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The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel #3: The Sorceress

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Book Review

Title: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel #3: The Sorceress

Author: Michael Scott

Reviewer: Lisa Packard

Publisher: Random House

Publication Year: 2009

ISBN: 9780385735308

Number of Pages: 483

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding



Review

Josh and Sophie are distraught. They don't know what has happened to their friend Scatty, but Nicholas assures them she is fine. They travel to England in search of the ancient (and insane) Gilgamesh the King to teach them Water Magic. Despite the king's mental instability, the twins and Flamel have no other choice than to seek help from the king. Saint-Germain finds them help in England from Palamedes, a knight from the round table, and none other than William Shakespeare. However, Dr. Dee finds them with an Elder and an Archnon, a powerful being before the time of the Elders. Dee tries to capture the twins and fails once again, falling out of favor with the Dark Elders. Dee's Elder Masters are on the hunt to destroy him and take away his immortality, but not before he tries to get back into their favor. The twins find Gilgamesh, learn Water Magic, and use the ley-line at Stonehenge to travel back to California. Meanwhile, Joan of Arc and Saint-Germain find Scatty and decide to take a ley-line at Notre Dame called Point Zero to travel to Alcatraz and help Perenelle. However, someone sabotaged the line and they are now stuck in a time with woolly mammoths and sabertoothed tigers. Machiavelli meets up with Billy the Kid in California to kill Perenelle and release the monsters held on Alcatraz, but Perenelle outsmarts them and escapes. The Flamels, Josh, and Sophie are all reunited and go home for a much needed rest before they must travel again.

Scott once again uses historic places to emphasize these spectacular events. Stonehenge is a historic landmark in England that the author describes in great detail. Just as Josh and Sophie are transported to Stonehenge, the reader is transported as well and experiences the megalithic stones and is awed by the great history there. Scott also teaches about Point Zero—the point from which all distances in France are measured, located in Paris in front of Notre Dame. Point Zero isn't only in Paris, but in several cities around the world. It is wonderful to read a book about myth and legend while also learning something new and slightly obscure to common knowledge. Scott brings to life historical figures, like William Shakespeare, in which the reader can explore his character and perhaps see him in another light. Throughout the story, Scott drives home the message that you that you shouldn't trust everything you see because not everything is what you think it is. Josh and Sophie's relationship is also developed as the love and trust they have for their twin helps them to overcome their obstacles. Josh's point of view is particularly interesting in this book as the reader experiences his struggle and conflict he faces over Nicholas Flamel and his awakening. Scott's characters also demonstrate the importance of being trustworthy and honest, and that perhaps you shouldn't always jump to conclusions about people either.

*Contains moderate violence.