



High Mage

Terry Mancour , Emily Harris (Editor)

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Rock Star!

Things were starting to look up for Magelord Minalan the Spellmonger – the magic mountain in his domain not only made him a wealthy man and the most powerful mage in history, it also produced a lode of magical gemstones with unique properties – properties the Alka Alon, the masters of magic on Callidore, are fascinated by. When Minalan gets his chance to trade some of his magic rocks for irionite, he finds himself in a position to raise hundreds more magi with the stones . . . making them High Magi.

But as valuable as that bargain is for prosecuting the war with the Dead God and his sinister armies, such power comes with a hefty price. Every new High Mage Minalan raises presents potential new problems. The Magelords have inspired fear in their neighbors. The warmagi invent deadly new spells. The lower orders of magi are getting restless. The mage-led Sevendor Town wants a new charter. King Rard and the royal court are pressuring the nascent Arcane Orders politically. Some magi are crossing the Penumbra and taking stones from the goblins, as well as taking their service. And some are just starting to get a little crazy.

It makes a nice, normal little raid on his lands seem refreshing in its simplicity.

In trying to balance the needs of the war with the needs of a well-ordered Order, Minalan finds himself making compromises, cutting deals, and bargaining what power he has in a high-stakes game where Chaos seems to be the only player who knows the rules. The temptations of his position and the power he wields are great, but so, he discovers, are the responsibilities. But when his patience seems nearly exhausted and his alliances seem ready to crumble, a massive army emerges from the shadowy realms and strikes south, forcing the High Magi to rally around the Spellmonger in defense of the kingdom.

As the genocidal goblin army marches toward the once-prosperous cottonlands of Gilmora, Minalan and his High Magi must defend a single bridge against them at all costs. And they are ready to. But the plans of magi count little when the powerful and subtle mind of the Dead God opposes them. For when the die is cast and the first blow is struck, it becomes clear that nothing is as Minalan had foreseen. As disaster looms for the humani kingdom and even the Alka Alon are threatened, only a desperate appeal to divinity, a dangerously risky adventure and a little classy enchantment offer any hope against calamity. For the day has come when all that stands between ruin and survival is the bravery and cunning of the Spellmonger and his High Magi!

High Mage Details

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From Reader Review High Mage for online ebook

Erick says

I think this book did a great job of solving a problem that has been plaguing the Spellmonger for a while, his infidelity. While it felt like he was brushing past it in the past, you really feel the full weight of how much Minalan cares about staying faithful and how hard it actually is for him. In fact, its a great take on this issue that shows, it's not merely a matter of individual willpower, but having to fight against myriad outside pressures as well. The battles also are much better in that the battles are not merely about we are crushing these guys and they are bringing tons of forces to crush us. They are much more strategic and most of the battle is the fun to read mental battle of how to outwit and out flank the opponent. Very good work by Mancour on evolving this way. The only thing that felt oddly funny is, after giving a full book to his apprentices, they are barely involved in this book.

Now the real downside. The book does drag in places. Mancour needs a better editor that is willing to say the word cut more often. It really hurts a good storyline to get bogged down with too much political debate or tangents.

Miguel Guhlin says

Fantastic tale

I loved this installment of Spellmonger series. What a delight to discover these storytelling treasure trove. Please keep writing and putting these into Audible.

Jeff R Hawkins says

I still love the story , but . . .

How is it that the author can't employ an editor?

This has potential to be a major series, in my opinion, but not without editing.

sirmikalbrownmsn.com says

A great read

Character development is exciting as well as the conflict. The editing is starting to get better so that spelling and grammar errors occur less often.

Austin says

Another wonderful entry into this amazing universe!

I can't get enough of John Lee's narration either. It's just so. damn. good.

The adventure continues, and we get to see Minelan solidify further political ties and power, unintentionally for the most part of course. The book was filled with a lot of set up for what will likely be more exciting events in future books, but that's fine by me!

Can't wait for Journeymage's audiobook from Tantor audio!

Pat says

Awesome

Interesting and political storyline here. The Alka Alon will prove interesting too. Looking forward to the next one. Well done

Keith Hilton says

A bit boring at times

While the battle scene descriptions are vivid and exciting, the rest with philosophical discussions are a bit long-winded. I'd still recommend reading it once but then move on.

Stephen says

Things were starting to look up for Magelord Minalan the Spellmonger – the magic mountain in his domain not only made him a wealthy man and the most powerful mage in history, it also produced a lode of magical gemstones with unique properties – properties the Alka Alon, the masters of magic on Callidore, are fascinated by. As the genocidal goblin army marches toward the once-prosperous cottonlands of Gilmora, Minalan and his High Magi must defend a single bridge against them at all costs. And they are ready to. But the plans of magi count little when the powerful and subtle mind of the Dead God opposes them. For when the die is cast and the first blow is struck, it becomes clear that nothing is as Minalan had foreseen. As disaster looms for the human kingdom and even the Alka Alon are threatened, only a desperate appeal to divinity, a dangerously risky adventure and a little classy enchantment offer any hope against calamity. For the day has come when all that stands between ruin and survival is the bravery and cunning of the Spellmonger and his High Magi!

This is a good story with great characters. I find the author is very long-winded in several places and the book becomes boring in those places, you have to push through to get the book to start to flow again. It is worth the effort, but this book came close to shutting me down on the rest of the series. Just Too Long Winded. Good Reading Everyone.

Llechatton says

This series by Terry Mancour is a must read for epic fantasy readers. So many twists and turns in the interwoven plot lines... So many good characters... Very well developed world building and magic systems.

Jonathan says

Caught up in the webs of magic of Terry Mancour and spellbinding narration by John Lee. Rich magic system and creatures, political intrigue and plots. Can't wait for the next one.

Ann-marie Kiser says

Great action

The book was wonderful! The action of the characters and development of the characters has been amazing. I will say there are grammatical and spelling errors here and there, but otherwise it was great!

Everyone says

After the first two books the quality of the series started a steep decline in quality. Not only are the grammar/spelling mistakes quite abundant, the story itself is lacking attention more and more. The author increases paying attention to completely irrelevant details which just bore the reader (and a good editor would have removed immediately). For the love of the universe, he even manages to make the most action-packed battle scenes boring to read!

Alexander Poon says

I still like the portrayal of the world, even if it's quite general, it's still unique. The world reminds me of the world in Furies of Cauldron by Jim Butcher, in which humanity was transferred to their new habitat. The story is still solid, in my opinion no random non required part has been portrayed. The characters are many and distinct and unique, still not much exposure are shined on them, as much as Ronald and Tyndal were.

Heath says

Good Read.

The picks up from book 3 and does bring in the apprentice's training from book 4. A big battle is near and help is needed to fend them off.

John Milton says

Really enjoyable read, but could definitely benefit from solid editing since there were a fair amount of typos and grammatical errors. The story and the dialogue made up for them though. The dialogue reminds me of Harry Dresden.
