



THE STRONG POINTS IN *THE SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICHOLAS FLAMEL: THE MAGICIAN* BY MICHAEL SCOTT

A FINAL PROJECT

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this final project is compiled by her without taking any results from other researches in S-1, S-2, and S-3 and in diploma degree of any universities. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, December 2013

Yulia Utamingtyas

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“And in their rush to create wonders, they have ignored the wonders all around them, ignored the mysteries, the beauty.”

■ Michael Scott, *The Magician*

“True. If you tell people everything, you take away their opportunity to learn.”

■ Nicholas Flamel, *The Magician*

“There are no debts between friends.”

■ Madame Dora, *The Magician*

“Friends are important. But while friends come and go, you will always have family.”

■ Scathach, *The Magician*

*This final project is dedicated to
Allah SWT and Muhammad, my spiritual masters,*

*My beloved family and to everyone
who helped me accomplished this final project.*

“Thank you for supporting me.”

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Semarang, December 2013

The Writer

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ABSTRAK

The Magician merupakan sebuah novel kedua dari enam seri yang ditulis oleh Michael Scott, bercerita tentang kehidupan dua orang anak Amerika yang awalnya berjalan biasa saja. Masalah mulai muncul ketika mereka bertemu dengan Nicholas Flamel dan musuh-musuhnya. Penulis ingin memberikan gambaran tentang isi setting novel tersebut melalui pemaparan tempat. Ditambah dengan munculnya karakter inti di dalam novel sehingga menjadikan cerita petualangan ini semakin menarik. Tujuannya agar pembaca memahami novel tersebut serta dapat mengetahui pendapat dari sisi penulis tentang isi novel. Penulis berharap semoga ulasan mengenai novel ini dapat bermanfaat bagi pembaca.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the world of literary, prose is known as one of the literary genres. One of them is fiction. According to Perrine, a fantasy story, fiction, or novels are usually based on the experience of the author life (1966: 41).

A fiction is also suggested as an aspect to entertain the reader. Reading a fiction means we are enjoying the story inside and amusing ourselves. It does not matter how complicated our experience is, or how complicated a referring life is, “literature must always be interesting; it must always have a structure and an aesthetic purpose, a total coherence and effect” (Wellek & Warren, 1973: 212).

The Magician is the second novel of the six series, *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*, which is written by Michael Scott, is an interesting book to be reviewed. *The Magician* refers to a man, named John Dee, who works for the Dark Elders and their return to dominance the earth.

The setting of place of this book makes the story more interesting. The author brings the readers not only to many places in this world but also to many places which represent the imagination of the author. Furthermore, the characters on this novel have different aspects to explain about. The author clearly makes suspense

for the readers to keep them reading. Because of those reasons, the writer is interested in reviewing *The Magician* to be her final project.

1.2 The Objectives of Book Review

The objective of this book review is to explain the strong points that concern setting of place and characters.

1.3 Author's Biography

Michael Scott was born on 28 September 1959 in Ireland. He is one of the Ireland's most successful and creative authors. Scott's first love is mythology. He said that his background, growing up in Ireland with its rich mythology, directed him to be naturally drawn to myths. However, while he had a special taste for mythology, Scott wrote what purely interests him, which led him to write across many genres and styles.

The Magician is the fourth on the New York Times Best Seller list on 13 July 2008. The series has been printed in 20 languages and is available in 37 countries. *The Magician* was released on 5 June 2008 in the United Kingdom, and 24 June 2008 in the United States and it was nominated for 2009 Irish Book of the Year Award — The Dublin Airport Authority Irish Children's Book of the Year for Senior Category.

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

This novel is an adventure story, about Sophie and Josh Newman – 15 years old twins. They were in Paris with Nicholas Flamel, the alchemist, and Scathach, Nicholas' friend. In the two previous days, Sophie had been an ordinary American teenager; her head was filled with normal everyday things. Now, her life was drastically different since her powers have just been awakened by the Witch of Endor, who taught Sophie the Magic of Air and made her hypersensitive to all sights, smells, sounds, touch and taste. Josh himself wanted to be awakened and equal to his sister too.

The twins, Nicholas and Scathach were on the run for their life to Niccolo Machiavelli, the immortal magician. Machiavelli and John Dee, his colleague and also his rival, were working for the Dark Elders. Nicholas led his small group looked for another immortal and also his student, Comte de Saint-Germain and Joan of Arc. Joan of Arc was de Saint-Germain's wife and Scathach's best friend. This small group lived for a moment in de Saint-Germain's residence. During the training, Josh was given the legendary stone sword Clarent, an ancient Fire Elemental sword, by Nicholas.

Meanwhile, Nicholas' wife Perenelle Flamel, was taken to Alcatraz Island and had been imprisoned by Dee. Dee thought that Perenelle was more dangerous than

Nicholas. Perenelle waited, powerless, for a chance to run away. Nicholas and his wife had less than a month to live if they did not reclaim the Book of Abraham back. The Book of Abraham held more than just the formula for immortality; it was contained of spells that could heal the world and returned it to Paradise, along with ones that could destroy everything. The bad thing was that Dee had the Book and wanted nothing more than Nicholas's death and the rise of the Dark Elders to the rightful place of power. The good thing was that Josh had the two most important pages from the Book, and Dee could not use it until he got the pages.

Someday, Josh, Joan, and Scathach had to encounter four monsters that attacked them. The monster captured Scathach in its claws, and then fled with Scathach when the sword Clarent, used by Josh, wounded it. After a long battle, Sophie managed to freeze the two monsters in an iceberg. Dee and Machiavelli, who sent the monsters out, then allowed Dagon, Machiavelli's assistant, to chase the monster. Dagon was ordered to kill Scathach if the beast failed to do so. They arrived on the edge of the Seine River and Josh managed to stop the monster and escaped. Josh, Dee and Machiavelli left together.

Sophie, Joan, and Nicholas arrived, beat the monsters and saved Scathach. When they were talking to Scathach, Dagon blew up of the river and dragged Scathach back in with him. The group missed Scathach, but decided to go after Josh by using Sophie's aura; so they could track Dee and his comrades to the catacombs of Paris. Josh's magical ability was Awakened by another the Elders, Mars Ultor, and he was given a special gift, Mars' military knowledge. When Sophie, Josh, and the rest

escaped from the catacombs, Dee and Machiavelli had set a trap, made the gargoyles and statues of Paris come to life and attacked their victims. Josh, Sophie, de Saint-Germain, and Joan of Arc united their powers to destroy the statues. Nicholas and the twins escaped by a train and headed for London.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF *THE MAGICIAN*

The story of *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel: The Magician* novel series are reviewed from the following points:

3.1 Setting of place

According to Bickham, setting is the environment in which a story or event takes place. Setting can include specific information about time and place or can simply be descriptive. It creates the stage on which characters move and act (1999: 120).

According to Perrine, the works of fiction in which the spatial setting, or place, dominates are generally classified as examples of local color regionalism. The regionalist seeks to investigate the effect on character of a particular geographical setting-which means, of course, a spiritual as well as physical setting (1966: 43).

Some places in this novel are not only real and famous in its own country, such as Paris, Alcatraz Island, and The Catacombs of Paris, but also author's imagination place, such as Danu Talis. Those locations have the most important aspects to make the story more interesting.

3.1.1 Paris

The author describes Paris clearly as a crucial city where Nicholas, Machiavelli and Dee struggle in.

3.1.1.1 Nicholas Flamel

For Nicholas, Paris is the unforgettable city. Nicholas discovers the Codex and begins the long journey that leads him to reveal the existence of the Elder Race and the secret of immortality.

'We are now in Paris, the city of my birth, the city where I first discovered the Codex and began the long quest to translate it ... I love this city. It holds many secrets and is home to more than one human immortal and ancient Elder. Here, I will find a way to Awaken Josh's powers and continue Sophie's education' (Scott, 2008: 6).

Paris is also being an odd city for Nicholas as if this place will be his tomb, *'But Paris was no longer Nicholas Flamel's city. The city that had once honored Flamel and his wife as patrons of the sick and poor, the city that named streets after them, was long gone'* (Scott, 2008: 25).

3.1.1.2 Nicollo Machiavelli

Yet, for Machiavelli, France is an appropriate place to capture Nicholas and his groups. Because he is the Head of the General Board of External Security, his powers are almost limitless, and he will issue an order to impose a press blackout, *'...Paris now belonged to Machiavelli and the Dark Elders he served. Looking out over the ancient city, Niccol Machiavelli swore that he was going to turn Paris into a trap and maybe even a tomb for the legendary Alchemyst'* (Scott, 2008: 25).

3.1.1.3 John Dee

Dee has the same feeling as Machiavelli. After serving the Dark Elders, Paris is no longer his favorite city, *'He hated Paris. It had not always been that way. Once, this had been his favorite city in all of Europe, filled with the most wonderful and extraordinary memories. After all, he had been made immortal in this city'* (Scott, 2008: 122).

3.1.2 Alcatraz Island

Alcatraz Island is a place where Dee is secretly using the prison as a house of the most dangerous and violent creatures on the planet. The Sphinx has been tasked with guarding Perenelle Flamel, who is temporarily imprisoned here. *'Alcatraz was a place of ghosts'* (Scott, 2008: 26). This place is founded by Juan Manuel de Ayala in 1775 and is named one of the three islands he identified as the "La Isla de los Alcatraces".

'I called this place la Isla de los Alcatraces'

...

'I am Juan Manuel de Ayala. I discovered Alcatraz'

...

'...I returned because I fell in love with this place from the very first moment I set eyes on it' (Scott, 2008: 66-67).

3.1.3 Catacombs of Paris

The Catacombs of Paris reside under the city and is the current resting place of Mars Ultor, the sleeping God of War. Dee and Machiavelli take Josh into the Catacombs to meet Mars in hoping that he would awaken Josh's powers.

'...The catacombs were originally huge limestone quarries ... The same limestone used to build the city. Paris is built over a warren of tunnels'

...
'...By the end of the eighteenth century, the graveyards of Paris were overflowing... it was recognized that the overflowing graveyards must have something to do with the contagion. So it was decided to empty the graveyards and move the remains down into the empty quarries' (Scott, 2008: 221).

In the end of this novel, the author gives a small note about this location.

'Officially, the catacombs are called the Ossuary of Denfert Rochereau, and the entrance is directly across from the Denfert Rochereau Metro station. Only a small section is open to the public; the tunnels are treacherous, narrow, and prone to flooding and are riddled with potholes and wells. And are the ideal hiding place for a Sleeping God' (Scott, 2008: 254).

There are also some places that described as if they are in fantasy world. That world may be tenuously connected to Earth via magical portals or items.

'This planet is crisscrossed with invisible lines of power sometimes called leylines or cursus. Where two or more lines intersect a gateway exists. Leygates are incredibly rare now, but in ancient times the Elder Race used them to travel from one side of the world to the other in an instant just as we did. The Witch opened the ley gate in Ojai and we ended up here, in Paris' (Scott, 2008:11).

3.1.4 Danu Talis

In this novel, there is a place that involves magical ability or futuristic theme, namely is Danu Talis. Danu Talis is literally name for the mythical lost island of Atlantic that rises from the sea floor by the Great Elders. It was a large island to the Elder race. The Elder World of Danu Talis sounds like a beautiful dream. As Dee tells Josh in *The Alchemyst* series, *'In the ancient past, the earth was a paradise. It had an incredibly advanced technology, but the air was clean, the water pure, the seas unpolluted'* (The Alchemyst, 2007).

3.2 Characters

According to Potter, characters are a basic element in much imaginative literature and therefore they meant the considerable attention paid to them. When critics speak of characters they mean any person who figures in a literary work not particularly a peculiar or an eccentric one. Sometimes a given character does not appear but it merely talked about (1967: 1). Character enables the readers to know people, to understand them, and to learn compassion for them, as the readers might not otherwise do.

According to Perrine, there are three principles of characters, which are consistent character, motivated character, and plausible character (1988: 67).

3.2.1 Consistent Character

This character means that the characters do not behave one way on one occasion and a different way on another unless there is clearly a sufficient reason for the change.

3.2.1.1 Niccolo Machiavelli

Niccolo Machiavelli is an Italian magician, appears in this story with his perverseness. He has a grey or dirty white aura and his odor is snake-like. It resembles his personality; being extremely dangerous, manipulative, and control his emotions easily.

'The most dangerous immortal in Europe, the Alchemyst said grimly. Trust me: this man makes Dee look like an amateur'

'He prided himself on having complete control of his emotions, but he had to admit that right now he was feeling quite excited...' (Scott, 2008: 20-22).

Niccollo Machiavelli also behaves to be more human than Dee, having once remarked that the price of his immortality is his service, but never his soul. Because of that, he keeps a lot of information about the Elders. Beside of his loyalty, he has great respect for Nicholas Flamel and Perenelle, Nicholass' wife. He will help Nicholas to train the twins, *'You always thought I was a better person than I was, Nicholas. I believe there is good in everyone, Flamel whispered, even you. Not me, Alchemyst, not anymore, and not for a very long time'* (Scott, 2008: 23).

Niccollo Machiavelli does not like working with Dee, but it is a must when his master commands him. In the end of story, when Dee blames Machiavelli about their fail to kill the Flamels, Machiavelli has recorder evidence.

'He had no intention of following Dee's orders; he was going to capture Flamel and the twins before Dee's plane touched down in Paris. He would do what Dee had failed to do for centuries, and in return, the Elders would grant him anything he desired' (Scott, 2008: 90).

3.2.2 Motivated Character

This character means that in whatever characters do, especially when there is any change in their behavior; the readers must be able to understand the reason for what they do, if not immediately, at least by the end of the story. The twins, Josh and Sophie Newman, are the characters who turn from ordinary teenagers into extraordinary teenagers. They have gold and silver auras, orange and vanilla scent, which are considered sun and moon.

The twins who lived like a common teenagers as a sudden have to face this dangerous action, *'...Two days ago, Sophie and I were happy, normal people. And*

now look at us: I barely know my own sister. We've been hunted, attacked by monsters and now we're on a police most-wanted list' (Scott, 2008: 62).

3.2.2.1 Josh

Josh is given the remaining pages of the Codex to protect '*You rescued the pages, Josh. It's only right that you should guard them. I know I can trust you to take care of them'* (Scott, 2008: 73) and is also given the legendary sword, Clarent, by Nicholas so that Josh feels better equipped to defend himself '*Josh is the only one amongst us without the ability to protect himself. Until his powers are Awakened, he is going to need a weapon. I want him to have Clarent'* (Scott, 2008: 113). Josh is given sword training by Scathach.

Josh loves Sophie, but it cannot be easy for him to cope with her new powers. '*Almost unconsciously, Josh stepped away from his sister. He'd seen her like this before, and she'd scared him'* (Scott, 2008: 17). Even when Sophie is Awakened, Josh envies of Sophie's abilities and feels left in the magical dust.

'When the Witch of Endor had instructed Sophie in the Magic of Air, he had been dismissed; now he'd been dismissed again. He was quickly realizing that in this new magical world, there was no place for someone like him, someone without power' (Scott, 2008: 101).

Josh makes a decision by following Dee's desire to be Awaken by Mars Ultor.

When Josh arrives in Catacombs of Paris, Machiavelli asks Josh whether the Awakening is so important to Josh or not.

'My sister was Awakened, he explained slowly. I want I need to have my powers Awakened so we're alike again. Does that make sense?'

...

'Machiavelli nodded, But is that the only reason, Josh?'

...

'Machiavelli was right; it wasn't the only reason. When he'd held Clarent, he'd briefly experienced a hint of what it must be like to have Awakened senses. For a few moments, he'd felt truly alive, he'd felt complete and more than anything else, he wanted to experience that feeling again' (Scott, 2008: 214).

During the process, Mars Ultor imparts his tactical and military knowledge into Josh's head which later serves Josh well in his battles.

3.2.2.2 Sophie

Sophie is taught how to control and shape her aura, and also helps her sort her own memories from Witch of Endor by Joan of Arc, *'Sophie Newman possessed the Witch of Endor's memories ... And scattered throughout the tangle of memories were countless incidences when the Witch had actually used her special power, the Magic of Air* (Scott, 2008: 23).

She is also taught the Magic of Fire by Saint Germain. Sophie hears Josh's thoughts and knows that he is not only jealous and fearful of her powers, but also Josh has lied to her about his feelings.

'At least that hasn't changed. The twins often found they were thinking the same thought at the same moment, and they knew one another so well. I was just wishing we could go back in time, to before all this happened ... So I wouldn't have to be like this so we wouldn't be different ... I don't like what's happening to me. I never wanted it to happen. I want to be ordinary, Josh. I want to be human again. I want to be like you. But you don't, do you? You want the power; you want to be able to shape your aura and control the elements, don't you? ... It would be interesting, I think. Yes, I want to be able to do it, he admitted' (Scott, 2008: 116).

According to the prophecy, Josh and Sophie are the two that are one, the one that is all.

'The two that are one, Nicholas Flamel whispered. Their power was incredible and seemingly inexhaustible. He knew that power like this could control,

reshape or even destroy the world. The Alchemyst found himself wondering for the first time if Awakening them had been the correct decision' (Scott, 2008: 249).

3.2.3 Plausible or Lifelike Character

The characters must be neither paragons of virtue nor monsters of evil nor an impossible combination of contradictory traits. The readers must feel that they have come from the author's experience so they could appear somewhere in the normal course of events. In this novel, there are so many monsters that appear with different shapes. There are imagination things that come alive such as the Sphinx and Mars Ultor. Those creatures in the series are drawn from myth all across the world.

3.2.3.1 The Sphinx

The Sphinx is described as a creature from Greek mythology that has the body of a lion, the wings of an eagle, and the head of a beautiful woman. Dee uses the Sphinx to guard Perenelle in Alcatraz and absorbs her energy so that Perenelle is unable to use her magical powers. When Perenelle unknowingly free to escape her cell, the Sphinx madly searches the prison, *'A sphinx, a monster with a lion's body, an eagle's wings and the head of a beautiful woman. One of its special powers was the ability to absorb the magical energies of another living being'* (Scott, 2008: 26).

3.2.3.2 Mars Ultor

Mars Ultor is known as a brilliant Strategist, the God of War, from Roman mythology that never lost a battle. He was once the champion of the Humani, but his rampage among the Humani was the reason that his wife, the Witch of Endor,

conspired and trapped him in the Catacombs. The Witch then placed a curse on him which trapped him inside his ever hardening aura, ensuring he could not escape.

Mars Ultor is the one who can Awaken Josh and gives Josh a gift of his military knowledge, *'...Truly, yours is one of the most powerful auras I have ever encountered, Mars said quietly. There is something else I can give you a gift and this I give freely. You may find it of use in the days to come...'* (Scott, 2008: 233).

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The second book in the series, *The Magician*, is a mythological thrill the reader cannot miss.

First of all, it is an adventures story. The twins as teenagers, with youthful concerns, and adolescent attitudes, embark on the dangerous undertaking to protect the Book from falling into evil hands, risking all and constantly fending off physical danger. We are on the edge of our seats every step of the way, and it takes part on the journey as if we are one of the gang because the story is so sympathetic and humorous. By far the best about the author's writing is that he blends mythology and legends from many cultures together. Even people with no prior interest in mythology will love this novel.

Moreover, fantasy story asks readers to toss aside reality for a moment, and allow magic into our lives. The readers have to admit that nothing is impossible in our lives. So do magic, it could be real.

Many great events are written in this novel such as the effort and motivation of the main characters to defeat the enemy, conflict with themselves, and also an old friendship story. Thus, this novel teaches us that motivation should be looked for and it should make us confidence with what we struggle in.

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APPENDIX

i. Author: Michael Scott



ii. Cover of the Novel: the Magician

