



# The Wizard of 4th Street

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## **The Wizard of 4th Street** Simon Hawke

The prequel to this series is called The Wizard of Camelot.

Wyrdrune is a student wizard with a penchant for botching spells when he meets Kira, a street-wise cutie, at an auction for the mysterious and powerful Euphrates rune stones. But he has no idea, when he tries to steal them, that the stones have already chosen him for a great adventure. From the author of the popular Timewars series.

## **The Wizard of 4th Street Details**

Date : Published October 1st 1987 by Popular Library (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9780445208421

Author : Simon Hawke

Format : Mass Market Paperback 247 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Wizard of 4th Street for online ebook

### Siobhan says

This book was amazing. There were parts that i should have seen coming but i didnt and i would frequently just gasp loudly in the middle of silent reading in school and shout "Oh my god! I cannot BELIEVE that just happened!!!" and then i would get in trouble (i know, i know, i get in trouble for being enthusiastic about a book at school. my school is retarded) but i highly recommend this book for anyone who likes wizards and magic and a good book.

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### Michael D. says

Simon Hawke uses a lot of tropes that are common in movies and on television. I see a lot of cliché characters, but he has fun with them. He is having fun with the story, and I am right there with him. This story reads fast and is very entertaining. Wyrdrune, Kira, Modred, and Merlin have a special chemistry when they are together in Hawke's world. Although it seems there is no interest in reviving this series, republishing it, or creating electronic books, I personally think that this and the rest of the series would make an awesome basis for adaptation to television as a short limited series or miniseries. The characters in this and the other Wizard novels are very entertaining and evocative, and I imagine how actors might portray these characters on-screen.

The premise sort of speaks to our current economic situation and springboards from speculation about what it would be like in a post-collapse world in which magic is the standard form of energy. It would make a very hip television show or movie.

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### MarsianMan says

I found the world to be fascinating because of the use of magic as a power source for technology. It also involves some Arthurian legend (I used to be very fascinated Camelot).

Overall I found the book a short read and fun, but nothing amazing. The characters were likable, and the story was good but brief.

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### Michael says

What at first seems to be a typical humorous modern fantasy set in the near future shows a certain amount of depth (and darkness), with things that would never happen to a character in a Robert Asprin book of the same era - indicative of the earlier and more challenging books that Hawke wrote before submitting to producing long-form series work to appeal to publishers' bottom lines and less discerning readers. Enjoyable, with surprises, although the ending seems rushed and sets up later books (natch).

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### **Ken Dautrich says**

No politics. Very little social commentary. Just a good fun story.

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### **Sean Randall says**

I was first introduced to Hawke with the incomparable sorcerer series, and while none of the other material of his I've read has topped that, most of it has been pretty good. I am struggling with this one, though.

The idea is quite a novel one and the characters and setting work well, but something didn't quite grip me. I found myself reading and drifting, coming back to it then, before I quite realised, the story was all over and everything had happened.

Still there's plenty of leeway for a sequel or two, so I'll probably pick at those at some point and see where things go.

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### **Helen says**

fast, complex tale from same world as Catseye Gomez, actually the first, not as polished

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### **Tandy says**

I have read this book 5 or 6 times it is one of my favorite brain candy type books. It is an Arthurian type book that has Merlin and Modred and Morgan LeFay and it takes place in the 23rd century so it is just different. It is the first in a series of books.

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### **Erin says**

I really enjoyed this series a lot. Very hilarious and fun. I forget when I read it exactly, but I think it was an easier read.

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### **Christopher says**

This was one of the first series I ever read that I suppose you could not classify as "urban fantasy" though there were no werewolves or vampires in it.

The premise is that Merlin returns to a world that has passed him by and become, well, our world. Technology and civilization have mostly replaced mysticism and the fantastic, and Merlin decides to return magic to the world, to give it back what it once had. Or something.

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Anyway, the series is fun, light (with dark undertones), and I blew through four or five novels in this series in a week or two, as I remember. They are, amazingly, still on my shelves as I write this, despite 10 or 15 moves over the decades.

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### **Bryan457 says**

Wyrdrune and Kira meet at an auction while both are trying to steal the mysterious and powerful Euphrates rune stones. The stones bind them together and set them on an adventure to save the world.

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### **Pam says**

For a futuristic comedy it wasn't very creative.

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### **Jim Razinha says**

[Update 3/8/16: Another reading funk...lots of work reading, plus two monster books in progress (The Complete Sherlock Holmes, and Lisa Randall's Warped Passages), as well as a big ADD Tom Peters work Re-Imagine, recovering from a trip to Italy...I look to old standbys like this to break it. Yes, even more dated. But yes, still quite fun. Enough that I'll keep going, again.]

As I read and re-read traditional science fiction lately, I find that many of the classic authors don't grab me like when I was an adolescent. Niven/Pournelle and Chalker still can, as does Herbert (except the many Dune books after Dune Messiah), but I'm discovering a lack of imagination in straight up sci-fi that is hard to overcome with just space trappings.

Simon Hawke writes light, fun *and imaginative* fantasy. The Time Wars series does weave in sci-fi elements, but it is still fantasy. The Wizard of 4th Street is a welcome diversion from the plodding of Asimov (I'm still working my goal of reading all of his Foundation universe this calendar year...on Foundation's Edge right now.) Goofy, dated, but still fun.

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### **Joel Neff says**

The reading date listed above is a bit of a lie. I first read this series of books when I was in Jr. high. They were fun, fast-paced, had just a bit of sex, and contained a completely new idea for the future of our society.

They still are.

However, time brings maturity which brings, hopefully, a bit of necessary critical faculty. Meaning, these are not the best written books I have ever read. There are info-dumps, overly long explanations of mundane events, chapter long recaps of the previous books, and a host of other pulp traditions one does not usually see in modern fantasy publishing.

The central idea here, is that Merlin was put in a tree, as per legend. Our society's polluting ways eventually

lead to "the Collapse" of technology and civilization. Merlin is released from his tree and sets about putting the world right by setting everything up on a magical energy standard and teaching people how to use magic. Fast forward a hundred years and we have our protagonists, three disparate people who are bonded by three magical jewels. The three are set with the tasks of stopping the Dark Ones, ancient wizards from pre-history who see people as nothing more than cattle.

It is a good premise, and an excellent basis for a series. The characters are fun and engaging, and, for all that the plot is formulaic, it is fast and exciting. The stories take the protagonists all over the world, confronting evil and growing as people.

As I said, I loved these books as a young reader, and I still do. Unfortunately, the reality of growing older has taken away some of the magic they had when I was younger.

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### **Dennis Cattell says**

First of a series and I enjoyed this book so much I bought the second on Kindle which I'll soon start to read. There are some well-drawn characters here and there's a lot of fun seeing them get to know and to interact with each other. Set in a dystopian future which functions with an uneasy blend of magic and science, it's a good story that can be read again. I'd happily recommend this novel to anyone who loves a good yarn with plenty of action and adventure.

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