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### The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel

Tessa McMillan

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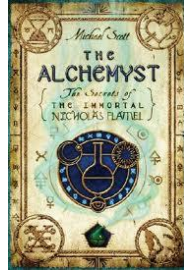
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Scott, Michael. *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. Delacorte Press, 2007. ISBN 9780385733571. \$16.99. 400 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Flamel, Nicolas, d. 1418 --Juvenile fiction; Dee, John, 1527-1608 --Juvenile fiction;

Magic --Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Twins, Josh and Sophie, find summer jobs at a bookstore and coffee shop in San Francisco. Josh's employer, Nick Fleming, seems like a nice, ordinary man. But one day Josh and Sophie witness Nick fighting a man known as Dr. John Dee with magic. Dee came to Nick's store to steal Nick's book, the Codex, and to capture Nick's wife, Perenelle. Dee is able to steal the book, except two crucial pages were torn out by Josh in the scuffle. After the fight is over, Nick, whose real name is Nicholas Flamel, explains that he is an immortal alchemist who protected the Codex. Nicholas takes the twins away to join up with Scathach, another immortal who is a legendary warrior. Nicholas explains that the world was created by the extremely magical Elder Race. Many Elders wanted to destroy humans, while other Elders wanted to support humans. A split was created and the Dark Elders were formed. Their intent is to destroy humans and rule the world again. Nicholas and other good Elders have been working to stop the Dark Elders' efforts. A prophecy in the Codex tells of twins who could either help or destroy the Dark Elders. Nicholas believes Josh and Sophie are those twins. His mission is to train the twins in all magical arts to fight the Dark Elders.

Scott's story is an exciting and engaging read. This series, like the Harry Potter and Percy Jackson series, is another well crafted and original story based on magic and history. Scott uses true events and real people to help support and bring more depth to his magical world. This is the beginning of a six book series. The next book is called *The Magician*.

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