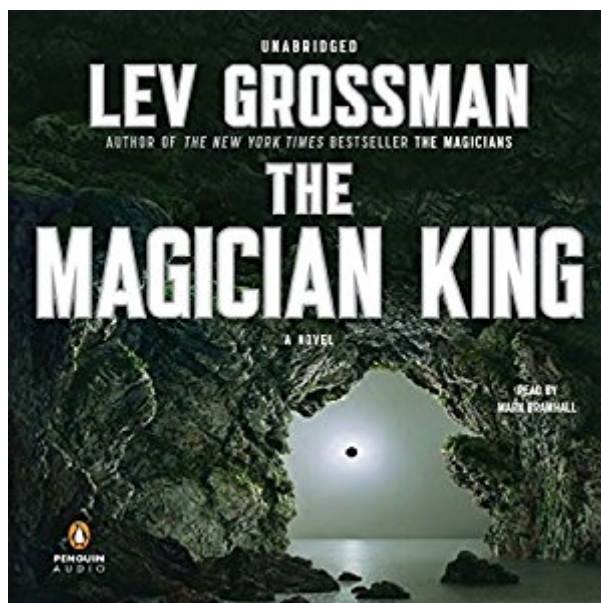


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The Magician King: A Novel



Synopsis

Return to Fillory in the riveting sequel to The New York Times best-seller and literary phenomenon of 2009: *The Magicians*. *The Magicians* was praised as a triumph by readers and critics of both mainstream and fantasy literature. Now Grossman takes us back to Fillory, where the Brakebills graduates have fled the sorrows of the mundane world, only to face terrifying new challenges. Quentin and his friends are now the kings and queens of Fillory, but the days and nights of royal luxury are starting to pall. After a morning hunt takes a sinister turn, Quentin and his old friend Julia charter a magical sailing ship and set out on an errand to the wild outer reaches of their kingdom. Their pleasure cruise becomes an adventure when the two are unceremoniously dumped back into the last place Quentin ever wants to see: his parent's house in Chesterton, Massachusetts. And only the black, twisted magic that Julia learned on the streets can save them. *The Magician King* is a grand voyage into the dark, glittering heart of magic, an epic quest for the Harry Potter generation. It also introduces a powerful new voice, that of Julia, whose angry genius is thrilling. Once again Grossman proves that he is the modern heir to C.S. Lewis and at the cutting edge of literary fantasy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even better than the first one, which I loved. I am consistently delighted by the ways in which Grossman uses the conventions and touchstones of fantasy fiction -- and I don't just mean the Harry Potter series and the Narnia books, but, for example, "The Tempest," which of course features one of literature's great magician kings -- to enrich and twist his story, to add nuance. I have

a couple of friends who say they don't like the series because the narrator is "a whiner." I don't really understand this complaint: I have not tended to feel the need to love my protagonists. And I'd argue that one of the greatest fantasy series of all time is E. Nesbit's "The Five Children and It" series, narrated by a spectacularly pompous, self-satisfied young man named Oswald. As with Quentin -- the narrator of the "Magicians" series -- Oswald's heart is in the right place, but he is delightfully irritating. And the books would not be nearly so satisfying if the narrator were NOT so irritating, if he were less self-absorbed, more aware of his own fallibility, etc. Because in his irritatingness, he -- both he's -- is LIKE US. He's human. And that both makes his foibles funnier and gives his tragedies some real emotional weight.

After finishing the first book in this series, I must admit, I did not like it. It just did not resonate with me. It was exciting sometimes, sure, and the last half I read in a day, but still, I was very unsure if I wanted to start reading the second. I did, and I'm so glad! I don't know what changed, if it was the books becoming better, or I becoming more used to them, anyhow, I loved it. It is both fun and charming, but still manage to mix this up with great suspense and some pretty grizzly scenes. The book flows nicely, and it has the rare quality to really make me feel what the characters are feeling. Not always a pleasant feeling! Now that I finished all three I really do feel like there is a hole, I have no idea what to do with myself, and am desperately looking for a new series that can fill the void after the magicians.

I got into reading the series because of SFY TV production. It piqued my interest. However, like many stories taken from books to TV the story lines change. And it really changed, which only got me to want to finish the first book and begin the second to see if some of what was shown on the TV program had occurred or was only the script writer's imagination. All I can say is that you will have to read the books to come to your own conclusions. I do look forward to Season 2 of the Magicians. By-the-way, I am now reading book 3.

Really should be two stars for it's okay. There are glaring plot holes, changing definitions of characters from chapter to chapter, the idea and story arc were good. The writing style was inconsistent, sometimes a story is told one way and the next paragraph it all changes. Author seems to lack a coherent voice. The book definitely needs a grammatical double check as there were so many sentence fragments, comma errors, missing sentences. I ended up skipping whole chapters because the repetition of the same idea got tiresome.

This book is exquisite. I *liked* the first one. I'm not deeply read in fantasy, though I know what I like. This story is well written. The story is tight. The ending resolves the narrative dynamically -- zero deus ex machina, zero shortcuts. The thing that most blew me away is how deep and abiding its treatment of its core material is: cosmology, metaphysics, magic, internal world rules, characterization. I teach mythology and cosmology. I don't mention that to put on airs, merely to stipulate that my bar of enjoyment (the depth I require to suspend disbelief) runs annoyingly high. I was gleeful, quite literally, at how tragic and true-to-form the last quarter of this book was. I knew immediately that I liked this better a little better than the first book, and it progressively got better and better from there. I was continually surprised in the most pleasant of ways. I found myself saying, yes, that is novel and absolutely the way the story should turn. There is no better marker for a well-told story. I cannot wait to read the 3rd book. I already own it. I will want to savor it as well, as it is the last installment. Thank you, Mr. Grossman.

Book two of the Magicians series is incredible! I felt transported to that world. There are chapters of such incredible Fantasy imagery. Don't be confused by the post modern feel of the Magician's. Lev is writing High Fantasy. I love the world building expansion that this second entry gets. Not only Fillory, but the whole of the worlds that Quentin, and company encounter. Tied in with the world building, is the great mythology that Grossman is plotting here. It is fascinating and wholly original!! I have read a lot of different fantasy series's. The Magician's is a unique entry into the genre. The closest comparison I can give is Stephen King's Dark Tower. Yet even that connection is very light. One of the things that helps me love this series so much, is how different it is. I have read a lot of the bad reviews, and the one complaint that can not be made is that this series is cookie cutter. This is one of the most original pieces of fiction I have ever experienced. My biggest complaint for this book, and really the series on the whole, is that the main characters aren't exactly lovable. I like Quentin okay but not in the way I do with most series, I fall in love with. I think this more than anything, is what turns most people off. Even though he may not be my favorite, I still found myself having an emotional reaction to something done to him late. So while I wouldn't like to be his friend, I still feel and cheer for him. I would recommend this book to those that have read a lot of fantasy and are looking for something new. This series just fascinates me.

This was my favorite book of the series. Moves quicker than the first book and makes Quentin more relatable after his losses in the prior story. I find Julia as frustrating as ever but not in a poorly written

way, just in a 'I'd really like to give her a good shake' kind of way. Enjoy the book!

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