

Flyte

Angie Sage

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In this upbeat, spellbinding sequel to *Magyk*, Septimus has returned to the castle with an apprenticeship under the ExtraOrdinary wizard, the intimidating, yet caring Marcia Overstand. Along with his apprenticeship, Septimus's adventures are just beginning as trouble is brewing in this magical realm. Marcia seems to have caught the Darknesse lingering in the Castle in the form of a persistent Darke Shadow that she is anxious to rid herself of. Unknown to Marcia, the cause of the Darknesse, the two-time ex-ExtraOrdinary wizard DomDaniel has literally risen from his grave at the bottom of the Marram Marshes with the help of Simon, who has kidnapped his and Septimus's adopted sister, Princess Jenna. Therefore, Septimus enlists the help of his brother Nicko and an old friend, Wolf Boy, to find Jenna. Luckily for them, Jenna manages to escape from Simon and finds the boys at the Port, but their journey does not stop there.

Unfortunately, Simon is not deceived by Jenna's mysterious overnight disappearance, and soon follows in hot pursuit. To make matters worse, Simon seems to be in possession of the lost art of Flyte, an ancient charm that gives its owner the ability to fly. Will the four children be able to stop Simon's relentless chase? Will they be safe within the castle walls or is there danger lurking within too? Most importantly, can the kids uncover the real threat, the source of their misfortunes, in time to stop it?

Overall, *Flyte* is a wonderfully written book from beginning to end with few drawbacks and even fewer reasons to disappoint. The mini life stories about certain characters at the back of the book are especially fun to read and provide insight on the characters that are entertaining and typically quite humorous too. Even the cover immediately draws you in immediately with its unique diary-like appearance that looks like it came from within the magical world the book is about. Although the bolded, intentionally misspelled words can be slightly confusing at times, they are a unique twist to the book and are helpful in signifying spells, charms, and anything magical. There is no shortage of excitement and surprises when it comes to this book, whether it is underground ice tunnels in the summer or a self-renewing banana chew that reappears every time it gets spit out.

I would recommend *Flyte* to anyone interested in a good fantasy book, complete with adventure, action, and magic for the total package. I would especially recommend this book to middle school students. The story progresses at a moderately fast pace to prevent boredom from setting in while providing the necessary details to create a vivid picture that allows the reader to follow the story easily. Furthermore, the characters are well developed, each with their own personalities and singular characteristics that bring them to life. If this book appealed to your reading senses, other books to consider include the rest of the Septimus Heap series, The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan, Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo, Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke, and Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling.