

Physik

Angie Sage

Reviewed by: Ryan Lee

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In the third book in Angie Sage's best-selling Septimus Heap series, the entire cast returns in a new nonsensical adventure that upholds the quirky, humorous style of the previous two books. Septimus Heap and Jenna are continuing their respective lives, but the comfortable atmosphere is disrupted when, in the process of acquiring a new colony of Counter-Foot, Silas Heap unSeals a Sealed room and releases the spirit of the old queen Etheldredda, a terrible and vicious woman. Her five-hundred year old plan to give herself eternal life has endured, as has her unpleasant temperament, and she puts it in play immediately, drawing Jenna and Septimus into her schemes and plots. The ExtraOrdinary Wizard's Apprentice is promptly hurled back in time to assist Etheldredda's son, the famed Physician and Alchemist Marcellus Pye, in creating a tincture of immortality that Marcellus wishes to drink in order to escape his fate as a ghastly, five-hundred year-old man. Etheldredda has plans for this tincture as well, and it falls to Jenna, Nicko, the former Young Army soldier Boy 409, and the Trader's daughter Snorrie Snorrelssen to fix the whole mess and stop the evil old Queen.

Physik continues the saga of Septimus Heap, and to my surprise I enjoyed it more than its predecessors. It has all the hallmarks of its predecessors, but expands the cast and has delightfully humorous scenes of an evil queen being repeatedly frustrated by her own plots. Though character development is still absent, Septimus does gain in knowledge and shows competence in the trials he is pitched into, while Jenna demonstrates resourcefulness and ingenuity in attempting to rescue her errant foster-brother. Some of the other cast members get more screen time as well, and in general I thought the book was an improvement and the best one of the series so far.

This book is for preteens, adolescents, and adherents of comical fantasy that does not delve too deep into the more cynical spectrum of that genre.

Recommended Titles

Magyk, by Angie Sage

Flyte, by Angie Sage

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, by J.K. Rowling

The Tales of Beedle the Bard, by J.K. Rowling

Araminta Spookie: My Haunted House, by Angie Sage