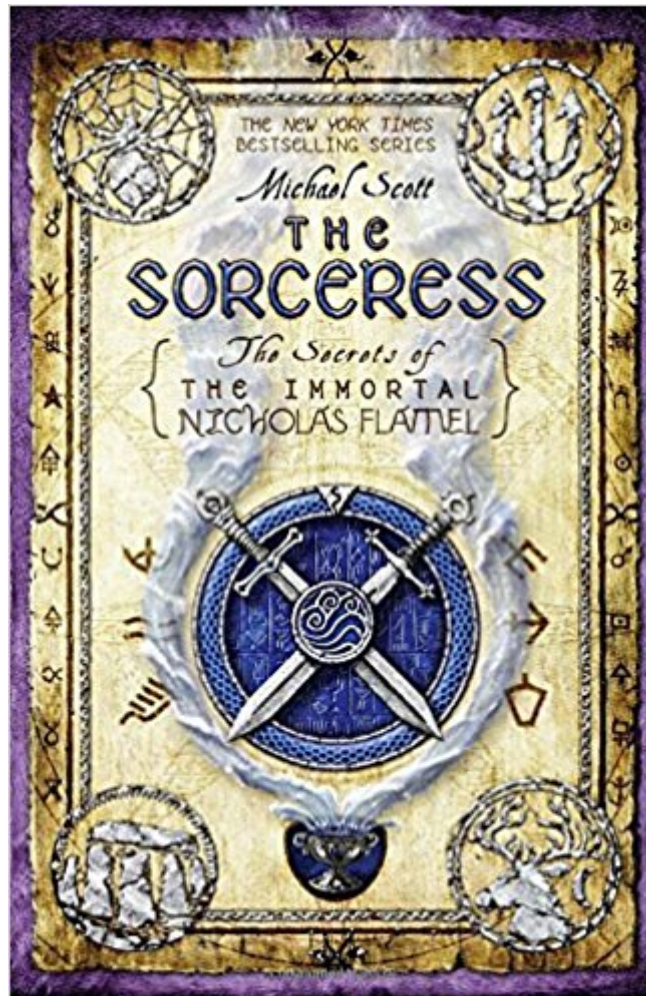




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The Sorceress (The Secrets Of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel)



Synopsis

Nicholas Flamel appeared in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter—but did you know he really lived? And he might still be alive today! Discover the truth in Michael Scott's New York Times bestselling series the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel with The Sorceress, book three. Nicholas Flamel's heart almost broke as he watched his beloved Paris crumble before him. The city was destroyed by Dee and Machiavelli, but Flamel played his own role in the destruction. Sophie and Josh Newman show every sign of being the twins of prophecy, and Flamel had to protect them and the pages from the Dark Elders. But Nicholas grows weaker with each passing day. Perenelle is still trapped in Alcatraz, and now that Scatty has gone missing, the group is without protection. Except for Clarent—the twin sword to Excalibur. But Clarent's power is unthinkable, its evil making it nearly impossible to use without its darkness seeping into the soul of whoever wields it. If he hopes to defeat Dee, Nicholas must find an Elder who can teach Josh and Sophie the third elemental magic—Water Magic. The problem? The only one who can do that is Gilgamesh, and he is quite, quite insane. Master yarnspinner that he is, Scott expertly cranks up the suspense while keeping his now-large cast in quick motion. This page-turner promises plenty of action to come. Kirkus ReviewsRead the whole series! The Alchemyst The Magician The Sorceress The Necromancer The Warlock The EnchantressFrom the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Series: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel (Book 3)

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Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The third book in Michael Scott's "Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel" series, *The Sorceress*, kicks the action up to a whole new level. Adding to the series' menagerie of immortal humans ("humani") and mythological beasts, the book picks up where *The Magician* left off: the immortal Nicholas Flamel (of *The Alchemyst*) and the twins, Sophie and Josh, have just arrived at St. Pancras international train station in London. Almost immediately, they're confronted with a demonic bounty hunter that immortal magician John Dee has sent their way. At the same time, Dee's occasional cohort, Niccolo Machiavelli, decides to focus his energy on Perenelle Flamel, the *Alchemyst*'s wife, who has been imprisoned at Alcatraz since the beginning of the series. In this book, Perenelle gets a chance to show off her sorcery and resourcefulness, fighting and forging alliances with ghosts, beasts, and the occasional Elder to try and find a way out of her predicament and back to Flamel. Scott is as playful as ever, introducing new immortals--famous figures from history who (surprise!) are still alive. He also adds to the roster of fantastical beasts, which already includes such intriguing foes as Bastet, the Egyptian cat goddess, and the Morrigan, or Crow Goddess. Raising the stakes with each installment, Scott deftly manages multiple story lines and keeps everything moving pretty quickly, making this third book a real page-turner. More than just another piece in the puzzle of the whole series, *The Sorceress* is an adventure in its own right, and will certainly leave series fans wanting more. --Heidi Broadhead .com

Exclusive: An Interview with Author Michael Scott

Q: What was your inspiration for the series? --was it the legend of the Flamels and the Book of Abraham? Did Dee figure in from the start?

Scott: The story really started with Dr. John Dee and, for a long time, he was the hero of the series. I had written about Dee before in my horror novels, *Image*, (Sphere, UK, 1991), *Reflection*, (Sphere, UK, 1993) and then *The Merchant Prince* (Pocket Books, USA, 2000). Dee was a fascinating man, but he was never "right" for the lead character: he was always too dark, too troubled. I know I started to develop the series on May 18th, 1997, because that is the first time the word "Alchemyst" with the "Y" appears in my notebooks. However, it was really three years later, in late September 2000, when I was in Paris and stumbled across Nicholas Flamel's house in the Rue de Montmorency that the series really came together. I knew a lot about Flamel and the legendary Book of Abraham and, sitting in Flamel's home, which

is now a wonderful restaurant, I realized that here was the hero for my series. Nicholas Flamel was one of the most famous alchemists of his day. He was born in 1330 and earned his living as a bookseller (which was the same job I had for many years.) One day he bought a book, the same book mentioned in *The Alchemist: the Book of Abraham*. It too, really existed and Nicholas Flamel left us with a very detailed description of the copper-bound book. Although the book itself is lost, the illustrations from the text still exist. Over the course of his long life, Flamel became extraordinarily wealthy, and used his wealth to found churches, hospitals and schools. Both he and his wife, Perenelle, were very well known in France and across Europe. The streets named after them, the Rue Flamel and the Rue Perenelle, still exist in Paris today.

Q: I was excited to see *The Sorceress* showing off more of Perenelle. How much does the real Perenelle Flamel influence the character of Perenelle?

Scott: We know little about the historical Perenelle. There are a few solid facts however and I have incorporated them into the story: she was older than Nicholas (there is even the suggestion that she might have been a widow when she married him), and she was also wealthier. It is also abundantly clear that she was the dominant character in the marriage and there is some evidence to suggest that she was an alchemist in her own right.

Q: What's coming up next?

Scott: Coming up next... well, book 4 brings us back to the west coast of America and San Francisco. And then we head south towards LA (but if I tell you any more I'll reveal a couple of big surprises!) However, I will tell you that I am just back from a weekend in London where I spent most of Saturday wandering around Covent Garden. You'll find out why in *The Necromancer*.

Q: The most fun thing about the series, I think, is how you reveal new immortals as you go along (e.g., Machiavelli, Joan of Arc... I won't spoil your reveals in *The Sorceress*, but they're surprising).

How do you decide which famous figure from history will be your next immortal?

Scott: Thank you for not revealing some of the surprises! Once I had plotted the series, I had a rough idea of the type of characters I wanted to include. My settings—the United States, France and England—suggested certain types of characters. I could not write about Paris, for example, and not include Joan. But there were other characters—Scathach is the perfect example—who was there right from the very beginning. Again, she was someone I had written about before in my early collections of Irish folklore and knew that I wanted to use again. Also, because this series is based upon legend, mythology and history, it put in place certain rules: the only “created” characters in the series are the twins, Sophie and Josh. Everyone else existed.

Q: You've written for adults and young adults—and this series certainly seems to have crossed over into an adult readership. Is the experience any different when you're writing for younger readers? Do you find that younger readers have a stronger

connection to the work, for example? Scott: I have always written for both adults and young adults, but you are right, the Flamel series has crossed over in an extraordinary way. Writing for young adults requires a certain precision in language. Adults have a body of shared knowledge and information that young adults do not. I can make allusions and references in my adult writing that young adults might not get. My young adult writing tends to be much more descriptive and I will take the time to describe people, places and situations to allow the younger readers to become fully involved in the world. Younger readers are certainly attracted to the adventure and are thrilled to realize what when they go online they can find out all sorts of additional information about all the characters. The older readers tend to ask more specific questions about the mythological characters.

Q: How is this series different from other young adult books that you've written? Scott: This is the most intricate and ambitious work I've done. The six books will take place in less than a month so everything has to knit and mesh together. The notes for this series are now bigger than the books themselves. I have said before that there is nothing accidental in the books. What might look like an inconsistency, for example, is often a clue to something that will happen later on. Because I've plotted the entire series, it gives me huge freedom to plant seeds and clues to later events.

Q: Of all the forms you write in—novels, scripts, nonfiction—do you have a favorite? Scott: Novels. It is the only one of the three where you are in complete control. With a script, for example, everyone has a say and what you see on screen only vaguely resembles what you've written.

Q: What's your favorite genre (to write and to read)? Scott: I love writing fantasy—and it's what I read most. However, my rule is when I'm writing fantasy, I will read anything but fantasy. So I end up reading a lot of crime—I've got the new John Connolly on the desk to read next—and I'm a huge John Sandford fan. The research for this series is huge (but it's the part I really enjoy), so I do find myself reading some terribly odd non-fiction.

Q: Have all six of the books in the series already been written? If so, what are you working on now? Is it strange to revisit each of the books as they come out? Scott: They have all been plotted, but not written. I'm close to the end of *The Necromancer* now and little bits of book 5, *The Warlock*, and even the end of book 6, *The Enchantress*, have been written. I am also writing and researching a new series, not linked to the Flamel series, which I'm having a lot of fun with. All I'll say is that it also has its roots in myth. The oddest part of revisiting the books is when I tour. Usually I am touring and reading from a book I finished many months previously. I have to be careful not to reveal any of the forthcoming surprises when I take questions. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 6-10 – The third book takes up immediately where *The Magician* (Delacorte, 2008) left off, and the events described occur over the course of a week. Having fled a destroyed Paris, Nicolas Flamel and the twins are now in England with their every move being tracked by John Dee, the Dark Elders, and their denizens, who are now convinced that Sophie and Josh are the twins of legend. In the meantime, Flamel's wife, Perenelle, the titular sorceress, is attempting to escape Alcatraz. Joined first by the knight Palamedes, and then by William Shakespeare, Flamel and the children try to stay ahead of their pursuers in an attempt to reach Stonehenge, where they hope to find a gate that will allow them to get to San Francisco. In the midst of evading pursuit, Josh finally gets the knowledge of an elemental power, Water Magic, from the insane Elder Gilgamesh, which, of course, conveniently becomes valuable. The chase and escape plots are rather thin and highlight the fact that this series feels bloated, and probably doesn't need the six long volumes the author is planning to tell the story. The inclusion of historical characters such as Shakespeare and Billy the Kid seems primarily a gimmick, and these two characters in particular feel oddly anachronistic. This book is a must-read for fans of the series, but even they will tire if the author doesn't get to the point with reasonable dispatch.

– Tim Wadham, St. Louis County Library, MO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Read this series because my middle-school students kept talking about it and I felt I needed to see why they liked it. I found all the books moved along well and did not stray from the plot. A few surprises along the way, too. In each book the main group encounters new characters, good and bad, from world mythology - some Greek, some Roman, some Egyptian, and some... (many middle schoolers won't know the difference, so they could be used as a springboard for further investigation). This book, *The Sorceress*, deals largely with a main character in her fight to rejoin the main group. Quite readable, and violence is not graphic. I now understand my students' comments and recommend this series to others (and to any adult who may be curious).

INCREDIBLE series of books!!! This one like the rest of the serie is incredible!!! The characters are amazing!! and very complex. LOTS of suspense!!!! Extremely interesting and incredibly hard to put down!!!!

Book three leaves us wanting more. Josh is a strong character in this volume, growing into his powers and learning to think for others. Sophie's skills also increase but it is her ability to empathize

that stands out. The themes of secrets, monsters, super powers and rules still dominate. Great series for middle schoolers.

My 10 year old grandson loved this, the third in the series.

Condition: New. Shipping: Good. This is one of the Nicholas Flamel books from the series of the same name (except add "The Secret of the Immortal" to the front of "Nicholas Flamel"). This is an excellent series of books that are fairly easy reads. The series character was actually a fairly popular historical figure who, according to wikipedia, "was a successful French scrivener and manuscript-seller who developed a posthumous reputation as an alchemist due to his reputed work on the philosopher's stone." His cult status was emphasized in the Harry Potter series, who's first book was titled after the famous stone. NOTE: This book series is not related to the Harry Potter "universe" or series.

I was excited to feed my Harry Potter book worm with a spin-off of the series. 'The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel' series is based on J.K Rowling's character of the same name in the Harry Potter books who partners with Dumbledore. Nicholas Flamel creates the Sorcerer's/Philosopher's stone and he and his wife live to incredible old age--without aging. 'The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel', due to copyright infringements, does not enter the Wizarding World in any way. Having stated that, I need to stress that the only reason I searched this book out and opened the cover was because of it's tie in with Rowling's tales. I want to be very clear with others that may have the same impression that this work continues to delve into Harry Potter's expanded Wizarding World, that it doesn't. I've apparently touched a nerve with fans of Scott's work with my review. I did read the entire series. I did not love it. I didn't hate it. It was okay. I will mention the impression the author gives of Perenelle's hair having human qualities when she's riled, the tie-in with Yggdrasile, the life tree, that spans different worlds and myths woven within the series, and the various global, magical locations and their connections with ley-lines, have left an impression on me, just not an epic, Harry Potter impression. Which, was what I assumed when I learned the intentional tie-in.

Micheal Scott has created a fast action story using world myth's and legends and made a fun read. Scott started with the central character Nicholas Flamel -whom, I have explained both to my children and many others, was a real person and not a character from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone- and written a great series. The Sorceress is the third book of the series and is as fast paced

as the other three each book covering the action of just a couple days. As a parent I loved the way it pushed my children into doing some academic research to find out about the "real" lives of Flamel, John Dee, Machiavelli and more. They also learned about many of the mythical characters. I may have enjoyed the first two books a bit more but I loved the ending of this book and how it sets up the story for the fourth book coming out this May. This is a great read. The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel

I really loved the storyline but I would have preferred the pacing to be a little quicker. Otherwise a great continuation of the series.

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