

The Sorceress Study Guide

The Sorceress by Michael Scott (Irish author)

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Plot Summary

The Sorceress tells the tale of Nicholas Flamel and the twins and their adventures and hardships as they attempt to rescue Nicholas' wife Perenelle, the Sorceress, from Alcatraz. The story is similar to many folktales, since it explains various phenomena and creatures of myth. In the end the Sorceress rescues herself and meets this trio. The entire story takes place in a matter of only two days.

The story follows the lives of various humani, immortals, and other creatures of folklore in modern times as they fight to have control over the future of the world. This story is the sequel to a series of books about Nicholas Flamel. The Dark Elders and their immortal humani followers, such as Dr. John Dee and Niccolo Machiavelli, want to bring back the Dark Elders from the various Shadowrealms into which they have been cast. This would most likely lead to the end of humanity. The Flamels and their allies wish to keep the Dark Elders trapped in the Shadowrealms to protect the world from their power. There are also various characters who share beliefs and allegiances with both sides.

To successfully take control of the world, the Book of Abraham and the twins of legend must be in one's possession. During this book, the twins and the last two pages of the Book of Abraham, the Codex, are in the hands of the Flamels, while Dee and his allies have the rest of the book. What would aid Dee and others like him would be Perenelle's death. She is very powerful, and if she were not alive, they would stand a better chance of catching the twins, completing the Book of Abraham, and taking over the world. Machiavelli spends much of the story underestimating Perenelle's skills and intelligence, while Dee ends up hiding from his master Elder because he is unable to capture Nicholas.

The plot of this book takes the reader on various adventures in London, Paris, and San Francisco as Nicholas and his allies try to get to Perenelle and their enemies attempt to capture and/or kill them. The book ends with many questions left unanswered. Although the Flamels are reunited and the twins are safe with them, Dee is still alive, and it is only a matter of time before trouble finds the Flamels, the twins, and their allies.



The Prologue, Monday 4th June: Chapters 1-8

The Prologue, Monday 4th June: Chapters 1-8 Summary

In the Prologue, the speaker is aging quickly due to having to use his powers more frequently in the past three days than in the past century. It is learned that he must get the Codex from the evil forces led by Dee and the Dark Elders. There is hope, though, in the twins' survival. The speaker fears the city of London, which he or she is about to enter; this is where Dee's powers are strongest. The speaker hopes to use ley lines and the Awakened powers of the twins to return to San Francisco and his beloved Perenelle. The speaker desires to find the knowledgeable yet insane King Gilgamesh to help them find a ley line home; if the king refuses, he, Sophie, and Josh will be trapped in Dee's domain. It is learned at the end of the Prologue that this is an entry in the book of the alchemist Nicholas Flamel on Monday, June 4th.

In Chapter One, a young man in a green parka is at a train station looking for an older man and two fair teens. He searches these three out using his strong sense of smell. He sees them coming toward him, takes their picture with his cell phone, and sends the picture to Dr. John Dee, a senior agent and the most dangerous of the Dark Elders. The trio is recognized as Flamel and the twins. It is soon learned this boy is not human and resents being bossed around by a human, but the doctor has promised him Nicholas Flamel; the "boy" plans on sharing Flamel's flesh with his sisters and mother.

The chapter continues from Nicholas and the twins' perspective. Nicholas's aura senses they are being followed. Josh feels overwhelmed by his Awakened, or heightened, senses. Flamel does not want the twins to use their powers because it will activate their auras and draw negative attention to them. Josh has two pages from the Codex that Dee needs. Sophie is the first to spot the boy in the green parka. When Flamel is told there are three figures in green parkas, he drags the twins down an alley. These three are the Hooded Ones, Flesh Eaters, or Genii Cucullati.

In Chapter Two, the trio has run into a dead end in the alley. The Genii Cucullati revealed themselves to resemble bears with very few human features. Nicholas struggles to keep Sophie and Josh from using their powers and alerting the evil of London to their whereabouts. When Nicholas' attempt to defend them seems to fail, Josh aims his sword, Clement, at the leader of the Genii Cucullati; this leader steps back into a seemingly safe mud puddle that contains the rainbow bracelet Nicholas had thrown into it (his attempt to fight off the Genii Cucullati). This puddle becomes a rainbow of color that climbs up the Genii Cucullati, connects with the other two Genii Cucullati, and knocks them all unconscious. This bracelet had been a gift from Iris for saving her sisters decades before.



In Chapter Three, Dr. John Dee and Niccolo Machiavelli, two immortals, are waiting for a call in Machiavelli's ornately decorated Italian townhouse. Their Elder masters call them and are very disappointed in their inability to capture Nicholas and the twins. This disappointment causes fear in the two men, because an Elder can make anyone immortal but can also return them to their mortal state. This mortal state would quickly deteriorate and end in death. The immortals are told this is the Time of the Turning when order would be restored in the world; all that is needed are the two pages from the Codex. The Elders then begin to bicker about the current state of their power. This leads to them giving the two immortals another chance to capture Nicholas and the twins, as well as the Sorceress, Perenelle, who has freed herself and is roaming the island of Alcatraz. Horrible torture is planned for them if they fail. The Elders' plan is to release terrible monsters on the planet and then trick the humani into believing the Elders have come to save them from these monsters.

In Chapter Four, Perenelle Flamel had been kidnapped four days before by Dee and imprisoned on Alcatraz. Dee had underestimated Perenelle's abilities, so she had been able to escape her guard, the Sphinx. She learned of Dee's secret; he had been collecting horrible monsters in the prison cells. Areop-Enap, the Old Spider, formed an alliance with Perenelle. The chapter ends with these two realizing they are still guarded by various creatures.

In Chapter Five, Francis Saint-Germain, a friend of Nicholas' from France, has found someone to pick them up and bring them to a safer place. The author then gives background information regarding the previous book and the trio's experiences in Paris, including the destruction of parts of Paris by various creatures. The twins make demands of the alchemist; this is a reminder of the power they possess. More information from the previous book is given regarding the witch's knowledge that Sophie contains. These memories are slowly being absorbed into her own. Nicholas worries that these memories will soon take the place of Sophie's own memories. They must get to Perenelle, because she will know what to do.

In Chapter Six, Palamedes picked up the trio for Saint-Germain. As he takes them to safety, he openly shares his dislike for Nicholas and others like him who think they know what is best for the humani. Palamedes blames the death and destruction that follows Nicholas on him; he believes Nicholas should be protecting the Codex in seclusion. The twins learn that Flamel and his wife have been looking for the legendary twins for five hundred years. All the previous sets of twins either died or went mad.

In Chapter Seven, Palamedes takes the trio to a dilapidated section of town that he owns; these run-down houses are the residences of nocturnal spirits, the undead and not dead. Palamedes reiterates the danger the trio is in and how the world has changed recently with the arrival of a variety of fantastical creatures. It will be a hard job to keep these creatures peaceful with each other. At the end of the chapter, Palamedes says the coast is clear.

In Chapter Eight, the Old Spider protects Perenelle by wrapping her in a silk cocoon. A poisonous swarm of flies attacks Alcatraz, killing many of Areop-Enap's small spiders



and almost killing her. Perenelle saves Areop-Enap and some of her spiders by drawing the flies to the San Francisco dump. At the end of the chapter, Perenelle is left alone slightly doubting her power, as Areop-Enap sleeps off the poison.

The Prologue, Monday 4th June: Chapters 1-8 Analysis

The Prologue introduces the twins Josh and Sophie, Dee and the Dark Elders, King Gilgamesh, other fictitious creatures, and Nicholas Flamel. It also mentions Abraham, who created the Codex. This Prologue also introduces the reader to a little of what has been taking place in the series up to this point. The twins have Awakened powers, Dee's dark powers are very strong, Nicholas and the twins want to return to San Francisco, and Nicholas' goal is to get the Codex. His goal seems to be to bring the world back to the paradise it once was.

This first chapter serves as a reintroduction to those who read the two previous books and as an introduction to those who have not read these other books. It introduces the reader to the main characters in the present time in and around a London train station: Nicholas Flamel, Josh, and Sophie. They are being tracked by Genii Cucullati. There are slight details given regarding information from the previous book including a witch, whose knowledge Sophie partially has, and time spent in Paris two and a half years before. This chapter reminds readers of the twins' powers and the reasons Dee has for wanting them. The reader learns why the twins and Flamel are in danger and gives some background information, although many details are missing regarding their past. Right away, the reader feels a sense of anxiety and fear as these characters are being chased by the Hooded Ones.

Chapter Two is the first in which the trio finds themselves trapped and finally freed. Through what is assumed to be weakness, Nicholas defeats the Genii Cucullati, although not without assistance by Josh. This action in the story reveals Nicholas to be intelligent and able to use that intelligence as his power weakens. Sophie is strong-willed but ultimately obedient to Nicholas and rationally-minded. Josh, on the other hand, is not as willing to think before he acts, although in this scenario his actions aid Nicholas in his trickery. Through the abilities of all three, they are able to save themselves from their first contact with evil in this book.

Chapter Three introduces some of the highest leaders for the dark side. Also, much is learned about the limitations of Dee and other immortals, as well as the debates going on between the Dark Elders. Although the dark side has a great deal of power and influence, so do Flamel, the twins, and especially the Sorceress, Perenelle Flamel. This chapter also lets the reader know the dark side's plans for getting full power over the planet and why they want this power and believe it is their time to take control.

Chapter Four takes the reader to Alcatraz to meet the famed Perenelle and the Old Spider, an ally. This chapter shows the reader how the Dark Elders have made attempts



to keep Perenelle imprisoned, but, based on Perenelle's abilities and intelligence shown in this chapter, she will not be trapped on this island for long.

The purpose of Chapter Five is to give more background information from the previous book and how it pertains to this book. It also explains why the rest of modern-day humanity does not realize what magic is taking place; they do not want to believe that the world of fantasy is actually reality. This chapter also creates a stronger sense of anxiety. Nicholas and the twins worry that Sophie will lose her memory, and Perenelle is the only one who can possibly help them protect her memory from being over-taken by the witch's memory.

All of Chapter Six takes place in Palamedes' car and reveals a very different side of Flamel. Palamedes believes Flamel has acted selfishly by staying in public places while protecting the Codex. This gives readers the opportunity to doubt Flamel's motives and actions.

Chapter Seven goes more in-depth into how the world has changed because Flamel and Dee believe the twins are the twins of legend, and it is the right time to bring order to the world. Monsters of all kinds have reappeared, gateways to other realms have either opened or been sealed. This shows the impact previous events have had on the plot and the importance of the actions of all moving forward in the story.

Chapter Eight returns to Perenelle in San Francisco. Even though she has freed herself from her guard, the Sphinx, the Dark Elders are still trying to get rid of her. Fortunately her new alliance with Areop-Enap, the Old Spider, proves to be strong.



Monday 4th June: Chapters 9-16

Monday 4th June: Chapters 9-16 Summary

In Chapter Nine, Billy the Kid, the Dark Elder responsible for the poisoned flies, realizes he had received incorrect information regarding Perenelle's powers. He waits for Machiavelli to arrive.

In Chapter Ten, the trio and Palamedes enter a scrapyard, which is built using the design of a castle. Palamedes explains to the trio that they may have the same enemies but they have different motives. Palamedes and the Green Knights help those humans who are trapped in shadowlands to come back to the real world and only fight Dark Elders when they have to. Nicholas does not want any Elders returning to the world. During the time it takes this group to enter the scrapyard castle, the twins realize they have both changed because of the Witch of Endor and Mars the God of War. The chapter ends suddenly as Nicholas realizes that they have been led into a trap and they have to run.

In Chapter Eleven, Palamedes convinces Flamel it is not a trap, although he is confused as to why the man in the hut is here. Palamedes also receives a shock when he learns what he believes is the sword Excalibur is actually its twin, Clarent, the sword that killed his king. The filthy little man, William Shakespeare, had once been Flamel's apprentice but joined Dee as his right hand man; he has changed but states Flamel has not. He is still self-assured to a fault. In Chapter Twelve, Dee leaves and Niccolo has him trailed. Niccolo reflects upon his immortal life and his desire to learn about the ancient Elders who ruled the world, unlike Flamel and Dee who wanted to keep these rulers either away or return them to the world. Spying on Dee proved useful; Dee was not headed to the airport as he had said. As Machiavelli sat watching Dee's movements, his mind wandered to his plans to finally kill the Sorceress, who was far more dangerous than her husband, Nicholas. He returns to the present as he watches Dee escape into the catacombs below Notre Dame, headed for the Elder Mars Ultor - the Avenger, who was one of the most hated people on the planet.

In Chapter Thirteen, Josh and Sophie are trying to deal with the changes that had taken place. Just the previous day Josh's sense had been Awakened. Three days before that he had first seen Nicholas and Dee fighting with energy. They had seen and done much in a mere four days. Sophie wants to go back to her ordinary life, while Josh is enjoying being special. Josh also realizes that there is no such thing as ordinary; they were simply blind to the truth. The twins think back to when and how they met the Flamel's and become upset because they come to the conclusion that they were tricked by the Flamel's because they are twins. They are angry and feel used. The chapter ends with the twins ready to attack and get some answers from Flamel as Shakespeare opens the door of the hut with a frying pan in both hands.



In Chapter Fourteen, the twins become better acquainted with Shakespeare, as well as the history of the twin swords. They realize this is a moment when they can get some answers. Shakespeare wants the Elders to return, so the Earth can be saved from the destructive humani. When asked about Dee, he says he loved him but never knew him; Dee finally betrayed him and killed his son.

In Chapter Fifteen, the narrator explains through Dee's thoughts that all creatures of mythology had lived and were part of an Elder race who had once ruled the world. Dee comes across Mars, locked in his aura, which the Witch of Endor has turned to stone. Dee makes a deal with Mars that if he finds Josh, Dee will force Sophie to save Mars to save the lives of her family members.

In Chapter Sixteen, Sophie and Josh walk into a centuries-old argument between Nicholas and Shakespeare. Upon entering the surprisingly modern and efficient hut, the twins learn that the animosity that Flamel feels for Shakespeare stems from centuries ago when Shakespeare naively trusted Dee and was rewarded for his loyalty by having his son, thought to be one of the twins of legend, killed when Dee tried to Awaken his senses. Shakespeare wants to join up with Nicholas to destroy Dee for his betrayal. Nicholas wants to discuss this first with Perenelle, and Shakespeare says it is possible to communicate with her.

Monday 4th June: Chapters 9-16 Analysis

Chapter Nine continues to reveal the Dark Elders who are against the trio and Perenelle, which increases the danger and risk in protecting the Codex and the twins.

Chapter Ten first describes the safety and protection the twins and Flamel should have in this strong fortress. It also reveals the changes that have taken place in Josh. Both twins have been changed, both physically and mentally, when their senses were Awakened. It is still not known if this is a gift. Only future chapters will tell. All of this description of the fortitude of this castle adds more weight to the end of the chapter when Flamel yells that it is a trap and they should run. The reader clearly knows that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to escape this metal castle.

Chapter Eleven continues to introduce new characters to the story and depth to Flamel's character. He is becoming more human and flawed as the reader learns about his past. He, like Dee, believes he is always in the right, and if he is not right he will not admit it. This seems to be a major flaw in both powerful character, and very little, it seems, distinguishes one from the other. They are on opposite sides of a war, but their alliances could easily have been reversed, because their characters are so similar. Chapter Twelve delves into the mind of Niccolo Machiavelli and his feelings towards Dee, Nicholas, and especially Perenelle. He is an intelligent man who may be Flamel's biggest enemy since his personality and agenda are vastly different from those of Dee.

Chapter Thirteen focuses on the twins and their conflicted feelings regarding the situation they are in. They are unsure of who can be trusted and want answers. The



emotions of the twins leads the reader to feel empathy for these two children who, until four days ago, had been ordinary teenagers.

In Chapter Fourteen, the twins try to get some information out of Shakespeare, but this information only leads to more confusion. Shakespeare's desires for the planet are the complete opposite of those of Flamel, yet he does not side with Dee. This chapter begins to build a theme: the more you learn, the less you know. The more knowledge the twins receive seems to make it even more difficult to make decisions regarding with whom they should side and what is the best course of action for the planet and other realms.

Chapter Fifteen adds more trouble to the lives of the twins. Dee is working his magic to get others to support him, and his agreement made with Mars has potential for success. Dee knows the twins weaknesses have to do with each other and their parents.

Chapter Sixteen continues to reveal the evil that Dee has done throughout history. It, like other parts of this story, is used to explain historical facts, much like a mythological tale is used to explain various phenomena and events.



Monday 4th June: Chapters 17-24

Monday 4th June: Chapters 17-24 Summary

In Chapter Seventeen, Perenelle is the lone human on Alcatraz, surrounded by the many dangerous mythical creatures Dee has collected. At the end of the chapter, a ghost, the Spanish sailor Juan Manuel de Ayala, arrives happy to see Perenelle alive and leads her into the shadows to show her something.

Chapter Eighteen discusses the preparations made for Nicholas to contact Perenelle. An LCD screen and a scrying spell of Dee's learned by Shakespeare many centuries before is used to reveal Perenelle to Nicholas.

In Chapter Nineteen, through the spell Nicholas and Perenelle are able to communicate. They exchange information regarding their health, adventures, and plans. She tells him to use the power he has to stand and fight. Just as he asks if she can stay safe until he comes for her, a monster jumps through the spiderweb at her.

In Chapter Twenty, it is learned the Vetala, blood drinkers, are after Perenelle. Nicholas, out of love and fear for Perenelle's life, sends his aura to her to strengthen her own. The twins add their own scented energy to Nicholas'. Throughout all of this, Palamedes and William Shakespeare try to stop Flamel, because the auras will draw attention. At the end of the chapter, Perenelle tries to stop Nicholas, saying he has killed her.

In Chapter Twenty-One, Dee is picked up from the London City Airport, not by his company, but by a First Generation Elder and one of the original rulers of the island Danu Talis, Dark Elder Bastet, a cat-like Elder once worshiped by many cultures. She has come to remind Dee of how much she knows about him and that he is a "flawed tool." (p. 181) This refers to a time when his father called him this in reference to his desire to learn, which the father believed could not be satiated and would lead him down a dark path. He is now secretly afraid his father was right. Dee regains his composure and asks why he is in the presence of Bastet. She wants to know if he can free Mars, because he had contacted her and told her Dee could do this. Surprisingly, Bastet does not want Mars free, because he is reckless and dangerous. She loves him, her little brother Horus, as well as does the Witch of Endor, his wife. They want him to be safe from himself and others deep in the catacombs.

In Chapter Twenty-Two, Perenelle's situation with the Vetala unfolds. She has figured out an escape plan when Nicholas and the twins activate her aura which brings her to the attention of the Sphinx.

In Chapter Twenty-Three, the terrifying Sphinx arrives to eat slowly away at Perenelle, but she makes a mistake by wondering out loud about Perenelle's strong aura. Perenelle thanks Nicholas and the twins for giving her their extra strength and uses her power and knowledge of snow and ice to trap the Sphinx temporarily in a snowy mound



of ice and metal. The chapter ends as Perenelle wonders into what trouble Nicholas and the twins have gotten themselves.

In Chapter Twenty-Four, after coming to Perenelle's aid, the trio is weakened. Josh uses Mars' knowledge to decide they should flee instead of fight the evil that has been roused by their combined auras. This evil, they learn, is an organized army led by the Horned God, the Master of the Wild Hunt. It seems Dee's allies are more numerous and organized than was first thought.

Monday 4th June: Chapters 17-24 Analysis

Chapter Seventeen reiterates the war that Perenelle believes will soon take place. There is doubt in her mind, because she is not with Nicholas. In this chapter and the previous chapter both Nicholas and Perenelle feel less powerful without each other and desire to be together. With the hint of mint, the communication between Nicholas and Perenelle has been foreshadowed.

Chapter Eighteen focuses on the scrying spell used to reveal Perenelle to Nicholas. This spell reinforces the reader's knowledge of Dee's power and intelligence.

Chapter Nineteen reveals the love that is shared between the Flamels after six hundred years of marriage. Much of their power seems to come from this strong bond. This bond is threatened at the end of the chapter as Perenelle is attacked, which encourages the reader to quickly continue reading to learn what happens to her.

Chapter Twenty is a clear example of how the feelings Nicholas and the twins have for those they love could lead to their destruction. It is this kind of selflessness, yet possibly poor judgment, for which Dee had been hoping.

Chapter Twenty-One is an extremely important chapter regarding Dee and Mars. Dee's vulnerable side is revealed, and Mars' sister and wife are also discovered. Along with these surprises, the reckless nature of Mars' personality is revealed along with the shocking news that his wife and older sister want him to stay trapped in stone for his own good. Knowing that some of Mars' memory and personality are now found in Josh, the reader begins to wonder how this reckless behavior will affect Josh and others.

Chapter Twenty-Two reinforces the weakness and poor judgment that Nicholas' love for Perenelle can bring upon him. By trying to protect her, he has brought her to the attention of the one creature she truly fears. This chapter also reinforces the irrational behavior of the twins as they join Nicholas in trying to save Perenelle.

Chapter Twenty-Three shows how quickly a situation can change. The last chapter ended with the reader believing Nicholas and the twins to be possibly wrong in their actions to save Perenelle and Perenelle to be doomed. This chapter quickly shows how loving others and taking risks to save them may not be a flaw after all.



In Chapter Twenty-Four, although the combining of the three powerful auras saves Perenelle, it also becomes a beacon to all the creatures that are hunting Nicholas and the twins. This chapter ends full of suspense as the main characters realize the depth of the trouble they are in. This makes the reader and, possibly, the main characters, wonder if combining the auras and saving Perenelle is the best course of action.



Monday 4th June: Chapters 25-33

Monday 4th June: Chapters 25-33 Summary

In Chapter Twenty-Five, Billy the Kid realizes the true power of the Sorceress. Machiavelli listens to his tale and wonders about the two extraordinary events that took place at the same time in London and on Alcatraz. What they do know is that the powerful Sorceress is still alive. Machiavelli makes the connection between these two powerful events; Nicholas had made contact with and helped to save Perenelle with the help of the twins. Machiavelli makes plans to waken the monsters on Alcatraz who will hungrily eat Perenelle.

In Chapter Twenty-Six, Dee and Bastet are full of fear as they watch the monster Cernunnos, the Horned God, and Archon, a race that had ruled the earth before the Elders, approach. This ancient creature is here to wipe clean a debt it owes to the Dark Elders; this pleases Dee, for this Archon is putting itself in his command. If Dee's plans fail, his Elder has given him to the Archon as a reward.

In Chapter Twenty-Seven, Shakespeare decides to stay and fend off the Horned God and the Wild Hunt to give Flamel and the twins time to escape. The others try to convince him otherwise, but he feels he has debts to pay and the twins' lives to think about. They have much to learn still. The chapter ends as the Wild Hunt, men trapped in wolf-like bodies, attack before the trio can escape.

In Chapter Twenty- Eight, Josh's mind automatically recalls Mars' knowledge. He unconsciously takes Clarent and runs the possible tactics of the enemy in his head. The chapter ends as Josh predicts the coming of the enemy through the main gate.

In Chapter Twenty-Nine, Dee and Bastet watch as the battle begins. Dee spends much of this chapter wondering about that which he does not know regarding the Elders and other creatures of mythology. The chapter ends with the destruction of the castle gate.

In Chapter Thirty, the battle begins as Josh and Flamel get into a heated debate regarding whether they should run or stay and fight; Josh and Sophie decide they should stay. Both Sophie and Josh take on aspects of those whose memories they have, Mars and the Witch. The Archon and Josh have a stand-off on either side of the oil moat. As the Wild Hunt grows ever closer, Sophie and Josh set the moat ablaze. The chapter ends with Sophie setting the Archon's club on fire.

In Chapter Thirty-One, Perenelle goes into the depths below Alcatraz to speak to the Morrigan, a creature she had trapped prior to the story in this book. She learns of Dee's plans to destroy the humani and bring back the Elders. As the Morrigan dies, her sisters, Badb and Macha, awaken. They wish to speak with Perenelle.

In Chapter Thirty-Two, Perenelle learns of the triune goddess. These two sisters had been trapped in the body of the Crow Goddess with the Morrigan for centuries but were



rarely allowed to control the body. Most of the time the body was under the control of the Morrigan. These sisters ask to be freed. Once the creature vows to not harm Perenelle, she sets it free. The chapter ends as the ghost, Juan Manuel de Ayala, warns Perenelle that the Old Man of the Sea, Nereus, is coming for her.

In Chapter Thirty-Three, Dee makes a dangerous plan to kill the Archon. He has begun to learn of its weaknesses and believes he is capable of this feat using the twin swords. He wonders at the knowledge he will gain from slaying it.

Monday 4th June: Chapters 25-33 Analysis

Chapter Twenty-Five allows the reader to see how this powerful use of the main characters' auras is viewed through the eyes of others. Machiavelli sees the connection and comes to an accurate conclusion. He then adds suspense to the story as he plots to kill Perenelle. This continues the various plots that have failed to kill Perenelle. Only time will tell if this one will be successful.

Chapter Twenty-Six adds to the danger the main characters face. At Alcatraz, Billy the Kid and Machiavelli are plotting Perenelle's demise, while the Dark Elders have given the deadly Horned God to Dee to use as a weapon to defeat Nicholas and the twins. Danger is everywhere and the characters, as well as the reader, have yet to see much relief from it.

Chapter Twenty-Seven shows the repair that has taken place in the relationship between Shakespeare and Flamel. Shakespeare is willing to sacrifice his life for the sake of others. This has become a theme in this book, since many of the characters, such as Nicholas and the twins, have all been willing to die to save those they love.

In Chapter Twenty-Eight, Josh is the main focus. The knowledge Mars gave him has given him strength and power that surprises both Sophie and Nicholas. He feels various emotions through the sword, Clarent, and by even the slightest touch by Nicholas. This touch is important because it gives Josh a sense of the pain Nicholas has felt over the centuries and also reveals that he may be able to learn what the alchemist refuses to tell them about his past and the past sets of twins.

Chapter Twenty-Nine gives the reader a moment to wonder with Dee about the truth of myth and the reality of legend.

Chapter Thirty is an important chapter. Josh uses Mars' knowledge and the power of Clarent to attack the Wild Hunt, but Josh's possible doom is also foreshadowed. Clarent, the Coward's Sword, brings a curse upon all who wield it. New information regarding a previous encounter between the Archon and Sophie is brought to light, but it is not yet known if the Archon refers to Sophie herself or the Witch of Endor.

Chapter Thirty-One connects information already known by the reader through Dee to the realization of this in Perenelle. This reinforces the danger the humani face, as well as the importance of the two pages of the Codex.



Chapter Thirty-Two introduces two more characters to this character-heavy story. Using her intuition, Perenelle sets these sisters free, believing they will not harm her. This seems to be a smart decision, since Nereus is coming for her. Possibly the Crow Goddess can come to her aid.

Chapter Thirty-Three describes Dee's dwindling fear of the Archon. Dee's desire for power and knowledge has indeed led him down a dark path. He plans to kill the creature that has vowed to help him kill Nicholas and capture the twins and the two pages of the Codex.



Monday 4th June: Chapters 34-42

Monday 4th June: Chapters 34-42 Summary

In Chapter Thirty-Four, Dee and those on the other side of the moat exchange threatening words, but when the two swords are drawn to each other, Josh can read the fear, anger, and desire in Dee's mind. He also sees Dee's plan to kill the Archon. Through the focusing of Josh's aura, he is able to remove Excalibur from Dee's hands, but Dee is not done. He soon sets a terrible rain on the junkyard.

In Chapter Thirty-Five, Nereus captures Perenelle in his tentacles.

In Chapter Thirty-Six, Palamedes decides it is time to flee, Will out of London and the twins to the King, which could be dangerous. Before leaving, Palamedes and Nicholas aid Shakespeare in creating various creatures using his imagination; these are for the Wild Hunt. As the car pulls away, the Horned God laughs, believing they cannot escape him.

In Chapter Thirty-Seven, Nereus is after Perenelle to pay off an old debt to the Elders; he does not even know who she is. She soon uses her power to burn the Old Man of the Sea and escape up to sunlight and the chance to recharge her aura. She finds the Crow Goddess and at first asks why it had not come to her rescue; she then understands that it has no desire to fight the Old Man of the Sea. The Crow Goddess has not left because it sees Alcatraz as an exciting place to be in a few hours. It feasts on the fears of the dying and sees a banquet in the near future.

In Chapter Thirty-Eight, as Nicholas, Palamedes and the twins attempt to make an escape in a cab, they watch as the Wild Hunt is decimated by Shakespeare's various sharp and/or poisonous creatures. Their escape is cut short as Dee cuts out all the power from their car.

In Chapter Thirty-Nine, both Josh and Sophie use the knowledge they have been given to fight Dee and his allies. Sophie takes out the Archon using a large cloud of dust as Josh fights Dee. When Dee is thrown back by the power of Sophie's aura as it attacks and wounds the Archon, Josh attempts to hold both Clarent and Excalibur, but this causes him pain. Josh throws Excalibur into the bubbling oil moat, grabs Sophie, and the twins and Nicholas and they speed away in the recharged car. The chapter ends as Bastet pulls a cell phone from her pocket, dials a number and says that Dee has failed.

In Chapter Forty, Sophie and Josh talk as Josh sleeps. As they drive through London, Nicholas learns of Sophie's desire to return home to her old life. He tries to explain why this cannot be; the most important reason being that the changes in the world have nothing to do with him or Perenelle and everything to do with Josh and Sophie. They are the twins of legend and the descendants of gods.



In Chapter Forty-One, the ghost of de Ayala tries to help Perenelle think of someone who could rescue her, because she is powerful but no match for the evil that sides with the Dark Elders. She finally thinks of The Warrior, Scathach the Shadow, who will know those who will come to Perenelle's aid.

In Chapter Forty-Two, as Palamedes pulls the battered car up to a light, a homeless man comes over to clean the grit off the window. Through his discussion with Palamedes, it is realized he is part of this secret world. At the end of the chapter he climbs in the back seat of the car between the twins and is introduced as King Gilgamesh.

Monday 4th June: Chapters 34-42 Analysis

Chapter Thirty-Four gives hope to the twins and their allies when Josh is given the chance to see Dee's thoughts. Dee's fear that he has come to be what his father had predicted has come true; his desire for knowledge is insatiable. Josh learns in this chapter how to focus his aura, which will prove very useful in later chapters.

In Chapter Thirty-Five, Perenelle's life is in danger, so it is imperative that either her allies in London or on Alcatraz come to her rescue. Perhaps this is the time when the two sisters will thank her for setting them free.

In Chapter Thirty-Six, temporary safety may be coming soon as the twins pull away in a car and Shakespeare heads with Gabriel, the lead Gabriel-hound, out of the city. Gabriel does warn of the king's lunacy and danger, saying it would be worse than leaving the twins with the Archon. This may be foreshadowing the meeting of the crazy king.

In Chapter Thirty-Seven, once again Perenelle is underestimated and reveals her power. Also, the Crow Goddess foreshadows the death and destruction that is to come.

In Chapter Thirty-Eight, Shakespeare's power of imagination is reiterated. Also, Josh's dad's saying regarding battles is repeated. This repetition shows the importance of this phrase and the respect Josh has for his father.

Chapter Thirty-Nine shows the power of the twin swords as Josh attempts to hold both of them. With the pain this act causes, it seems these two swords do not want to be wielded by the same person. Bistet's statement that Dee has failed may foreshadow the end of Dee, or at least his working for the Dark Elders.

Chapter Forty is an important chapter for Sophie. She has blamed the Flamels up to this point for the dangers she and her brother have faced. Now she must try to understand that there is no way her life could have ever continued normally, because of who she and Josh are. This understanding may help her deal with the dangers that lie in the near future, with the foreshadowing of the battle that will change the world forever by midsummer.



Chapter Forty-One is important because it finally brings hope to the trapped Perenelle. The ghost de Ayala has helped her brainstorm various ways of escaping, and she arrives at a possible helpmate at the end of the chapter.

In Chapter Forty-Two, although the twins are surprised that the homeless man is climbing into their car, and it seems the author intended the reader to be surprised that this beggar is a king. With the various mentions of crazy King Gilgamesh, it is not at all surprising that this king would be wandering around like a tramp, although it might make the reader wonder why he is feared. This reinforces the theme that things are not always as they appear.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 43-47

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 43-47 Summary

in Chapter Forty-Three, Sophie is surprised at the king's appearance; he looks neither kingly nor psychotic, but she has learned that things are not always as they appear. Sophie also makes a connection between the king and her father. Like the Archon, King Gilgamesh believes he has met Sophie before but remembers witnessing their deaths. Nicholas quickly encourages them to not believe everything the king says. Palamedes fills the king in on what has taken place and why they want to get the twins out of the country. When Nicholas, who has been hiding, comes out of the shadows of the car, the king is shocked and feels threatened. The chapter ends as he attacks Nicholas with a dagger.

In Chapter Forty-Four, Dee is able to find Excalibur in the moat. He realizes he has been abandoned by Bastet and knows he is in danger due to this most recent failure, but is slow to accept defeat, although he does blame himself entirely for the trio's escape. He wonders at Josh's power and ability to handle the powerful, yet deadly, Clarent. Dee uses Excalibur like a compass to find Clarent, to which it points. He knows that as long as Josh carries Clarent, it will slowly devour his memories and aura, and Dee will always know where he is.

In Chapter Forty-Five, Machiavelli watches the news and reports of the junkyard fire; he learns of Dee's failure from his Elder master. Through the process of elimination, he learns that the twins and company are headed to see the king. Using traffic light cameras, Machiavelli sees Palamedes, Nicholas, the twins, and King Gilgamesh. Looking at the direction the cab's headed, Machiavelli guesses correctly that this group is headed to Stone Henge and the ley lines. Machiavelli and his Elder master discuss possible ways the ley line could be opened and realize Nicholas and the twins are headed to San Francisco. The Elder Master knows what must be done but does not share this with Machiavelli.

In Chapter Forty-Six, Josh quickly disarms Gilgamesh; to Sophie's alarm, he has moved unnaturally fast. Gilgamesh again says he has met the twins; he is told that these are not the twins he had met. The twins are finally able to get Nicholas to talk about the other sets of twins; some had died or gone crazy, while others went back to living somewhat normal lives. The unfeeling way in which Nicholas gives this information reinforces the twins' distrust of him. As Nicholas talks about the twins, his voice is filled with emotion and regret for what he had done to them in his search for the twins of legend. He then explains that all he had learned through the centuries looking for the twins led him to these twins and the chance of survival for the world in the battle to come. Then the lost lives will not have been in vain. Nicholas and the king argue over the use of the twins. It is decided that it is better to train the twins so they stand a chance, rather than leave the twins defenseless to the Dark Elders who will surely destroy mankind. The twins agree to bring him the Book of Abraham, so the twins can



do a spell in reverse, allowing him to become a mortal again and be normal. Sophie nods silently in agreement.

In Chapter Forty-Seven, Scathach and Perenelle communicate through a scrying spell and share what information they have on Nicholas and the twins. They also catch up on what has happened in each other's lives since the last time they spoke. Scathach's story tells a great deal about what took place in Paris in the previous book. Joan of Arc and Francis join in on Scathach's end. Joan of Arc and Scathach (Scatty) decide to come to Alcatraz, but the connection between them and Perenelle is lost before they get a chance to explain how they plan to get to her.

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 43-47 Analysis

Chapter Forty-Three reminds the reader that things are not always as they first appear. This theme is strongly reinforced in the appearance of King Gilgamesh. Not only does he not look crazy, but he also looks nothing like a king. This makes both Sophie and the reader wonder why so many people fear him. A glimpse of his psychotic and violent nature comes out as he goes to attack Nicholas at the end of the chapter.

Chapter Forty-Four reveals the deadliness of Clarent. It foreshadows problems to come between Josh and the others as the sword slowly takes control over him. Also, along with this is Josh's surprising ability to wield the sword. Maybe he can be the only one able to resist the sword's power.

In Chapter Forty-Five, Machiavelli and his master study Nicholas, Palamedes, and the twins' movements and correctly guess where they are headed. This builds the tension in the story since these allies are so close to getting to San Francisco and their enemies will soon be close on their heels.

In Chapter Forty-Six, Gilgamesh, Nicholas, and the twins are finally in agreement as to what they must do. This agreement is important to the story because it is what gives hope to these allies on the survival of humanity. This chapter is also important because it brings up a similarity between the king and Sophie; they want to live ordinary lives.

Chapter Forty-Seven gives more information about characters and events from the previous book and helps to make connections between the previous book and the current one. It also gives a sense of hope and optimism for Perenelle and her friend, with the addition of Joan of Arc and Scatty.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 48-53

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 48-53 Summary

In Chapter Forty-Eight, Dee is hidden in his office in London, cleaned and somewhat refreshed. He contemplates his limited options, weighing them against his plans and reasons for bringing the Elders back into the world. He calls Machiavelli and asks for a favor; he wants him to contact London authorities regarding Flamel, the terrorist who has blown up part of London. He also asks that Machiavelli not contact his Elder master. Machiavelli agrees to all of this but contacts his own Elder master. Machiavelli knows he must keep allies on both sides, Dee's and his own master's. Dee knows his days, even hours, may be numbered.

In Chapter Forty-Nine, Ayala and Perenelle create a plan to keep the Sphinx occupied through the use of Alcatraz's ghosts.

In Chapter Fifty, Palamedes must take the cab on side roads due to Dee's check points. Nicholas explains to Palamedes that he is dying and must get to San Francisco to be with Perenelle. They decide to begin the twins' training with King Gilgamesh now, but to be prepared for the twins' auras to draw attention from all sides.

In Chapter Fifty-One, as Machiavelli relaxes on the flight to San Francisco, he thinks about the Flamels and the request of the Elders for him to kill Perenelle. He then wonders why they fear her and thinks back about information he has on her. He wonders who or what Perenelle is.

In Chapter Fifty-Two, as the cab speeds through the country headed for Stonehenge, everyone wakes. The king is confused and says there is so much information in his mind that he cannot always tell the difference between memory and dreams. Sophie begins to weep silver tears for him, because she fears losing her own memory to the witch's memories. The king remembers the last time someone had shed silver tears for him before she destroyed the world. He jots in his notebook today's important event when Sophie cares enough for him that she cries.

In Chapter Fifty-Three, before Palamedes leaves to go into the village for supplies, he gives Nicholas several warnings regarding the king and Josh. Palamedes worries that Clarent will become a problem for Josh, and Josh will be unable to relinquish this powerful sword to Nicholas. When Palamedes asks, Nicholas explains to Palamedes that he had not tried to kill the king. He and Perenelle had actually had him institutionalized so he would not kill himself. Nicholas hopes the king will not remember this; this thought leads to his fear that the king will not be able to remember the magic he is to be teaching the twins.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 48-53 Analysis

Chapter Forty-Eight gives important information regarding Dee. It shows his human side and the seemingly good intentions he has for the world. This brings up the theme that not everything is as it first appears. There is no definite line that separates good from evil. All the characters in this story are flawed, and many believe their desires for the planet have the planet's well-being in mind.

Chapter Forty-Nine reiterates Perenelle's intelligence and the Sphinx's lack of intelligence.

Chapter Fifty increases the sense of urgency in the story; Nicholas knows he has little time left and wants to be with Perenelle. The twins must be quickly trained, and they must also quickly find the ley line before any number of creatures arrives, attracted to the twins' auras.

In Chapter Fifty-One, more information is gained regarding immortality and Machiavelli's knowledge of the Flamels. The importance of Perenelle to the success or failure of the Elder's plan is paramount to this chapter. Questions arise regarding her power and why the Elders fear her.

Chapter Fifty-Two connects Sophie to someone the king had known centuries before through the shedding of silver tears. These two characters are also connected through their desire to live a normal life. They continue to strengthen their bond based on mutual beliefs about life and the quality of one's life.

Chapter Fifty-Three is full of warnings and gives off a feeling of foreboding. The reader wonders if these are merely the warnings of an over-cautious knight or the foreshadowing of future events. Either way it leaves the reader somewhat uncomfortable with and unsure of the future.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 54-59

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 54-59 Summary

In Chapter Fifty-Four, as the twins and Gilgamesh enter the barn and take in their surroundings, the king talks about the importance of the people who left these objects here; real death occurs when one's life is completely forgotten by others. The chapter ends as Gilgamesh begins teaching them the magic of water; Sophie has her eyes closed and Josh is growing dizzy and nauseous.

Chapter Fifty-Five continues where Chapter Fifty-Four left off. Josh is now flying through the air, observing the power of water from above, as Gilgamesh speaks. The chapter ends as Josh watches the continents flood. He then falls toward the blue water. Both twins wake.

In Chapter Fifty-Six, St. Germaine instructs his wife, Joan of Arc, and Scathach in using a ley line from Notre Dame to the west coast of the U.S. They are headed to Alcatraz to free Perenelle. Joan and Scatty discuss the battle that is to come; it will be a tough fight.

In Chapter Fifty-Seven, Josh and Sophie watch as Nicholas and Gilgamesh argue outside. Josh is surprised at how uneventful it had been to learn the water magic; he is even a bit skeptical. Sophie explains how the magic works through instinct and how, with this new magic, she feels more complete. The chapter ends as the twins wonder what it means that they are the two that are one.

In Chapter Fifty-Eight, Joan and Scatty exit the car after Francis, who is a famous rock star, distracts the police officer. The two women are in awe at the power the twins possess; they have the power to either destroy or rebuild the world. With very little trouble, the two women come to Point Zero and stand on it, wondering what will happen next.

As Chapter Fifty-Nine begins, Scatty and Joan arrive fifteen miles north of San Francisco in a grassy, mountainous landscape. All of a sudden creatures from the Pleistocene Epoch, a million years ago, become visible through the mist. The Sorceress is on her own and Joan and Scatty are trapped in the past.

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 54-59 Analysis

In Chapter Fifty-Four, the twins begin training with the king. All except the king feel somewhat hesitant to begin the lesson. This fearfulness is passed on to the reader.

Chapter Fifty-Five observes the twins' training from Josh's point of view. The purpose of this lesson is to teach the twins the importance and power of water. It is also a lesson to anyone who reads it; it warns of the lack of water, as well as having too much.



In Chapter Fifty-Six, once again hope comes in the form of Joan and Scatty as they plan to rescue Perenelle.

Chapter Fifty-Seven is surprisingly undramatic for both the reader and Josh. He now knows the magic of water but feels no different than he did before. The story leading up to this point and the urgency that they learn the magic of water has ended quite anticlimactically, though there are no doubts that the action will begin again soon.

In Chapter Fifty-Eight, Francis' powers of persuasion and Scatty's ability to put fear in others are revealed. These powers help them to easily get Joan and Scatty to Point Zero. This is where the difficulty could begin. The chapter ends with the women anxiously waiting to see what happens.

In Chapter Fifty-Nine, the hope that was beginning to build collapses as these two immortals realize they are trapped in time with no way of returning to modern day and helping Perenelle. Dread creeps quickly into the story and the readers' bit of respite from anxiety is over.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 60-65

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 60-65 Summary

In Chapter Sixty, Machiavelli arrives at the San Francisco International Airport and is met by Billy the Kid; through a photo Billy has of Machiavelli, Machiavelli knows he is being monitored. Machiavelli receives an encouraging phone call. His trap has worked; he is responsible for sending Scatty and Joan back in time. Machiavelli receives a letter and photo from Dee giving them permission to land on Alcatraz and the spell to awaken the monsters on the island.

In Chapter Sixty-One, Cernunnos sends a Thoughtform, a being created using Cernunnos' imagination and aura, to Dee. Cernunnos is also able to track Nicholas, Palamedes, the king, and the twins using his sense of smell. When Dee comments that Cernunnos needs to work on the Thoughtform to make it look more human, Cernunnos says there is no need to do this, because soon humans will no longer exist.

In Chapter Sixty-Two, Perenelle waits anxiously for the arrival of Joan and Scatty, but they never come. Instead, Machiavelli and Billy the Kid land on the island. Machiavelli speaks to the Crow Goddess, telling her they are to awaken the monsters and kill Perenelle. When he asks her where Perenelle is, she says she will show him.

In Chapter Sixty-Three, the twins sleep, recovering from learning the magic of water. Nicholas wants, impatiently, to wake them. Palamedes threatens to kill him if he tries and says that impatience and stupidity are greater killers than weapons. He goes on to ask whether these might have been what killed previous potential twins of legend. Nicholas says he wonders that every day. Nicholas keeps himself busy throughout the day listening to the news on the cab radio and wandering the fields. As Nicholas frets over the deterioration of his body and the responsibilities he has to the twins and Perenelle, he falls asleep. Upon awakening from a nightmare he has frequently had, he realizes it is night. He also smells a strange smell and sees a creature headed toward the barn where Sophie, Josh, Palamedes, and the king are.

In Chapter Sixty-Four, the Crow Goddess pays back a debt to the Sorceress when she leads Machiavelli and Billy the Kid away from Perenelle. Ayala gives Perenelle suggestions for trapping these two immortals. In the end, she chooses the simplest method, and the one most disappointing to Ayala; she takes their boat.

In Chapter Sixty-Five, Cernunnos is headed toward the barn. Fortunately, those inside realize this and quickly begin to escape. Unfortunately, Josh does not make it out of the barn before Cernunnos enters and begins firing arrows at him. As wolves from the Wild Hunt attempt to attack Josh, the king comes to his rescue but not without receiving two arrows to the chest. Sophie screams and runs to the fallen king; Josh stands his ground to protect his sister as she receives instructions from the king to use the magic of water. As the Archon rip the barn apart, Sophie is able to see Nicholas battling John Dee as



Palamedes fights off the remainder of the Wild Hunt. Josh and Sophie use their instincts and instantly create a muddy marsh in which Cernunnos sinks. Sophie bakes the mud, solidifying Cernunnos' unfortunate situation. Josh, at his sister's command, goes out to help the others. Sophie hurries to the king; he tells her to use Nicholas' knowledge to quickly get to the ley gate; with all of their auras flashing, they are sure to draw attention from all manner of creatures.

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 60-65 Analysis

In Chapter Sixty, victory seems almost at hand for Dee, Machiavelli, and the Dark Elders. Two major allies of Nicholas and the twins are trapped millions of years in the past, and Machiavelli and Billy the Kid have the spell for waking the dead, which will begin by killing Perenelle and then destroying the world. It seems the only thing Nicholas and his allies have going for them are the twins, but these twins may make up for everything these allies are lacking.

Chapter Sixty-One continues to build feelings of anxiety for Nicholas, Palamedes, the king, the twins, and their allies. Also, Cernunnos makes a threat that could easily become reality.

In Chapter Sixty-Two, the chance for success by Nicholas and his allies is dwindling. Now, it seems that the Crow Goddess will give Perenelle to Machiavelli. But, there is still hope that she will be true to her word, and this is a trick.

In Chapter Sixty-Three, impatience and anxiety grow in Nicholas and the reader as all wait for the twins to wake. Only then will anyone know if the world can be saved from the Dark Elders and their immortals. The chapter ends as the reader waits anxiously to see what creature is approaching the barn.

Chapter Sixty-Four finally brings some luck to Perenelle and a light-heartedness to the story. It also reveals a surprising kindness in the Crow Goddess which will not be forgotten by Perenelle.

In Chapter Sixty-Five, Josh and Sophie are given the chance to test their knowledge of water magic; they have the potential to be unstoppable. The good luck continues for this group of allies as Cernunnos and the Wild Hunt are again defeated. But, once again, there is a great sense of urgency; the twins must get to the ley gate.



Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 66-70, Epilogue

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 66-70, Epilogue Summary

In Chapter Sixty-Six, good and evil continue to fight with both Dee and Nicholas falling still. Josh and Sophie are able to get to the cab and are picked up both Palamedes and Nicholas as they speed away from the growing number of Wild Hunt monsters. Clarent is left behind in the field, and Josh realizes how much he has changed when he chooses the well-being of others over his own desires. Palamedes is able to wake Nicholas long enough for him to tell them where exactly in Stonehenge they are headed, the heart of it. Josh is forced to test his creativity with water, since Sophie is completely exhausted. He succeeds in stopping the police that are following him with torrential rain. Soon Josh stops the cab at Palamedes' command, and they all get out of the cab running. When Palamedes says not to look back, both twins do.

In Chapter Sixty-Seven, Machiavelli and Billy the Kid follow the Crow Goddess until they hear the outboard motor of a boat. They run towards it as the Sphinx comes out of the shadows, and the Sphinx and Crow Goddess bow to one another. As Perenelle steers the boat away from the island, she hears Machiavelli and Billy the Kid shouting. She and Ayala say good bye, since he must go back to the island; Perenelle promises she will be back soon to do something about all the sleeping beasts at Alcatraz. Machiavelli is upset more than simply because he has failed to kill the Sorceress; she had beat him with her cunning years before, and he is angry because cunning is supposed to be his specialty. Several times Machiavelli feels a sense of hope because the Sorceress faces several obstacles in her escape by water; she prevails every time.

In Chapter Sixty-Eight, just as Josh is losing hope that they will make it to Stonehenge before the Wild Hunt catch them, Shakespeare and the Gabriel Hounds appear and bring the Wild Hunt to a shuddering halt. The chapter ends as the Wild Hunt continues to pursue the twins and their friends, and Josh realizes they must stand and fight.

In Chapter Sixty-Nine, since the Wild Hunt are only after the twins, Gabriel and Palamedes keep them busy to buy Nicholas, Josh, Shakespeare, and Sophie time to get to the Altar Stone. Once they arrive, only Josh is strong enough to send his aura into the stones. When he attempts, only one side accepts his aura; the other side is waiting for Sophie. As the others fight off the Wild Hunt from all sides, the twins open the ley line and enter the grassy, mountainous landscape fifteen miles north of San Francisco, with Nicholas. Shakespeare and Palamedes are left alone and exhausted, since the Wild hunt have suddenly disappeared.

In Chapter Seventy, the trio is reunited with Perenelle in a loving, much awaited reunion. The chapter ends as Perenelle explains how she arrived in Billy the Kid's beautiful Thunderbird convertible.



In the Epilogue, Dee watches as Nicholas and the twins escape, knowing his days are numbered. As his confidence fades, he spots Clarent. He is overjoyed at this find and puts the two swords together to make one. Dee is healed! Suddenly King Gilgamesh appears, see the two swords together, "the two that are one and the one that is all," and walks away with tears in his eyes. (p. 483)

Tuesday 5th June: Chapters 66-70, Epilogue Analysis

Chapter Sixty-Six is full of excitement as the story nears the end. Josh's strength against Clarent is tested, and, unlike what many believed, Josh is capable of choosing those he cares about over the sword. This shows how powerful Josh is, for many had been taken over by the demands of the sword.

Chapter Sixty-Seven brings hope for Nicholas, Perenelle and their allies. Perenelle's escape from Alcatraz is a monumental event, because it had seemed almost impossible throughout the rest of the book. Once again, she had been underestimated; this has become a theme in the book.

Chapter Sixty-Eight finds the friends trapped by the Wild Hunt but optimistic, especially Josh. They must simply stand and fight, but will they be victorious? Once again, this chapter gives the reader feelings of anxiety and excitement.

Chapter Sixty-Nine is the climax of the book. Josh and Sophie finally enter the ley line that is connected to the west coast of the U.S. This main goal of the book has finally been achieved.

Chapter Seventy is the happiest of chapters as the trio is finally reunited with Perenelle. Although this is a happy moment, the reader knows that the story is not quite finished. Many questions remain.

The Epilogue ends on a somber note for those who side with the twins. Dee is healed and it seems that "the two that are one and the one that is all" may not be the twins, Josh and Sophie. (p. 483) It may actually mean the twin swords. If this is so, then Dee has become the most powerful of all. The Epilogue leaves the story without a happy ending, many questions, and potentially a sequel to follow.



Characters

Perenelle Flamel

Perenelle Flamel is the Sorceress and the main character and focus of this book. She is the wife of the alchemist Nicholas Flamel but is seen as the more powerful and cunning of the two. She is skilled in the art of sorcery and deception and she is often underestimated, which gives her an advantage. Like her husband, she has no Elder master and has spent her immortal life searching for the twins of legend and has finally found them in Josh and Sophie. Like her husband, her purpose in finding the twins is to give her the power to keep the Dark Elders trapped in the Shadowrealms.

In the previous book Perenelle became trapped on the island of Alcatraz and spends most of the story trying to find a means of escape as she waits for her allies to rescue her. Her intelligence and quick thinking prove invaluable several times against her enemies. She manages to free herself from the island by outsmarting Niccolo Machiavelli.

Like her husband, the Sorceress is aging quickly and knows that there is little time left to train the twins and prepare for the final battle against their enemies.

Nicholas Flamel

Nicholas Flamel is a unique immortal; he does not have an Elder master to control him. He is an alchemist who has spent his immortal life searching for the twins of legend and has finally found them in Josh and Sophie. His purpose in finding the twins is to give him the power to keep the Dark Elders trapped in the Shadowrealms. Through this searching for the twins, he has regretfully ruined the lives of or killed many sets of twins who were not the twins of legend.

Throughout the book Nicholas rapidly ages because his aura is not given the chance to recharge. He knows his life is slipping away and is anxious to get to Perenelle, his wife, who is trapped at Alcatraz. He and Perenelle are practically unstoppable when they are together, due to their strong bond as husband and wife, but apart, they feel incomplete. As he tries to get to Perenelle, he makes sure the twins are trained in the magic of water and that the last two pages of the Codex stay safe.

Nicholas is an intelligent man who is well-trained in the science of alchemy. Although he is flawed and has let his impatience and personal desires get in the way at times, he truly wants the best for humanity and the world.



Josh Newman

Josh is a fifteen year old boy and the twin brother of Sophie. He first met Nicholas when he was hired by him to work at a bookstore only a few days before the events that take place in this book. He is one of the twins of legend and has become a warrior since being Awakened by Mars. With the sword Clarent, he is practically unstoppable throughout this book, although, at times, the power of the sword seems to begin to control him. He is highly emotional and protective and often acts on intuition. He does not fully trust anyone but his sister and is highly resentful of Nicholas for what he had done to the other twins. Although he is upset with Nicholas, he is glad to learn he is one of the twins of legend. He had never felt special, always the other half of a set of twins. He relishes his new special qualities.

Sophie Newman

Sophie is a fifteen year old girl and the twin sister of Josh. She first met Nicholas when Josh had been applying for a job at a bookstore. She had been encouraged to find a job across the street, where she first met Perenelle. She is one of the twins of legend and has become a powerful humani after being Awakened by the Witch of Endor and trained in two magics by Joan of Arc. Unlike her brother, she is not happy about being special; she frequently wishes her life could go back to normal. This feeling of wanting an ordinary life creates a bond between her and King Gilgamesh, who wants to die, so he can be like every other human. Also, he has trouble keeping his memories and dreams straight, and Sophie fears the memories of the Witch of Endor will take over her own memories, so these two see the importance of one's memories. Also unlike Josh, Sophie is more level-headed and rational, although she is just as brave or even more so. Several times in the story she uses her power to the point that she becomes exhausted and unable to continue.

Dr. John Dee

Dee is a senior agent and one of the most dangerous Dark Elders who wants to bring back all the Elders from the Shadowrealms.

Dark Elders

Dark Elders were once the rulers of the world. Many have been sent to distant Shadowrealms and many want the humani dead. The Dark Elders on the planet want to bring the Dark Elders back from the Shadowrealms.



Niccolo Machiavelli

Machiavelli is a Dark Elder who sides with Dee but is not sure all Dark Elders should return. He plans to do his own research and come up with his own beliefs.

Genii Cucullati

The Genii Cucullati are the Hooded Ones. They are also flesh eaters.

Areop-Enap

Areop-Enap is the Old Spider and an immortal.

The Sphinx

The Sphinx is the guard of Alcatraz and powerful but not too smart.

Francis Saint-Germain

Francis is a friend of many of the allies and is Joan's husband. He is also a famous rock star.

Palamedes

Palamedes is the strong and powerful Saracan Knight who fought for King Arthur.

William Shakespeare, the Bard

Shakespeare is the famous playwright and an immortal humani.

Billy the Kid

Billy is an immortal humani who still likes to wear the cowboy boots popular during his life. He is Dee's ally.

Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc is Francis' wife, a warrior, and Sophie's teacher.



The Warrior Maiden: Scathach the Shadow, Scatty

Scathach is a 2,500 year old vegetarian vampire who is an ally of Joan of Arc.

Cernunnos

Cernunnos is the Horned God and one of the Archons who ruled the earth before the Elders.

The Wild Hunt

These wolf-like creatures are humani caught by Cernunnos. He uses them as his warriors.

Humani

Humani are humans.

Immortals

Immortals are those creatures who cannot easily die.

Next Generation

Next Generation creatures are immortals.

The Ghost of Juan Manuel de Ayala

This is the ghost of a Spanish sailor who helps Perenelle escape from Alcatraz.

Alcatraz Ghosts

The Alcatraz Ghosts helped Perenelle attempt to and finally escape.

Crow Goddess

The Crow Goddess creature is the combination of three spirit sisters. Two of these three help Perenelle escape.



Nereus, The Old Man of the Sea

This sea creature fails to capture and kill Perenelle.

Nereids

These creatures are the daughters of Nereus.

Witch of Endor

This witch is the wife of Mars and gave Sophie her memory.

Mars Ultor

Mars is the Avenger and one of the most hated people in the world. He Awakened Josh.

King Gilgamesh

The king is an immortal who has the knowledge of magic but the inability to use it.

Gabriel and Gabriel Hounds

These creatures are wolf-like creatures who fight for Palamedes and his friends.

Bastet

Bastet is one of the first rulers of Danus Talis and is a cat-like Dark Elder.



Objects/Places

London

This is where the story begins and the location of much of the plot involving Nicholas, the twins, and Dee.

Paris

This is an important location from the previous book and to the sending of Joan of Arc and Scatty to The Pleistocene Epoch.

San Francisco

This is the city in which the twins first met the Flamels and where Perenelle is trapped for most of the book.

Alcatraz

This is the former prison and historical monument that has become a zoo for deadly creatures Dee plans on waking.

Stonehenge

This is the leygate to San Francisco.

Leygates/Ley Lines

These are pathways for traveling through time and space. They are found all over the world.

Notre Dame/Point Zero

This famous Cathedral and leygate that Dee used to send Joan and Scatty back in time.

Shadowrealms

These are artificial worlds created by Elders. Once one enters a Shadowrealm, it is nearly impossible to escape unscathed.



Excalibur

This is the twin sword to Clarent that Dee has.

Clarent

This is the twin sword to Excalibur and is known as the Coward's Blade. It is very powerful and lies to those who wield it.

Junkyard

This is the run-down part of London that is secretly a mighty fortress. It is destroyed when the twins set the oil moat on fire.



Themes

Things are Not Always as They First Seem

An important theme in this book is that things are not always as they first seem. Magic and sorcery are used throughout this book that effectively trick other characters into believing something that is false. Also, characters such as Perenelle and Scatty are frequently underestimated. Because they look small and weak, many of their enemies underestimated their various powers. Time and time again these characters, especially Perenelle, out-witted their enemies. This theme is reinforced with the power of Josh and Sophie Newman. These two seemingly normal fifteen year old twins are two of the most powerful characters in the story, even though they lack the training and age of the other characters. Characters such as Dee and Machiavelli are also not as they first seem; these two evil men actually have human emotions and feelings and believe they are in the right. So, even though they are on the opposing side of the twins, they are not entirely evil.

This theme is a universal theme, because even in real life, situations and people are not often as they first appear. It takes time to learn people's true intentions and personalities, and there are always multiple sides of a story or situation.

Power

Power is an important theme in this story. Various characters in this story are vying for power over the world and will go to any length to get it. Even those on the "good" side are not immune to their desire for power. Nicholas and Perenelle have ruined the lives of many sets of twins prior to Josh and Sophie because they want to have power over those who want to bring back the Dark Elders. The Dark Elders and their minions want power so they can return the Dark Elders to the world and rid the world of humans. Josh feels this desire for power as he wields Clarent, although he is one character who is able to fight Clarent's power when he chooses his sister over the sword. Very few characters are able to resist the draw of power, and some like Nicholas are haunted by their actions because of this need for control.

Connected with power in this book are intelligence, a persistence, and patience. Those characters who are most cunning, persistent, and patient are frequently the ultimate victors. Through these abilities, Perenelle escapes Alcatraz, and Dee finds Nicholas and captures Clarent.

Power and the behavior associated with power are universal. Many other stories, both real and imagined, focus around this theme. In an often uncontrollable world, humans, and other creatures, desire power to try to gain this control.

Good versus Evil

A third theme is good versus evil. There is strong evidence of both good and evil in this book, but what is somewhat unusual is that both sides are involved in this good and bad behavior. Good qualities are seen across the board in many characters. Nicholas, Dee, and Machiavelli seem to have the good of the planet at the heart of their plans; their beliefs about what is best for the planet are simply different. These same characters also act very poorly at times. Nicholas has ruined and ended the lives of many sets of twins because of his desire to find the twins of legend. He and Perenelle find the twins, Sophie and Josh, and convince them to be a part of their lives or work. In other words, they deceive these twins. Dee has been doing the deeds of his Elder master for centuries without thinking through his behavior. He simply followed orders. Machiavelli knows he and Dee's masters do not have the same plan for the Codex, but he pretends to be on Dee's side for the sake of having allies on the sides of both Dee and his Elder master.

Good and evil are found in many other stories and in real life. Some tales show stark differences between those who are good and those who are evil, but this story more accurately portrays good and evil in the world. All are flawed and all have the capability to care, so good and evil can be found in varying levels in all people.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this book is both third person omniscient and first person. The purpose of the narrator in this book is to describe the setting in which each chapter takes place and to describe the appearance and emotions of each character. By having an omniscient narrator, the reader learns of the unspoken thoughts of the characters, as well as a clear image of where the story takes place and what the characters look like. There is a great deal of non-verbal expression throughout this book, so the narrator plays an important role in expressing this to the reader. Through the narration, the various emotions of the characters are expressed clearly to the reader, keeping the reader engaged and anxious to continue reading the story. The narrator also withholds information regarding the characters to heighten various senses, such as excitement, anxiety, fear, and foreboding.

The use of first person gives each character a voice. Through the dialogue in the story, one gets a sense of the various characters' personalities and motives. This enhances the emotions felt by the reader regarding the characters and the plot. First person allows the reader to grow attached to certain characters throughout the story.

By using both first person and third person omniscient, the reader gets a clear picture of the story as it unfolds. These points of view work well together to make the characters memorable and the story engaging.

Setting

Various locations in Europe and the U.S. are part of the setting. The author uses a blend of both real and imagined places within various modern-day cities to give the reader a sense of fantasy amid normal, everyday life.

The story begins in London soon after the twins and Nicholas Flamel arrive from Paris. While in and around London the reader is taken with Nicholas and the twins from a train station to a junkyard, and through the city of London in a cab to the country and Stonehenge. Details of real places in and around London are blended with fictitious places such as the junkyard castle.

Another important location is San Francisco. Much of the story that takes place in San Francisco takes place in Alcatraz with Perenelle Flamel. Like the London setting, the author places characters in a setting that is a blend of what is actual as well as imagined.

Another important location is Paris. In the previous book, Notre Dame cathedral had been destroyed, and characters in this book use Notre Dame to travel to the west coast



of the U.S. As in the other cities, the author uses both truth and fantasy to create the Paris setting.

For the most part, the setting takes place in modern day, but at times characters reminisce about previous years or are sent back in time, and the reader is given a chance to see these same places as they may have looked centuries before.

This mix of modern day and the past, as well as fantasy and reality, gives depth and interest to the plot and characters. They help to create the idea that fantasy and myth can exist in our ordinary world.

Language and Meaning

The author uses descriptive language to describe the setting and the characters. This aids the reader in visualizing the story. The author also uses a variety of made up words and unusual words from folklore. These words, such as humani, Cernunnos, Nereus, and Crow Goddess, help to create the fictitious land in which this story takes place.

The use of third person omniscient aids in creating detailed images for the reader of the setting, characters, and mood. Strong adjectives such as sinister, searing, and swollen help to make the visual image of the setting, characters, and mood clear. The author also uses a handful of descriptive words frequently, such as millennia and incalculable, to show the enormity of what he is describing.

The language of the narrator at times seems to encourage the reader to side with the Flamels and their allies, but he also shows the flaws in these characters as well as the good qualities of those who oppose the Flamels. The characters the narrator always encourages the reader to support are the twins, Josh and Sophie. It is clear that they are the only characters who seem to be pure and innocent in this story, based on the language of this book. This fact becomes more significant considering the targeted reader is one who is similar in age to these twins.

The language of the book is simple yet powerful, which makes for a quick and engaging read.

Structure

The book is divided into two sections, "Monday, 4th June" and "Tuesday, 5th June." Prior to these two sections is a note from Nicholas Flamel's book explaining to the reader what has taken place and what must take place. It quickly sets the mood of the book, which is both urgent and anxious. This mood is a constant throughout most of the book with very few respites of happiness and relaxation.

"Monday, 4th June" contains forty-two chapters and is the majority of the book. This first section takes the reader on an adventure from London to San Francisco and from reality to fantasy. Almost every chapter jumps back and forth between Nicholas and the



twins in London and Perenelle in San Francisco, with several chapters in between dedicated to showing what the Flamel's enemies are up to. Through this bouncing around from one setting and story to another, the reader gets to see what takes place in the lives of most of the characters in this book without spending too much time in one given setting. This keeps the reader's memory of each story and group of characters fresh.

This section also gives a significant amount of background information, since this is the third book in a series of books about Nicholas Flamel. It reminds those who have read the previous books what had taken place in those books, while giving important information to those who are new to the series. This background information is blended in with the current plot, as to not bore the reader who knows what took place in the first books and to not confuse a new reader.

"Tuesday, 5th June" contains Chapters Forty-Three through Seventy and the Epilogue. This section of the book begins right after it strikes midnight on Tuesday in London and ends in the middle of the night near Stonehenge. Although this book continues to give information regarding the previous books, most of the information given is new to all readers. It furthers the plot, includes the climax, and resolves some issues. It also leaves many unanswered questions, readying the reader for another book to follow.

After the Epilogue is a note from the author giving information about his choices in blending the real with the fantasy and by what parts of history and reality he was inspired. A chapter of the next book in the series is also given at the end of the book to entice the reader to be ready and waiting for the next book in the series, *The Necromancer*.



Quotes

"Who knows what he is capable of doing. He is desperate, and desperate men do terrible things."

Chapter 1, p. 7-8

"...you, Madame Perenelle...are the prize. They want your knowledge and your memories. You and your husband are amongst the rarest of humans: you are immortals without Elder masters controlling you."

Chapter 4, p. 40

"People change...Well, most people...Except you. You were always so sure of yourself and your role in the world. The great Nicholas Flamel was never wrong...or if he was, he never admitted it."

Chapter 11, p. 103-104

"...here is my oath to you...Find the boy for me, and I swear I will bring the girl, her brother, and their parents here to stand before you. When she is faced with their deaths, I guarantee she will free you of this terrible curse."

Chapter 15, p. 144

"Nicholas!...You have killed me!"

Chapter 20, p. 176

"...But this I am sure of; if anything had happened to her, I would know. I would feel it."

Chapter 24, p. 203

"Clarent glowed bright red, twitching in his hand, and Josh unwittingly took a step forward, almost as if the sword was pulling him closer to the enemy."

Chapter 28, p. 233

"Didn't your mother ever tell you it's rude to point?"

Chapter 30, p. 247

"Sparking, snapping, and crackling, bright red flames roared upward, dirty black oily smoke coiling and twisting into the night air over the car yard."

Chapter 33, p. 266

"You'll never escape alive!...But I'm still alive."

Chapter 37, p. 293

"The light turned green and the cab pulled away. Behind them, Big Ben chimed midnight."

Chapter 42, p. 321

"The swords were insidious and deadly, almost vampiric in nature. They whispered of victories to come, hinted at secrets beyond imagining and made promises of ultimate



power."

Chapter 44, p. 335

"The Dark Elders had once been rulers, and where there were rulers, there were always others waiting, plotting, planning to take over."

Chapter 45, p. 343

"But every mistake I made, each failed Awakening, gradually and inexorably led me to these, the real twins of legend. And this time, I have no doubts."

Chapter 46, p. 353

"I want to live out my life and die. I want to be human again. I want to be normal."

Chapter 46, p. 356

"We humans are nothing more than the sum of our memories."

Chapter 52, p. 390

"You're my twin. We are the two that are one...the one that is all."

Chapter 57, p. 413

"You will never leave me...you will live forever in my memory."

Chapter 65, p. 454-455

"The two that are one,' he mumbled, 'the one that is all.' Then the Ancient of Days turned and shuffled off into the night."

Epilogue, p. 483



Topics for Discussion

There are several characters in this book who are the main characters. Describe each character. What role does each character play in the story? What characters are the protagonists? What characters are the antagonists? Explain. How does this opposition help the plot to progress?

The twins are thought to be the twins of legend. How are they the twins of legend? What qualities do they possess that make them most likely to be the twins of legend? Could other sets of twins previously found by the Flamels have been the twins of legend? What other sets of twins are found in this story? How do these twins compare to Josh and Sophie? Which set of twins most likely are the twins of legend? Why?

Perenelle is a feared sorceress. Describe Perenelle. Why is she feared? What makes her stronger than her husband? How can some of these qualities be found in real life people? What power do real life people have? How do these powers compare to the powers of the people found in this story?

This book acts similarly to mythology and folklore. What is the purpose of mythology and folklore? How is this book like mythology and folklore?

There are several themes found in this book. What are three themes? Explain how each is a theme found in this book. Are these universal themes? If so, how? If not, why not? What lessons can be learned from these themes? How are the characters in the book affected by these themes?

Both the king and Sophie want to live ordinary lives. How are their lives abnormal? Why do they want to live ordinary lives? How does this create a bond between these two characters? Do the other characters feel the same way? Why or why not? What are your thoughts on "ordinary" and "normal"? Is there any such thing? Explain.

Many of the mythological creatures have human-like heads and/or faces. Why might the author have created them in this way? How does this affect the characters in the story? How does this affect you as the reader? Why?