. Perenelle is being held captive by a sphinx who has stolen her powers with her nearness. However, Perenelle can speak to ghosts and hopes to use one of these, the explorer who first discovered Alcatraz, will help her escape the sphinx.



Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 14-20

Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 14-20 Summary

In Chapter 14, Flamel and Josh arrive at the Eiffel Tower first and are quickly joined by Scathach and Sophie. Flamel spots a man coming toward them and at first Josh thinks they are in trouble, but then Flamel tells him this person is a friend. The man introduces himself to Josh and Sophie as the Comte de Saint-Germain. Germain tries to convince Sophie and Josh he is now a famous musician but neither recognizes his name. When Flamel spots Machiavelli and several police officers, he asks Germain to create a distraction. Germain creates fireworks over the Eiffel Tower and on the tower itself.

In Chapter 15, Machiavelli becomes angry when he sees Germain, Scathach, and the twins escape through the crowd. Machiavelli sends his officers after Flamel, but feels safe allowing Germain and the others escape because he knows where they are going. Germain takes Josh, Sophie, and Scathach through the streets of Paris to his home.

In Chapter 16, Flamel is cornered by several police officers on the streets. Flamel lies on the ground as he is told, but he uses his magic to conjure up some ants deep in the soil and sends them to attack the officers by covering them in transmuted sugar.

In Chapter 17, Josh and Sophie discover that Germain is married to Joan of Arc, the only other person known living who has a gold aura like Sophie's. Joan and Scathach are old friends. In fact, Sophie learns that Scathach saved Joan's life when she was supposedly burned at the stake. It was a blood transfusion Flamel performed from Scathach to Joan all those years ago that made Joan immortal.

In Chapter 18, Machiavelli is ordered by Dee to watch Flamel and the twins until he arrives. Machiavelli begins to entertain the idea of going in early and taking the glory, but a call from his Master changes his mind. A conversation with Dagon informs Machiavelli that the Disir are on their way along with the ancient monster, Nidhogg. Dee settles back on a flight to Paris with the knowledge that Machiavelli will do as he is told.

In Chapter 19, Flamel wanders through the old part of Paris until he comes to a building that was once the home he shared with his wife. Flamel takes something from the wall of the building that he hid there hundreds of years ago before going in search of Germain's house.

In Chapter 20, Perenelle leaves her cell when the sphinx has gone far enough away. As Perenelle looks for a way out of the prison she becomes aware of spider webs throughout the prison. Perenelle then looks into a room guarded by this same spider web and finds Vetala, a strange bat-humanoid creature.



Saturday, 2nd June: Chapters 14-20 Analysis

Two new characters are introduced in these chapters. Comte de Saint-Germain is another historical figure pulled from true history. The Count's background is often confused with other historical figures and there is a great deal of confusion as to his true origins, but the Count was often known as an alchemist and musician, as he is described in this novel. The other new character is the Count's wife, Joan of Arc. Joan was a young French woman who heard voices, voices she believed came from God, telling her to reclaim her home country from the English. Joan was eventually burned at the stake, but in this novel Joan was saved by Scathach and made immortal by a blood transfusion of Scathach's vampire blood.

The author plays fast and loose with history in these books, combining historical characters who never would have lived in the same time periods and therefore never met. In this book, the Comte de Saint-Germain is married to Joan of Arc, a woman who existed three hundred years before the Count's birth. It is a fascinating idea, however, and the author seems prepared for all questions about these characters and their current situations.

Flamel sacrifices himself for the children in the hopes of keeping them safe in this section of the novel. Flamel gets away from danger with his magic, but continues to worry about the twins as he struggles to find a way to get away from his enemies. At the same time his wife fights to free herself in Alcatraz. As these characters fight to find freedom from their enemies, Machiavelli tries to hunt them down using any means he can, but is reined in by his master and told to wait for Dee. This shows how important it is for an immortal to remain loyal to his master. It also shows the differences between Machiavelli and Dee.



Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 21-29

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 21-29 Summary

In Chapter 21, Josh wakes when he hears his sister scream. Joan is with Sophie and assures Josh that her nightmares are abating. Germain then comes down and invites Josh up to his office. Germain's office is filled with computers and musical equipment that he uses to make his music. When Josh tells Germain that he lost his phone and computer in the fight with Dee, Germain gives him his choice of three laptops.

In Chapter 22, Flamel arrives at Germain's and tells the group about his travels through the city. Joan tells everyone that she has taught Sophie how to deal with her memories from the Witch of Endor and begun to train her to use her aura to protect herself. Flamel then shows everyone what he took from his old house, the sword that is twin to Excalibur, Clarent. Flamel wants Scathach to teach Josh to use Clarent and Germain to teach Sophie fire magic.

In Chapter 23, Josh and Sophie talk alone. They send emails to their parents to reassure them of their safety and then talk about Josh's concerns over Flamel. Although Josh continues to not trust Flamel, Sophie continues to insist that he should.

In Chapter 24, Dr. John Dee arrives in Paris. Machiavelli tells Dee where he believes Flamel and the others are. Then they discuss how to deal with them. In this, Machiavelli introduces Dee to the Disir, three Valkyrie women who have their own reasons to kill Scathach. These women have brought with them the ancient creature, Nidhogg.

In Chapter 25, Joan joins Scathach in attempting to teach Josh how to use a sword. At the same time, the Comte de Saint-Germain begins to show Sophie how to use fire magic. Germain gives Sophie a tattoo on her wrist that she can use as a trigger to help her focus and use the magic. It is simple and Sophie is surprised how quickly she can begin to use her fire magic.

In Chapter 26, Perenelle has discovered even more creatures in the cells of Alcatraz and begins to wonder what Dee has gathered them for. As Perenelle escapes the depths of the prison, she realizes she is being followed by a large number of spiders.

In Chapter 27, Josh and Sophie have a snack together before going back to bed.

In Chapter 28, Machiavelli and Dee sit in Machiavelli's car and watch the Disir, the three Valkyrie women, prepare to call Nidhogg to them. Dee begins to express concern when he hears the story of the Nidhogg, especially the fact that the last time the Nidhogg was released it destroyed a whole race of Indians, but by then it is too late.

In Chapter 29, Josh is alone in the kitchen when he begins to hear noises in the garden. Josh goes to the kitchen door and watches as something lays across the stone wall and crushes it. Josh watches the creature move into the garden before he finally finds his



voice and calls for help. Scathach arrives first and begins to battle the creature as it tries to force its way into the house, but then the creature grabs it in its paw and causes her to drop her swords.

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 21-29 Analysis

Josh and Sophie get some sleep, but Sophie's dreams are disturbed by the memories the Witch of Endor have given her. Joan uses her aura and her own magic to help Sophie deal with these memories and to learn how to use her own aura's powers. At the same time, Sophie learns how to use fire magic, the second elemental magic that Flemel wants her to learn. Josh also gets to learn a new skill. Due to the fact that they know Dee has Excalibur, Flemel has rescued Claret, its twin, from the house where he hid it hundreds of years before.

As Josh and Sophie and their new companions settle down to rest, thinking they are safe and that Machiavelli has no idea where they are, Machiavelli and Dee plan their attack on Germain's house. Machiavelli has summoned the Disir, three female Valkyries, who have a grudge against Scathach and have no problem killing her. In fact, since Dee killed the World Tree, they have access to the Nidhogg and plan to use him to kill Scathach.

Nidhogg is a creature from Norse mythology who chewed at or was held prisoner by the roots of the World Tree. In this book, Nidhogg was held prisoner by the World Tree because he could not be controlled, but he could be a useful weapon in the future. By killing the World Tree, Dee set him free. The Nidhogg also has a grudge against Scathach and wants to kill her. For this reason, it seems perfect weapon to use against her despite the fact that the last time the Nidhogg was set free it supposedly disposed of the entire Anasazi Indian tribe in New Mexico.



Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 30-38

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 30-38 Summary

In Chapter 30, Sophie goes running at her brother's cries. She runs into Flamel but he is too exhausted to help. Joan comes to Sophie's aid and together they rush down to the front hall. They are greeted by two Disir. Joan engages in a sword fight and Sophie uses her magic to stop the two warriors.

In Chapter 31, Josh attacks Nidhogg in an attempt to get it to let Scathach go. Scathach tells Josh to cut off one of the claws, but slashing at the creature does nothing. When Josh stabs the creature in its tongue, the tongue immediately turns black. Nidhogg retreats out of the house, taking Scathach with it. Josh follows.

In Chapter 32, Machiavelli gets Dee out of the car just before Nidhogg comes into the alley and crushes it. They watch as first one of the Disir and then Josh chase after Nidhogg. Machiavelli gives permission to Dagon to follow in hopes of killing Scathach.

In Chapter 33, Sophie beats the Disir by encasing them both in a block of ice.

In Chapter 34, Germain comes downstairs with his earphones still in his ears and is shocked to see the aftermath of the attack. When Sophie discovers that Josh is gone, she is convinced Nidhogg took him and Scathach followed, but Joan and Flamel suspect the opposite is true. Germain urges Flamel and Sophie to leave as they hear the approaching sirens. Joan decides to go with them.

In Chapter 35, as Josh catches up with Nidhogg when it is trapped by several buildings, he watches the Disir climb its back. Josh thinks she is going to kill Nidhogg, but then realizes she is attempting to kill Scathach. In desperation, Josh stabs Nidhogg in the tail and is shocked to see the wound quickly turn to rock. Nidhogg breaks loose and begins to run again with Josh on its trail. Machiavelli and Dee are also following in a car.

In Chapter 36, Joan, Flamel, and Sophie take Joan's car to follow Nidhogg. Flamel suddenly remembers he gave the last two pages of the Book of Abraham to Josh and is frightened that they will now fall into Dee's hands.

In Chapter 37, Dee tells Machiavelli that Perenelle has escaped her cell on Alcatraz, but he has sent Morrigan after her.

In Chapter 38, Josh begins to feel great strength, endurance, and experiencing memories that are not his own. It is the power of Clarent and it makes Josh feel exhilarated. Nidhogg reaches the banks of the Seine, but the lava rock growing over its tail and back have made it too heavy to reach the water. As Machiavelli and Dee watch, Josh arrives and prepares to kill Nidhogg, but the Disir jumps down and attacks him.



Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 30-38 Analysis

Nidhogg attacks Germain's house and kidnaps Scathach with the intention of killing her. Josh goes after them, showing his bravery and his desire to repay Scathach for the many times she has protected him and Sophie despite his growing distrust of Flamel. As Josh stabs the creature, he discovers a sense of power that is close to what Sophie feels with her awakened magic. Josh likes the feeling and is even more determined to have his powers awakened.

Flamel is worried that Josh will give or will be captured and forced to surrender, the last two pages of the Book of Abraham to Dee. This will give Dee what he needs to bring Danu Talis back up from its current resting place. This will mean the end of humanity as the world knows it, exactly what Flamel has been fighting against for hundreds of years. Just as Flamel has found the twins and believes he can save humanity, Dee has stolen the book and threatens to destroy humanity. This is what Flamel is fighting for even if the twins are not sure they can truly trust him.



Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 39-49

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 39-49 Summary

In Chapter 39, Perenelle speaks with de Ayala and learns that Dee also imprisoned something else on Alcatraz in a cell far beneath the island. Perenelle asks de Ayala to take her there even as she becomes aware of Morrigan's arrival.

In Chapter 40, as Josh begins to battle the Disir, Sophie becomes aware that he is in immediate danger. Dee helps Josh escape the Disir with fire magic. Josh drives away with Machiavelli and Dee in the mistaken belief that Scathach has abandoned him to the Disir and the Nidhogg.

In Chapter 41, Joan arrives at the banks of the Seine just as Josh drives off in Machiavelli's borrowed car. Joan battles the Disir as Flamel and Sophie free Scathach from the Nidhogg. Nidhogg falls into the water when the dock under him gives way due to his weight. Just as they think they are safe, Dagon jumps out of the water, grabs Scathach, and jumps back in.

In Chapter 42, Perenelle makes her way into the bowels of Alcatraz Island and finds that Dee has imprisoned an unknown prisoner behind a web of ancient spells. When Perenelle finally reaches the cell, she recognizes the prisoner as Areop-Enap.

In Chapter 43, when Josh tries to leave Dee and Machiavelli to return to Sophie, they tell him that they can awaken his powers immediately.

In Chapter 44, Joan, Flamel, and Sophie go in search of Josh, trying not to worry about Scathach. Joan tracks Josh to Machiavelli's burned out car. Flamel then encourages Sophie to use her twin connection to Josh to track him further. They track Josh to a manhole in an alley.

In Chapter 45, Perenelle asks Areop-Enap, an elder, how she came to be there and what she might know about Dee's plans, but Areop-Enap does not know anything. However, Areop-Enap agrees to help Perenelle fight against Dee.

In Chapter 46, Machiavelli and Dee take Josh through the sewers of Paris and into the catacombs. Josh suffers from a fear of small spaces and he is struggling. Machiavelli offers to take him out, but Josh declines.

In Chapter 47, Germain meets Joan, Flamel, and Sophie in his car and takes them to another entrance into the catacombs.

In Chapter 48, Josh is shocked by the bones that line the walls of the catacombs. Josh wants to go back, but Machiavelli tells him it is too late. As they enter a chamber, Machiavelli warns Josh not to show any fear or panic. In the chamber are two satyrs who inspect Josh, making him feel fear and panic as they touch him.



In Chapter 49, Sophie is deeply concerned for Josh and grows more so as she realizes where it is that Machiavelli and Dee are taking him.

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 39-49 Analysis

Perenelle is learning more and more about Dee's plans, but she still does not know how it all fits together. Perenelle is worried that Dee is planning something huge that she and Nicholas cannot handle alone, but she is lucky to discover the imprisoned elder, Areop-Enap who is willing to help her.

Flamel is worried that Josh will allow Dee to win his trust and he will give him the final pages of the Book of Abraham. While Josh is not sure if he should trust Flamel, Flamel himself is beginning to worry that his trust in Josh might have been a mistake.

Josh goes with Dee and Machiavelli into the catacombs below Paris in order to have his powers awakened by an unnamed person. Josh is frightened, but he seems to trust Dee and Machiavelli more than he does Flamel, Joan, the Count, and Scathach. This is unfortunate because the reader can see that even though Flamel might have an agenda that is not entirely selfless, he does hope to save all of humanity. At the same time, Josh seems to have discovered a softer side to Machiavelli, suggesting that Machiavelli might be a source of hope in the future.



Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 50-54 and Monday, 4th June: Chapter 55

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 50-54 and Monday, 4th June: Chapter 55 Summary

In Chapter 50, Dee and Machiavelli have taken Josh to Mars Ultor, the God of War. Mars agrees to awaken Josh's powers as long as Josh understands that this act is not a gift, that he will be expected to repay the act someday. Josh agrees. As Mars awakens Josh's powers he discovers such an amazing power in him that he decides to give him an additional gift.

In Chapter 51, Perenelle manages to capture and overpower Morrigan with Areop-Enap's help.

In Chapter 52, Sophie rushes into Mars' chamber to stop Josh's awakening, unaware that she is too late. Sophie has memories of Mars from the Witch of Endor and uses them to distract Mars. Mars asks Sophie to lift his curse, but Sophie refuses. As Flamel escapes with Josh and Sophie, Dee becomes enraged and kills Mars.

In Chapter 53, Morrigan tries to convince Perenelle that her brief success is nothing in the face of all that Dee has planned. Morrigan tells Perenelle that Nicholas and the twins are about to perish in Paris, but Perenelle has faith that they will survive.

In Chapter 54, Machiavelli and Dee wait for Flamel and the others on top of Notre Dame. When they come out of the catacombs there, Machiavelli and Dee animate the grotesques and gargoyles that decorate the building. At first it seems that there are too many for the alchemist and his friends to escape, but when Sophie suggests that she and Josh use their magic together, they become powerful enough to defeat them all. Machiavelli and Dee watch, realizing that Josh and Sophie are the twins of legend and whoever controls them controls the world. This makes them more determined than ever to gain possession of the twins.

In Chapter 55, Flamel, Josh, and Sophie board a train to London using fake passports provided by Germain. Flamel tells them he is taking them to see Gilgamesh the King in hopes that he will train them in the element of water.

Sunday, 3rd June: Chapters 50-54 and Monday, 4th June: Chapter 55 Analysis

Josh has his powers awakened, but by someone who will one day ask for a favor in return. The reader is unclear if the death of Mars changes this situation or if it only changes who will come looking for a favor. At any rate, Josh has had his powers



awakened, but now he is cursed with all of Mars' memories as Sophie was cursed with the Witch of Endor's memories.

Flamel and the twins manage to get away, but in doing so, they prove their value to Machiavelli and Dee. Both men realize that whoever has the twins has all the power and this causes them to become more determined to get the twins from Flamel than before. Now the reader wonders what they will do to steal the twins from Flamel. Not only this, but the reader wonders if Josh's lack of trust in Flamel will cause him to turn to Dee or Machiavelli at a later point. This leaves a great deal of questions to be answered in the following books.



Characters

Josh Newman

Josh Newman is the son of two archeologists and paleontologists. Due to this, Josh and his family has moved around a lot in their lives until recently when his parents took teaching jobs in San Francisco. Josh began what he thought was a normal job at a book shop that suddenly turned a crazy turn less than three days ago when a man, Dr. John Dee, stole a very important book from Josh's employer. Now Josh finds himself in Paris with a sister who has suddenly begun using magic.

Josh has been told that he and his sister are rare twins who have been written about in the Book of Abraham. Due to his aura and that of his sister, it is thought that Josh and his sister Sophie are meant to save the world. Josh is not sure who to trust. Josh spoke with Dee and learned some things about his employer and now his guardian, Nicholas Flamel. Flamel has told Josh and Sophie that their auras mean that they are special, they are meant to do great things, but Dee has told Josh that Flamel is a liar and a con artist. Josh is no longer sure who to believe, but he knows he and his sister are in danger.

Josh feels distant from his sister because she has all these new magical abilities and he has yet to have his magical abilities awakened. This frustrates Josh and makes him feel left out. When Josh wields Clarent and feels some of its magic, he is exhilarated and more excited than ever to have his abilities awakened, even at the cost of owing a Dark Elder in return for having his powers awakened.

Sophie Newman

Sophie went from being a normal teenager to suddenly having all these powers and memories of the Witch of Endor one day. Sophie finds herself able to do things as varied as blowing up tornadoes and creating fog while at the same time filled with memories that are not her own. In fact, there are so many memories in Sophie's mind that she cannot recall the faces of her own parents or her own phone number.

Sophie believes in Flamel and trusts him without condition. However, Josh does not trust Flamel. This causes Sophie to begin thinking over the things that have happened in the past few days and to begin to question her own blind trust of Flamel. Sophie does not know who to trust or what to do, but she knows she must remain with Flamel to learn all four of the elements of magic.

Nicholas Flamel

Nicholas Flamel is an alchemist who lived in the fourteenth century. Flamel came across the Book of Abraham during his lifetime and realized it was something that needed to be



protected from those who did not have the best interests of humans in mind. For this reason, Flamel began using a potion in the book that gave him immortality. However, this potion changes every month, but must be administered every month to keep the benefits.

In the first book of this series, the Book of Abraham is stolen from Flamel by Dr. John Dee. Without the book, Flamel cannot renew the immortality potion and he is quickly dying. Flamel has also found who he believes is a set of twins mentioned in the Book of Abraham who have the potential to save the world or to destroy it. Flamel is trying to keep these twins safe, but Dee also knows about them and is interested in learning if they truly are the twins mentioned in the book. For this reason, Flamel finds himself on the run from Dee and other servants of the Dark Elders even as each day takes a little more of his life from him.

Scathach

Scathach is a warrior who once lived in Danu Talis. Scathach saw what the Elders and their companions were doing to the humans on Earth and she decided to go to Earth to protect the humans who could not protect themselves. This caused a great deal of trouble for Scathach among her family members and others she left behind on Danu Talis, especially after Danu Talis fell. For this reason, Scathach has spent thousands of years fighting against those she once called family and friends.

Scathach believes in Flamel and believes that the twins are those discussed in the Book of Abraham. For this reason, Scathach has joined them to protect the twins from the Dark Elders. However, Scathach has angered a great many of creatures over the years and three of them come after her in this novel. The Disir are Valkyries who blame Scathach for the demise of their people. Dagon is a fish-like creature who is a servant of Niccolo Machiavelli who blames Scathach for the destruction of his people. Finally, Nidhogg blames Scathach for his imprisonment. All three come after Scathach and she disappears when Dagon drags her into the River Seine.

Perenelle Flamel

Perenelle Flamel is Nicholas' wife. Perenelle is a witch with incredible powers. However, Dee has captured her and placed her in Alcatraz with a sphinx as her guard in order to take away her powers. Perenelle can speak to ghosts and she finds one who is sympathetic to her and distracts the sphinx long enough for Perenelle to regain some of her power and escape the prison.

Perenelle is on an island with no way off. When Dee learns that she has left her cell, he sends Morrigan to kill her. Perenelle, however, discovers that Dee has also imprisoned an Elder, a large spider-like creature, who helps her imprison Morrigan.



Dr. John Dee

Dr. John Dee is an immortal who received immortality from a Dark Elder. For this reason, Dee finds himself a servant of this Dark Elder unless he wants to have his immortality taken away. Dee has spent hundreds of years searching for Flamel and the Book of Abraham. Finally Dee has gotten the Book of Abraham, but it is missing the final two pages, the two pages he most needs in order to raise Danu Talis. For this reason, Dee continues to chase Flamel in the hopes of getting these final pages. Dee also finds the twins interested and wonders if Flamel might be correct in believing they are the twins mentioned in the Book of Abraham.

Niccolo Machiavelli

Niccolo Machiavelli was a historian during his lifetime. Now Machiavelli is a collector and in this century he is also the head of the Direction Generale de la Securite Exterieur, the French secret service. When Dee calls and tells Machiavelli that Flamel is in Paris, Machiavelli immediately agrees to help because, like Dee, Machiavelli also owes his immortality to a Dark Elder. Machiavelli is older and wiser than Dee, however, and attempts to capture Flamel and the twins without creating unexplainable chaos, but fails. In the end, Machiavelli becomes aware of how valuable the twins are and it is suggested that he will attempt to gain control of them as the series continues to develop.

Comte de Saint-Germain

The Comte de Saint-Germain is something of a mysterious figure in history who reportedly was an alchemist and possibly was involved in the occult. Germain is also known to have been a great composer. In this novel, Germain continues to pursue music and has become something of a famous techno musician. Germain aids Flamel and the twins when they arrive in Paris, even teaching Sophie the magic of fire.

Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc was a famous teenager who saw visions of God that told her to take back her home country from the English. Joan of Arc was eventually burned at the stake. However, in this novel Scathach claims that she saved Joan from the stake and then gave her blood to help heal her injuries that resulted in Joan becoming immortal. Joan and Germain have been married for four years when this novel begins, something no one knew because Joan likes to keep under the radar. Joan helps Flamel when Josh disappears. Joan also teaches Sophie how to use her aura to protect her.



Juan Manuel de Ayala

Juan Manuel de Ayala discovered Alcatraz Island long ago. Juan's spirit returned to Alcatraz after his death because of his deep love of the island during his lifetime. Perenelle hears his voice while she is imprisoned in Alcatraz and asks for his help. Juan distracts the sphinx long enough for Perenelle to escape and then helps her find the spider-like elder who helps her defeat Morrigan.



Objects/Places

Laptop

Germain gives Josh a laptop when he learns that Josh lost his phone and computer when Dee cut down the World Tree.

Citroen 2CV

Joan owns a Citroen 2CV that was a special gift from Germain. The car is damaged during the fight with the Disir at the Seine.

Clarent

Clarent is the twin sword to Excalibur. Flamel found Clarent hundreds of years ago and hid it in the wall of the building where he and Perenelle once lived. Flamel retrieves the sword while in Paris after he witnessed Dee using Excalibur.

Excalibur

Excalibur is the legendary sword that King Arthur took from stone and carried most of his life. Dee has found Excalibur and used it in the previous novel to cut down the World Tree.

Butterfly Tattoos

Germain has butterfly tattoos that he uses as a trigger for his fire magic.

Catacombs

Dee and Machiavelli take Josh into the catacombs below Paris to find Mars. Mars lives in a chamber made of human bone. Mars awakens Josh's magical powers. The catacombs were once mines, but were used as burial chambers in the eighteenth century when the cemeteries became overcrowded.

Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower is a structure in Paris that was built in the nineteenth century to represent the renewed spirit of France. This is where Flamel and his companions meet up with the Comte de Saint-Germain. Germain sets off fireworks over and on the Eiffel Tower to distract the police long enough for he, Scathach, and the twins to get away.



Seine River

The Seine River is a river that runs through Paris. This river is where Nidhogg goes to get relief from the pain of his stab wounds from Clarent. This is also where Dagon grabs Scathach and pulls her under the water.

Danu Talis

Danu Talis is an island that existed somewhere above Earth thousands of years ago and was the home of the Elders who inspired many of the Roman, Greek, and Norse mythology. Dee hopes the Book of Abraham will help him raise Danu Talis again.

Paris

Flamel, Josh, Sophie, and Scathach are transported to Paris over a ley line in the beginning of this novel. Flamel lived in Paris during his original lifetime.

Ojai, California

Ojai is where the Witch of Endor lives and where Flamel, Josh, and Sophie found the ley line that takes them to Paris.

Alcatraz Island

Perenelle Flamel is imprisoned on Alcatraz Island after she is taken by Dr. John Dee. A sphinx is used to drain Perenelle of her powers, but Perenelle is able to contact the dead and use them to help her escape the prison cell.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

One of the major themes of this novel is the idea of good versus evil. Flamel has been the guardian of the Book of Abraham for hundreds of years. Flamel is afraid that someone who does not care about mankind might use the book to turn humans into slaves and food for evil monsters. For this reason, Flamel has made himself immortal and lived hundreds of years to protect the book. At the same time, Dr. John Dee wants to use the Book of Abraham to raise Danu Talis back to its rightful place and return Earth to its former state as a paradise. However, to do this Dee is aware that humans will have to perish or be made slaves and he is not bothered by this idea.

At first, it seems the lines between evil and good are clear. However, as Josh begins to question Flamel's motivations, it becomes clear to the reader that neither Flamel nor Dee have clear motives. Flamel wants to protect humanity, but he did not flinch at the idea that Sophie could die when her powers were awakened. Dee wants to return Danu Talis back to its rightful place because that was where they belong. Humanity is just a small part of the larger picture in Dee's mind.

Good versus evil is always a good theme for any young adult book. However, good nor evil is ever really clear and this book touches on that idea. In fact, the reader is left wondering who is really the good guys and who is really the bad guys. Only Dee's methods allows the reader to place him in the lead for bad guy.

History

The author of this book takes real people from history and turns them into characters for his book. Any history buff will recognize almost all the names in this novel. Due to the fact that many of the characters in this book are immortal, it is easy for the author to reach back into history and pick and choose characters who fit with his story line.

Flamel himself was a manuscript seller in his lifetime, creating a character who would be the perfect person to find such a famous book as the Book of Abraham. Perenelle, his wife, is the perfect companion to him because of rumors of her magical abilities. Machiavelli was a real historian in his time who wrote many books. Dee was an English magician. The Comte de Saint-Germain was an enigma who was rumored to be involved in the occult. Joan of Arc is well known for her visions of God and the fact that she led an army against the English.

By using real characters from history, the author has taken the reader on a walk through history without them even being aware of it. Not only this, but the author has taken multiple mythologies and used them together to create a new history that is supported by things people have been studying for hundreds of years. Hence, history is a strong theme of the novel.



Family and Friends

Josh and Sophie are twins who have grown very close and rely on one another after moving a lot as children. For this reason, their relationship remains strong even as they find themselves taken out of their normal world and thrown into a world of myths and magic. However, because of Sophie's newly awakened magic, Josh finds himself jealous of his sister and wishing that he could have his magic awakened so that they can remain alike. The fact of Sophie's magic is threatening to tear apart a relationship that has been built strong from birth.

Nicholas and his wife, Perenelle, have been married for hundreds of years and been constant companions to one another. Therefore, when they suddenly find themselves separated, it is difficult for both of them. However, they are able to trust that the other will do all he or she can to survive and that helps them both continue in their fight to survive separated.

Scathach has a difficult relationship with her family because she chose to defend the humans over the wishes of the elders. However, Scathach has managed to forge a strong relationship with her grandmother, the Witch of Endor. At the same time, Scathach is close to Joan of Arc even though they have not seen one another in years. In fact, Scathach saved Joan from burning at the stake and it is her blood that makes Joan immortal. Family and friends are important to these characters in their fight to save humanity, making family and friends a strong theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person omniscient point of view. The author uses many different narrators in the novel as he describes the events of the plot. In this way, the author not only allows the reader to know and feel sympathy for the main characters, but he also allows the reader to understand the motivations and actions of the antagonists.

The point of view of this novel is appropriate to the plot of the novel. By using the omniscient point of view, the author allows the reader to move from mind to mind of the characters in the novel, seeing things that is important to the plot but may not be witnessed by a main character. This also allows the reader to understand the motivations of both the protagonists as well as the antagonists. Finally, the author uses this point of view artfully, careful to mark the change of narrating character so that the reader will not get confused as to whose eyes the reader is currently looking through.

Setting

The novel is set mainly in modern day Paris and Alcatraz Island. Flamel, the twins, and Scathach are transported to Paris at the beginning of the book and find themselves on the run from Niccolo Machiavelli and Dr. John Dee. They receive help from the Comte de Saint-Germain, an old student of Flamel's. At the same time, Perenelle Flamel has been imprisoned on Alcatraz Island. As Flamel struggles to stay one step ahead of Dee, Perenelle fights to find a way off of the island.

The setting of this novel is both simple background and an important element to the overall plot of the novel. By taking Flamel to Paris, the author is able to use more of the history of the true historical figure of Nicholas Flamel by taking him back to his home city. At the same time, the author takes himself to a historical city filled with secrets, such as the catacombs, that adds to the themes of history and fantasy in this novel. The setting of Alcatraz is used in much the same way, creating a unique prison for Perenelle, while also introducing the reader to some history that they might not have been aware of previously. Alcatraz is a unique island that was once a prison, but this part of its history is not all that makes Alcatraz unique and the author manages to show the reader that in his use of the island as a setting of this unique novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. The author is of Irish decent, therefore some of the words used in this novel are used in a European way, such as dropped pronouns. The novel takes place mainly in Paris, therefore the characters tend to speak French to one another, but the author does not use French words in his narration or



dialogue except when English is not appropriate. Therefore there is not a lot of foreign words or phrases that the reader does not understand.

The language of this novel is appropriate for the subject and the intended audience. As a novel written for young adults, the author has used appropriate language that is not full of slang or curse words and a language that is less formal than a novel written for a more sophisticated group might be. The language includes some foreign phrases, but they are few and do not distract from the overall plot of the novel. Hence, the language of this novel works well with the plot and intended audience.

Structure

The novel is divided by the day on which the activities in the novel take place. The novel includes fifty-five chapters. The chapters are fairly short and often end to denote a change in narrating character. The novel is told in the past tense. The novel is written in both narration and dialogue, giving the reader full scenes of the action rather than simply telling a story.

The novel contains two main plots and several subplots. The first main plot follows Flamel and the twins as they attempt to find somewhere to rest and recuperate after their battle with Dee in Ojai. The second plot follows Perenelle Flamel as she attempts to break out of her cell in Alcatraz and find a way to escape the dangers coming to her. One subplot follows Josh's doubts of Flamel and his attempts to have his powers awakened. Another subplot follows Sophie's attempts to learn more of the element magics and find a way to deal with the overwhelming memories that the Witch of Endor has given her. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Half a millennium on this earth had taught him how to be very persuasive indeed" (Chapter 1, p. 8).

"Now she knew things that no person should ever know" (Chapter 4, p. 32).

"Niccolo Machiavelli swore that he was going to turn Paris into a trap—and maybe even a tomb—for the legendary Alchemyst" (Chapter 4, p. 36).

"But who did Flamel serve? Josh wondered. Just who was the immortal Nicholas Flamel?" (Chapter 5, p. 45).

"This wasn't the first time he had been hunted in these streets, but it was the first time without allies and friends to help him" (Chapter 9, p. 68).

"Lying flat on her back, Perenelle Flamel stared at the stained stone ceiling directly above her head and wondered how many other prisoners incarcerated on Alcatraz had done the same" (Chapter 13, p. 113).

"'Clarent,' she said, 'is an evil, accursed weapon, sometimes called Coward's Blade. This is the sword Mordred used to kill his uncle, King Arthur'" (Chapter 22, p. 206).

"The Magician shared his plans with no one" (Chapter 24, p. 221).

"As he was speaking, the air directly in front of them began to glow, then shimmer" (Chapter 25, p. 237).

"He tried not to think too much about what he was doing because if he thought about it—he was chasing a dinosaur-like monster through Paris—then he'd stop, and Scatty would...well, he wasn't sure what would happen to Scatty" (Chapter 35, p. 298).

"Her mouth went dry and she knew—instinctively, unquestioningly—that this was how her brother was feeling right at that moment. She knew that Josh was terrified" (Chapter 47, p. 400).

"His smile turned feral. 'Whoever controls them controls the world'" (Chapter 54, p. 455).

Topics for Discussion

Who is Nicholas Flamel? Why does he find himself suddenly in Paris? Why does this make him happy? Why does green appear whenever he uses magic? What does it smell like? How does Flamel know Machiavelli? Why is he not surprised to find Machiavelli waiting for him when he finally gets out of the church? What do they talk about? How does Flamel talk to Sophie and Scathach without Machiavelli being aware of it?

Who is Josh? Why does he not trust Flamel? What causes him to lose his trust in Flamel? What does Josh want to do? Why does Sophie refuse to go along with Josh's plan? Why does Josh want his powers awakened? What does he believe will happen when they are awakened? Is Josh jealous of his sister? Why?

Who is Sophie? What kind of magic does she do? Whose memories does she have? Where did she get them? Why do they frustrate Sophie? Who teaches Sophie to deal with these memories? In what way? What else does this person teach Sophie? How does this help Sophie? What new magic does Sophie learn in the course of this novel and from whom? How does she use it?

Who is Scathach? What type of creature is she? How old is Scathach? Where does Scathach come from? Why does Dagon dislike Scathach? Why do the Disir hate Scathach? Who kidnaps Scathach out of Germain's house? Who chases after to save Scathach? Does this person succeed? What happens to Scathach at the end of this novel?

Who is Germain? What kind of music does he perform? How does Flamel know him? What does Germain do to help Flamel and the twins? What does Germain give to Josh? What does Germain attempt to teach Sophie? What else does Germain give to Sophie?

Who is Joan of Arc? What did she do in her lifetime? How is she thought to have died? Who saved her from this death? How did Joan become immortal? Why does Joan not like to have her life public? How did Joan and Germain meet? What did they do during the war in France? Where did they often meet? How long have they been married?

Who is Niccolo Machiavelli? What did he do in his lifetime? What does he do now? How do the two existences compare? What was Machiavelli attempting to purchase at the beginning of the novel? For what reason? Who calls Machiavelli for help? For what reason? Why does Machiavelli agree to help? What does Machiavelli think of the twins after he sees them use their magic? What does this foreshadow for future books in the series?