



Magician's Ward

Patricia C. Wrede

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When Mairelon made Kim his ward, he promised to teach her to be a lady and a magician. But magic proves to be harder than it looks for a girl who has just learned to read, and being a lady is even harder. Before frustration - and Merrill's formidably correct aunt - can drive her mad, a mysterious gentleman attempts to burgle the Merrill town house. As disaster strikes Mairelon, Kim must negotiate the hazards of London society, aided by a London moneylender, a Russian wizard prince, seven legendary French wizards...and Mairelon's charmingly eccentric mother.

Magician's Ward Details

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From Reader Review Magician's Ward for online ebook

Lucy says

My only quibble about this book is that I wish there were more Mairelon novels - or even ones about the other characters, as I'd love to read a book about Renee.

As with the other Mairelon book, Magician's Ward is a tightly written story about magic and fun characters and it ends on a high note that does tie things up neatly though I always miss the characters. Forever five stars.

Kate says

Once, just once, I would love to read a fantasy novel featuring an older male magician and his younger female protege in which they *don't* get together at the end.

This is not that fantasy novel, but is still an enjoyable read.

Cassie says

Kim has played the part of a thieving boy for most of her life, hiding her gender being the safer alternative to revealing herself as a girl in the dark underbelly of Regency London. But she knows this career path will soon come to an end, as at seventeen she is quickly outgrowing her disguise. When a job leads her into Mairelon the magician's wagon, she finds real magic and an opportunity to become someone new.

Following Mairelon as he flees from the city, she quickly finds herself lost in a plot of stolen magic artifacts and aristocratic intrigues. Soon she'll have to give up the freedom of being a boy forever and try to figure out who she really is, so that she can become Mairelon's student and enter London Society as a real magician. But being a girl brings new problems, marriage proposals, and a definite notion that nothing fun also falls under the heading of being Proper.

I'm reviewing these two books together, because odds are the easiest copy of the books to find is the combined version. Really, I think they work much better together, as the first ends with an incomplete feeling (all right, fine, that's code for no real romance). In addition, I liked the second book, Magician's Ward, much better, but I think you need to start with the first book, Mairelon the Magician.

In essence, reading these books is pretty much just like reading Sorcery and Cecelia, except with different characters and plot. The feeling and world are the same, and while I can't find anything that says the books all take place in the same world, they easily could. In fact, how magic is treated in the worlds, history, etc., all seems to be pretty much the same, except in Sorcery and Cecelia magicians create focuses, which is at least never mentioned in the Mairelon books. What all this means is if you haven't read these yet and love Sorcery and Cecelia, these might need to be next on your to-be-read list.

Read more of my review and past reviews at [Bookwyrm Chrysalis](#)

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

I had previously read this story has part of the duology A Matter of Magic: My full review.

I picked this up mostly to pass some time - the book I was currently reading is in eBook format, and my iPod up and died on me. I didn't want to start something new, so I grabbed something light and fun which I had read before, thinking I could easily put it aside once I had my e-reader back, since I had read it before.

But I was wrapped up in the story, once more, and very much wanted to finish it before I went back to my other book - and so I spent a rather enjoyable day and a half rereading this sweet little romance/adventure instead of heading back to the rather more grim tale of the other book I was reading.

Breda says

This is one of my favorite Regency romances, and one of the books that created a craving for more Regency fantasy (there isn't much, sadly). It's pure fun, but not the confectionery sugar kind: more the kind with peanuts, something substantial and sweet. The intrigue is, like the first book, twisting and convoluted and potentially deadly for everyone involved, and it never feels like an afterthought. But the part of the story that fascinated me was Kit's constant struggle to try to fit in with Society. Unlike the heroines of many similar books, she has a real reason for being an outsider, but this also gives her a real understanding of the ramifications. It's incredibly difficult for her, and she doesn't want to be a lady anyway, but she knows what the danger is to herself and to Mairelon if she fails. Her honest desire to find a place for herself and to understand who she is now that so much has changed make her so charming that when gentlemen begin to fall in love with her, I can't help but share their sentiments. Her genuine surprise at this makes her even more likable. Like Kit herself, this is a charming, lovable book which gives a new perspective on the legendary Regency *haut ton*.

Jeannygrey says

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Deborah O'Carroll says

Re-read August 2018

Original review, January 2017

Georgette Heyer meets Diana Wynne Jones (though without quite the ridiculously wild shenanigans/characters and not as uproariously funny, yet still amusing in its own right) in a Jonathan-

Strange-esque historical fantasy setting. Basically, this is a Regency Romance with magic. How delightful is that? :D

It's technically a sequel... but I got along just fine without having read the first book (titled Mairelon the Magician).

Our heroine, Kim, is a former street thief, who used to live on the streets of London, masquerading as a boy, and now lives in a fine house in London as the ward of Richard Merrill, a.k.a. Mairelon the Magician. Apparently the first book is about how they met. Mairelon is an upstanding gentleman (not to mention a somewhat young, handsome, and rich one, and therefore not ineligible) who, oh yes, also happens to be a magician.

The enjoyments of this novel include:

- + Getting to see a girl who lived most of her life as a street-thief try to fit well enough into Polite Society (think Jane Austen heroines) so that Mairelon's Aunt Agatha won't have a fit at her being improper (hint: Kim isn't always trying, plus she has bad habits of talking in street-thief slang, so this does not always go well), while also being Mairelon's apprentice and learning magic and trying to look after him in her way, while trying to solve a mystery.
- + Being immersed in the alternate history Regency setting, where magic is an established part of the world and it all makes total sense, and makes for a very fun read.
- + A mystery which kept me puzzled right through, involving an attempted-burglary in the house library, mysterious books, unusual magics, and suspense about various magical goings-on.
- + Mairelon himself, a character I took to at once and adopted into my "favorites" category. He reminded me somewhat of a slightly tamer version of Chrestomanci or Howl (likely because he's a magician), and his cleverly cutting words where he manages to be impolite without seeming so (sometimes) were simply a joy. You can see he doesn't really always care what Polite Society (so-called, as he says) thinks of him, but has to tread the line carefully so as to not utterly scandalize his aunt. MAIRELON IS AWESOME. That is all. <3
- + Kim and Mairelon together are fabulous too. I will spoil nothing, but they're great. :D
- + Other characters, who include Hunch the loyal and grouchy manservant, a Russian Prince, some French magicians, and Mairelon's mother who's a fascinating character in her own right.
- + Humor and fun dialog too. <3

Really, I don't know what else to say. It's a Regency Romance with fantasy, fun characters, and—oh yes—it's by Patricia C. Wrede, who wrote the amazingness that is the Enchanted Forest Chronicles (Searching for Dragons being one of my top-favorite books ever).

Jane-Austen-with-magic-and-mystery-and-cutting-dialog-and-Mairelon.

What more need be said?

Fantasy Regency Romance should be a thing. I had no idea I was missing it, but now I need more of it in my life.

An Odd1 says

Mairelon's ward Kim must navigate the shoals of Society and learn spell-casting. Even minor roles are vividly drawn, with warm humor. "He only looked short because he was so round." p40 "Lord Stanton tried to look intelligent. Failing, he took another drink of brandy instead." p224
Kim returns to her old haunts, but local magickers have been threatened and taken. "The smell of coal smoke and uncollected horse dung, the sounds of drunken revelry from the public house on the corner, and most of all the penetrating chill of the fog brought back the constant undercurrent of fear" p69 forgotten in the last safe year. Suspense builds, clues trickle in, to an explosive finale.

Cassie says

I like this book,

I read it and its predecessor, Mairelon the Magician all in one day. It had been a day of disappointing circumstances. This book is sweet and entertaining.

The writing itself is good, it keeps the reader entertained. However, it is probably only a three star book, except.....

1. The scene between the super-proper, (think Mrs. Norris in Mansfield Park.) Mrs Lowe and the villain in the piece was hilarious.

The writing itself, has some of the absurdness that is found in Oscar Wilde's plays. Which means, the comedy is all about irony, circumstances and dry wit.

2. Mairelon and Kim (After you read the book you'll see what I mean.)

3. Hunch

I wish that the author had given Kim a last name.

Katie says

I liked this book A LOT better than its predecessor. Namely because Kim takes control early on and doesn't let go. She gets angry when Mairelon tries to boss her around, and she admits that she'd rather end up on the street than be controlled by someone else. In another book that would end with her admitting that she needs Mairelon and should give into his wishes. Thank god this is not that book.

Instead it becomes more about both of them becoming willing to trust each other and listen and so on. In fact, the climax of the book comes because 1: Kim is independent but 2: she and Mairelon trust each other

implicitly. It's WONDERFUL and everything a YA novel should be.

Plus, it's hilariously anti-Regency Romance novels. Kim HATES all the things that are staples of regencies, like visiting in the morning, and balls and the ton.

Ashley Welch says

I'm not particularly adept at writing reviews, but man. This book had me. First, don't read this unless you've read the first book, "Mairelon the Magician". Honestly, I could have used more romance and a bit more character development for more of the supporting characters, but I really loved the way things played out so I can't complain!

Margaret says

I'm not really one to use the phrase "delightful romp" and mean it, but I feel it's rather the case in this book. Unlike some of her other novels, this book is more of a story of gentry and Society - and, of course, Kim's coming out- than one of magic and mayhem, though there's a bit of that thrown in, too. If you're looking for mystical adventures, you should look somewhere else. If you'd like instead a sort of coming of age story of a female magician in Society, then you're rather in the right place (and I recommend the Enchanted Chocolate Pot as a next step).

No, there's not much character development. The focus is more on the relationships and courtings of a Londoner debutante than on character development... The first in the Mairelon series can tell you how they got here. This book is what happens after.

Also, if you're looking to find out what happened to the other pieces of the set from the first novel, you won't find them here. Save yourself the disappointment if that's all you want and find

Miriam says

Kim struggles simultaneously with her education in magic, adjusting to a new social class, discovering (and foiling) an evil plot, and falling in love with her mentor.

A good book, but lacking the originality of the first volume. I wish so many authors didn't feel that they must add romance to every story.

v??α?ιðαι?? says

Re-read the last book for about the zillionth time. XD

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Lisa Brown says

The sequel to Mairelon the Magician, this story takes place one year later, and Kim finds herself once again in London, but this time she is thrust into society, instead of starving on the streets. She and Mairelon find themselves, once again, surrounded by mystery and adventure, and it all begins with someone trying to burglarize them. What seems to be an attempted theft, is much more involved and much more dangerous. And as Kim tries to find the answers, she struggles with learning who she is in the new life she has found herself in, as well as what her true feelings are for the magician.

I really enjoyed this, but I think I found that I liked the first book a little better. This story was fun and exciting, and the characters were still great, I was just a little disappointed with how the romance part of the story fleshed out. I wanted more. Still a wonderful read though :).

Teri says

This is the sequel to "Mairelon the Magician," and I like this book almost as well as the first. Kim can be whiny in parts, but overall it's a great closing of Mairelon and Kim's stories.

Katie says

[But yeah. One of the reasons I wanted to read these books was I like the guardian/ward trope. But the build up to the relationship was mild jealousy on both sides and that wasn't enough for me. (hide spoiler)]

Mary Catelli says

The sequel to Mairelon the Magician. Spoilers for that ahead.

Kim finds London, magic lessons, the prospects of a Season, and Mairelon's aunt who is effectively her chaperon much more tedious than she expected when she agreed to become his war. Though when she hears noises in the night, and goes to investigate, she not only finds a burglar, but one who is using magic. Attempting to track down what he was interested in, in the library and elsewhere, leads to more complications. A friend of Kim's from her old days warns her of a danger. And Aunt Agatha's attempt to throw Kim into society and marry her off lead to Mairelon's jesting about her having a coming-out ball and Renee D'Auber's explaining that, actually, a formal Season would in many respects be the best thing for both of them.

And the story winds onward through intrigues, involving a Russian prince, a magician who drowned at sea, illusions other than climbing roses, a money-lender unaccustomed to the Quality when they are not looking for money, opera, the trick to why magic needs fancy languages, and a burglary at a hotel. Among other things.

lielabell says

I don't think I would have rated this book near so high if I had not read *Mairelon the Magician*. Because, really, *Mairelon the Magician* does all the heavy lifting.

First off, there is very limited character development. No one grows or changes. Nothing new is introduced. What you have at the start of the book is pretty much what you have at the end. Except that now the two main leads are in love.

Which leads us to the romantic relationship between Kim and Mairelon. OMG, so weak. And I *wanted* them to get together. I have wanted it from the start. Because in *Mairelon the Magician* there is all this tension and pauses and room for growth. It's there, the connection between them. It jumps right off the page and smacks you in the face. So I went into *Magician's Ward* eager for it. But then... nothing.

The set up is so overplayed. A girl is launched into society. A boy, who has been very close to her but never really thought of her that way, suddenly sees her in a new and different light. Mainly helped by the fact that other boys are interested in her. There is a proposal, not from the boy we are all rooting for. Said boy panics, thinking for sure that he has lost his chance with his love, and then the big reveal: the girl has loved him all along. *yawn* I've read that a million times before. And, unfortunately, a million times better done as well.

It's not Wrede's writing that is at fault, because that is as engaging and charming as ever. It what actually happens in the story. Or doesn't. Because Mairelon isn't around most of the book and brooding and unhappy when he is. And the whole mysterious-for-the-sake-of-being-mysterious thing. Which, btw, worked brilliantly in *Mairelon the Magician*, falls completely flat here. Kim and Mairelon have been living and working together for a year. A year. And they have fallen in love with each other, though at the start neither realizes it yet. But still all the drama about what can and can't be shared and where Kim can and can't go. I don't know, as a reader I just expect that things have changed in the time that has passed. That boundaries have soften and the trust that was established at the end of *Mairelon the Magician* would translate into more open and honest communication between them.

I came into this book all sorts of excited, wanting to watch as the romance unfolded between Kim and Mairelon. I was invested in them as characters. Interested in what they had been up to and happy to be once again in their world. And I ended the book with a vague sense of dissatisfaction and no interest whatsoever

in what may or may not happen next.
