



The Last Mage Guardian

Sabrina Chase

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Her great-uncle, the mage Oron, bequeathed to her his oak-shaded chateau and a debt of magical honor. But Miss Ardhuin Andrews must hide her magical talents. How can she repay the debt? Political intrigue, duty, and echoes of an old war not truly ended combine to create a smoldering crisis in a world where magic and science coexist.

The Last Mage Guardian Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2012 by Sabrina Chase (first published November 23rd 2011)

ISBN : 9780985270452

Author : Sabrina Chase

Format : Paperback 260 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Magic, Science Fiction, Steampunk, Young Adult, Romance



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From Reader Review The Last Mage Guardian for online ebook

Christina says

Set in an alternate 19th-century Europe, this book's world is both colorful and fascinating. Arduin is a young woman who finds herself the unprepared heir of her mage great-uncle. Domenec is a recently graduated university student looking for work. The book gets off to a bit of a slow start, but sparks fly-literally-when these two finally meet up. Their adventure takes them across the continent and into a dangerous, high-stakes situation that Arduin feels ill-equipped for. With the help of Domenec and a few other friends she takes on a shadowy conspiracy which seeks to overthrow a shaky peace between the various countries of the continent. The story took a number of fascinating twists and turns, and just when you think you know where it's headed, it takes a different direction. Both viewpoint characters are unorthodox, yet appealing, and I enjoyed the romance, which was non-annoying. (always a plus for me) This is a series, but short one, with one book following this one.

Naticia says

It took me a while to get into this book, as both main characters seemed kind of annoying. They grew on me though, and their annoying qualities really did have explanations.

The idea of a woman doing extremely powerful magic in secret, in a world where only trained men could be mages, was very interesting to me and I think very well done. I have been in many meetings where I too wish I could attach someone to a wall when he says something offensive. I think it was at that point where Arduin became a real person to me and I decided we could be friends.

Looking forward to others in this series, as I'm interested to see how the characters develop.

Brittany Perry says

I WON THIS BOOK FROM GOODREADS FIRST READS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Okay I pride myself on my honesty so here it is. I really enjoyed this book. It was well written and flowed very naturally. The concepts were really packed in the book and I think this could have been a good starting point for a series. There were a couple questions unanswered but I loved that the budding relationship wasn't so in your face. Lately it seems every book has a love conflict to keep it moving along and to add suspense but this novel wasn't like that at all. Very refreshing.

Now on to what I didn't like. I didn't like the cover so much I thought it could have been a bit more fire and brimstone. And to me the text was too small I would have liked to see the font a bit larger. Other than that I really hope to see a second book and I will buy the second if there is one.

Roger Ivie says

Very engaging story of love, magic, intrigue, and the occasional pastry. Well worth a read.

Pancha says

A pretty good magic punk story set in a fantasy sort-of Europe. I enjoyed Chase's concept of magic and would have enjoyed even more detail about it. Not as good as her Sequoyah series, but worth reading.

Bri says

I received a copy of the book from Goodreads First Reads program

The Last Mage is a book whose cover I adore. It looks really great and I had some...interesting expectations about the book because of it and the title. I was blown away by the book and I loved it when I read it.

The two main characters, Arduin and Dominic, are characters who grow a lot throughout the book in different ways. Arduin is a woman trying to escape from the life her mother wants her to have, when Arduin just wants to learn and perform magic like her uncle Oron taught her. Dominic is a man who tutors and writes to make a living, traveling to do both. Over the course of the book we learn more about both Arduin and Dominic, about how Arduin came to be the owner of the estate she lives and how she learned magic. Both characters are interesting and compelling in their own ways, and Arduin is a character who I definitely came to love with all her personality and quirks.

As far as the plot is concerned it started slow but picks up and towards the end is very suspenseful and interesting. The various aspects of magic and technology put into the book made it an interesting fantasy/steampunk book. I liked how the magic and technology could damage and prevent each other from working properly with some things, it gave it a nice twist. As far as the alternate reality portion goes, the lands are recognizable in what they are in our world but they do vary quite a bit and some of them are harder to pin down than others without the language.

Overall this book was a fantastic read with some small hitches, and I can not wait to read the second book!

Jodi Woody says

Part of a boxed set "Light in the Darkness." Good fantasy. Magic, mayhem, and love. Five stars loved it. Implied sexual content, violence, no swearing. Five stars. Looking forward to more from this author.

Barbara says

While the overall story arc was predictable, the journey was not. The plotting and characterisation was more sophisticated than I was expecting, which was a pleasant surprise.

I hope the author writes more books set in this world.

Mike says

A very high four stars for this well-written tale of a young woman who finds herself in charge of the magical defense of Europe, some years after a devastating war started by the French.

It's set in an alternate world, not fully steampunk but sufficiently steampunkish that Amazon suggested it to me because I'd read Lindsay Buroker. The date appears to be mid-to-late 19th century, from scattered clues. There are trains, but it's magic rather than technology that gets the emphasis. The North American continent appears to be called Atlantea, and the countries of Europe have different names, their cities have different spellings, and there are other geopolitical differences like the continuation of a separate country of Bretagne distinct from France (or Gaul). The most similar thing I've read is James Calbraith's *The Shadow of Black Wings*, though the history is closer to ours than it is in Calbraith.

Although there's a romance subplot between the two viewpoint characters, the emphasis is on the adventure and the magic, with a great boss battle at the end. Flooding cellar, explosions, collapsing masonry, levitation, it's all good stuff.

The editing (and writing) is fully as good as you'll find from any big publisher (and better than you'll often get from HarperCollins), and I'll have no hesitation in adding this to my Indie Books Worth Reading list on my website (<http://csidemediacom/gryphonclerks/i...>).

There doesn't appear to be a sequel yet, but this was published in the middle of last year, so I have hopes. I liked both the main characters, enjoyed the world, and was happy to accept the more cinematic parts of the story in their own terms.

I'll be taking a look at the author's other work, which is mostly science fiction that claims to be in the tradition of Lois McMaster Bujold. I'm a huge Bujold fan, and I approach that claim with a little skepticism, but this author does seem to have the skills to pull off a good military space opera.

Lara says

This story of a young woman mage in a world where women don't do magic and the young man who falls for her grew on me. At first I felt the story was a bit slow going. It starts from the perspective of the young man, not the heroine. For the first couple of chapters I wasn't sure what was going on, or if I even liked the characters much. The male lead is not particularly talented, that we know, and the female lead is unsure of herself and hiding from the world in a state of partial ignorance.

However, once they met and began to interact, things started to happen and more clarity grew. While there were many opportunities for "I can see it coming" moments, the author did not take that easy way out. Instead, she would slightly twist the development of the story and we would learn a bit more about the

characters. I really enjoyed the story more when the main characters were acting instead of worrying. That happened more as the tale progressed.

This book is safe for younger readers in that any romantic action beyond kissing is referred to pretty obliquely. And the worst swearing I recall is the word "blast." There are some nice examples of the challenges a woman faced in historical times when coming up against traditional gender roles. And this alternate Europe has some religious and racial prejudice as well. The book is in a world with growing technology, but which continues to have magic.

Opal says

The Last Mage Guardian was slow to start, but easily evolved to a quick pace that had me easily absorbed to the end. I had thought that, as this was one of her first works, Chase might have had a rougher time with it, but her writing style was true to form. A very strong novel that doesn't disappoint.

...Read the rest of my review at the Akamai Reader...

Barbara Douglas says

"The Last Mage Guardian" is a sort of steampunk world, plus magic. The situation is quasi-1920's -- one war recently finished, another potentially brewing amid racial tensions and economic crises. Mores are firmly Victorian; women are to be supported and not, under any circumstances, to do magic. Our main character, of course, is, it gradually appears, a very powerful mage indeed. This scenario did not play out quite as I expected it to, much to the author's credit. The mage neither pretends to be male, nor hides behind a male assistant (at least, not as a rule). I really enjoyed the story; the plot was twisty and inventive, the characters were engaging and believable (mostly), and the writing was good. The game of "guess which European country this is" was entertaining; I got Bretagne wrong for about 2/3 of the book. (I now think it's Brittany, and Atlantea is the British isles, but I may still be wrong...) I will look out for other books by this author.

Grace says

Slow start was right. I can't even remember the characters.

Sebastian Mordziol says

Simply good fantasy with believable magic, likeable characters and a great story. I really liked Sabrina Chase's style in The Scent Of Metal (scifi), and found it here again. A good read through and through.

Kjirstin says

This was an enjoyable read! In a steampunky world where magical devices operate alongside mechanical ones (sometimes interfering with one another), a young woman inherits a magical estate that comes with a few more responsibilities than she expected.

It was fun to watch her grow up throughout the story, from simply wanting to escape her boarding school and mother's plans for her life, to taking on a heavy defense burden for all of the continent, essentially on her own. I also enjoyed the idea that, since all magicians in this society are men, no one in the story realizes that she's as powerful as she is.
