

Magyk

Angie Sage

Reviewed by: Ryan Lee

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In Angie Sage's world of *Magyk*, Ordinary Wizards, and Boggarts, everything proceeds with a liberal dose of comedy and nonsensicality. The story begins with the Ordinary Wizard Silas Heap and his wife Sarah celebrating the arrival of their newest child, who is christened Septimus. However, the arrival of Marcia Overstrand, the Extra-Ordinary Wizard, places an extra burden on the heaps: she gives them another child, one with violet eyes, and warns them not to tell anyone that she is not their natural child. Moments after the new child is given to them, the midwife storms out of the cottage, screaming that Septimus is dead, and leaving Silas and Sarah in despair. The new baby inadvertently takes Septimus' place and is named Jenna.

When Jenna is ten, Marcia Overstrand returns with another bombshell: the baby she entrusted the Heaps with is actually the Princess of the kingdom, taken away from the castle when the Queen was assassinated ten years ago. The Heaps have very little time to digest this before the forces that killed the queen strike again, forcing Jenna and her family to flee. Along the way they pick up a boy-soldier from the Young Army with no name, just the title 'Boy 412' who remembers nothing of his past. Despite at first being wary of the Heaps and their wizard allies, he grows to trust them and aid them in their endeavors to thwart the necromancer DomDaniel and his minions. As the journey continues, he discovers an extraordinary talent for magyk, which ties in to the past he will gradually discover as he and his new friends undertake a harrowing, thrilling, and somewhat exasperatingly-ridiculous adventure to remove the threats to their lives.

My tastes do not really run to *Magyk*'s type of novels, so I did not enjoy the book much. I found Silas Heap and Marcia Overstrand's rivalry to be somewhat immature and certainly unbecoming two supposedly accomplished individuals such as them. There is one point in the novel where Silas essentially gives the group's position away to the dangerous Hunter and his accomplices but shows no remorse about it and attempts to take Jenna out of Marcia's custody, showing an astonishing pettiness that does not fit well with his personality and is a jarring moment of out-of-character. I did, however, enjoy the slow building of bonds between the younger characters as they learned to live together and found out more about each other. Though I did not like it, *Magyk* is an essentially well-written story and its fantasy setting will undoubtedly appeal to many younger readers.

As stated before, this book and its sequels are suited best for preteens and adolescents. Those who enjoyed the Harry Potter series would most probably like this one as well. In general, people who like wizards, magic, royalty, and plots should find this book a pleasing read.

Recommended Titles

Flyte, by Angie Sage

Physik, by Angie Sage

Queste, by Angie Sage

Syren, by Angie Sage

Eon: Dragoneye Reborn, by Alison Goodman