

Magickeepers: The Eternal Hourglass

Erica Kirov

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On his thirteenth birthday, Nick Rostov is involuntarily whisked into the world of magic. For the Rostovs, this world lies in the heart of Las Vegas at the Winter Palace Hotel and Casino. And as if being teleported by the world-renowned magician Damian isn't bizarre enough of a birthday present, it turns out that everyone employed at the magical hotel is related to Nick, including Damian. As the son of an amateur illusionist, Nick should have been ecstatic witnessing and learning how to call forth real magic. However, his lost-lost relatives' frightening enthusiasm for all things Russian and the newfound knowledge that Nick himself is the target of an evil race of magicians, the Shadowkeepers, does not bode well for Nick. All he expected that summer was to skateboard, play videogames, and eat cheeseburgers, none of which are part of his new summer plans. Unable to leave, Nick reluctantly plows through magic lessons and magic show rehearsals, which are bearable due to Isabella constant company. As Nick's understanding and interest in magic grow, his desire to unlock the secret of a magical golden key entrusted to Nick by his grandfather also intensifies.

The realm of magic certainly has its enticements, which are highlighted in Erica Kirov's wacky, but charming novel *Magickeepers: The Eternal Hourglass*. From magic shows to magic from the origins of Ancient Egypt, there is a wide selection of different types of magic represented in this book. These are all narrated from the viewpoint of an unsuspecting hero who is not afraid to voice his thoughts, which makes his reactions to his own Russian heritage and towards magic even more comical and entertaining. Since this book is the first in the series, it needed to have set a strong foundation for the proceeding books, which it accomplished with a tantalizing, yet satisfactory ending and a well written plot that can be built upon.

Unfortunately, the story had a few hitches that give the reader a sense that something is awry. First of all, it was too rushed, and many the characters disappeared as quickly as they popped up, each of them seizing a brief scene with Nick before being replaced by another character. Although the author incorporates the historical snippets really smoothly, the characters' own background information is regrettably missing. Furthermore, there are a few details that are inconsistent with other parts of the story or just seem unreasonable, considering that the setting of the story parallels the real world. Nevertheless, these are minor flaws that can be condoned.

Recommended Readings:

I would recommend this book to upper-elementary and middle school students as yet another magic series to dive into. With the abundance of fantasy and magic series these days, *Magickeepers: The Eternal Hourglass* has dozens of books to contest with, but it is worth your time to read through. Other books that are similar to this one include *The Kane Chronicles* by Rick Riordan, *The Akhenaten Adventure* by P.B. Kerr, *Hidden Talents* by David Lubar, and *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia.