



The Mage

Jean Johnson

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This is the final book in the acclaimed series of "cursed brothers, fated mates, prophecies... destiny and magic."(Robin D. Owens)

New York Times bestselling author Jayne Ann Krentz hails Jean Johnson's writing as "fabulously fresh, thoroughly romantic, and wildly entertaining." Now, Johnson returns for the final book in the series of eight brothers destined to fulfill a strange prophecy. As their growing family faces new problems, the worst of those troubles now fall upon Morg, the last of the Sons of Destiny, and on Hope, Morg's foretold bride.

The Mage Details

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Author : Jean Johnson

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From Reader Review The Mage for online ebook

BJ Rose says

A mostly satisfying end to the series. Although Morganen already had chosen his bride in earlier books, this began with a surprise about Hope, which added a little more flavor to the story. After a very promising beginning, it bogged down a little as Hope was established as a chocolatier - interesting details about the making of chocolate, but would a woman really give a 'lecture' on how chocolate is made while she's trying to seduce her guy?!

It was nice to see Consus continue as 'the good guy of Katan' (my label), and it was fun to see the varied ways the heroes and bad guys manifested their magics. All continuing storylines were nicely brought to a conclusion, including getting the gods to recognize Nightfall as a kingdom - what a Convocation!!

Aurian Booklover says

This last book in the series is really filled with action. Hope has finally come to Nightfall, and now she reveals that she is the former Duchess Haupeana, who was sent through time and space twohundred years ago at the shattering of Aiar. Morganen is not happy that she kept this secret from him, and he decides Hope needs to court him now, to win back his trust. For Hope only 5 years have passed, living the life of another woman on Earth, magicless. But she did make a new life for herself, and has no intention whatsoever to take over the rule of Nightfall Island from Kelly. She never wanted to be the Duchess in the first place, she was/is a Seer, and she loves her Goddess. Hope did bring back a lot of stuff with her though, she plans to become the first chocolatier in this world, if the cacao plants she had Morganen plant for her, will survive here.

Bad mages are still trying to steal the Living Fountain, which means it has to be extracted from Rora soon, so she will be safe. Something Rydan really does not want to happen as Rora needs to die for that. But the priestess/darkhana witch Ora promises to keep her safe. They also need the second fountain to open the Convocation of the Gods, so it can not be allowed to "grow roots" someone will have to keep moving it around the Underground caves and hallways at all times. Which means the brothers and their wives are all getting shifts doing nothing but "walking the dog". Or rather, the crystal filled with the Fountain's power.

So when enemies infiltrate the island, their time is up, and things need to start happening. But then Duke Finneg kidnaps Hope, Morganen's Bride to be, and Morganen has no choice but to go to Katan and ask the King and Council for help recovering his bride, and punishing Finneg. When the King refuses, and orders an attack on Morganen, he will regret it, as Morganen is more powerful than the King and all his mages together. And Katan is traditionally ruled by the most powerful mage of all... This means that Morganen suddenly is the King of Katan, a job he never wanted, but can use to make the council do his bidding. He has to find Duke Finneg and Hope, before something bad happens to Hope. Somehow Finneg has hidden her from his sight.

The Convocation of the Gods was very impressive to read about, and fun as well, when Kelly has to call them all into being, and invite them to sit down. She even has to fight and conquer one! And when that has all been done, finally, the time starts for the requests. For all the gods who are worshipped on this world, one or two of their priests/priestesses had to be brought over, so they can talk to and petition their gods for favors in person. And with over 300 gods and goddesses, this will take weeks.

It was a good last book in the series, everything is going fine on the island, and Dominor and Serina are the proud parents of newborn twins. Jean Johnson told me, if I want some more Koranen and Danau, I will have to read "Bedtime Stories, a collection of erotic fairy tales". I do have the book, but have not read it.

I liked Morganen and Hope together; they have been courting for months now through the mirror, only able to communicate in writing. But with this new secret, Morganen wants to be courted by Hope, which she does with chocolate. And although they do agree to go slowly, they just can't stay away from the other. So, even though this book is filled with action and lots of other characters, there is time for some hot love scenes, with chocolate and other foodstuffs involved ...

When Hope is kidnapped, Morganen does everything in his considerable power to get her back. Hope knows that when word gets out that the old Duchess is back, this will mean trouble for Kelly and Nightfall Island, if their enemies think they can use her to get control back over the Island. So Hope uses an old ritual to make Kelly her older sister, and as such, the heir to the Dukedom. As Kelly was already her best friend on earth, she is glad to be real sisters now as well.

I liked Kelly and Saber in this book as well, they don't hesitate to do what has to be done, and Kelly is tireless in invoking the Convocation of the Gods. Yes, I am repeating myself perhaps, but that bit is amazing and awesome. I have never read something like that before. She does accomplish her goals, of a nation free to worship whomever they want.

I did not expect the Katani to act like they did, and I admired Morganen for how he handled them. I think they can use a bit of humility. Even if they did not like losing Nightfall Isle to the Corvis brothers, they should have helped rescue an innocent woman from a clearly mad duke Finneg. Morganen was the only one protecting the Queen during the magical battles, as she was not a mage. Those magical battles were fun to read too.

If you have read my interview with Jean Johnson last week, you know there will be more books and series set in this universe, and I am looking forward to reading them all.

The eight Son shall set them free:
Act in Hope and act in love
Draw down your powers from above
Set your brothers to their call
When Mage has wed, you will be all

I shall probably re-read this series again in a few years time, I do love the writing style and worldbuilding of Jean Johnson.

9 stars.

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Full review on my blog, www.boeklogboek.blogspot.com

Kimberly says

I was looking forward to this book due to Morganen- the polite, charming, and nearly all-powerful matchmaking mage of the cursed 8 Nightfall brothers. I was not disappointed. Morg was done justice in his installment; as well as, Hope. She is my favorite "destined" bride, and had the best back story. It was also good to get to the whole Nightfall-as-independent nation theme.

Like chocolate, this series has ranged from the sweetness of milk chocolate to the intensity of dark chocolate.

A rich and satisfying dessert to end the series. I was pleased with how complex she kept the plot and yet, she wrapped up story while staying true to all of her characters.

Kayla says

The Mage is the last enstallment in Jean Johnson's Sons of Destiny series. (For those of you who haven't yet read anything by Jean, that means it is the 8th [and last:] book in this series.)

The Sons of Destiny is about 8 brothers, mages (think wizards in another universe). The brothers were exiled to live on an island all alone. Seven books later and 7 out of the 8 brothers is happily married. The island is now filled with people, and the family is making the island an independent kingdom.

In The Mage, Morganen, our last single brother, meets his pre-destined bride. He already knows who she is, and she, Hope, is ready to finally see Morg.

Hope previously lived in the same universe Kelly used to live in. (Kelly is the eldest brother's wife) So, when she finally comes across to Nightfall Island and sees Morganen in the flesh, she is estatic. They court (date), fall even further for each other, and then complications pop up. (Don't they always?)

You do not have to read the books on order to understand the story, but I would recommend it because of spoliers

Cindy says

A thoroughly satisfying ending to the Sons of Destiny series. All the loose ends are tied up, all the prophecies fulfilled, even the Gods are on their side... But [consider this a whine:] couldn't we have a few more stories - just to see what happens now?

Sons of Destiny

1. The Sword (2007)
2. The Wolf (2007)
3. The Master (2007)
4. The Song (2008)
5. The Cat (2008)
6. The Storm (2008)

7. The Flame (2008)
8. The Mage (2009)

Coral says

Plot: 4/5

Characterisation: 3/5

Prose: 3/5

How much I enjoyed it: 4/5

LWB Marissa says

“The Eight Son shall set them free:
Act in Hope and act in love
Draw down your powers from above
Set your Brothers to their call
When Mage has wed, you will be all.

Eight brothers, born in four sets of twins, two years apart to the day – they fulfill the Curse of Eight Prophecy. Though no longer trapped in exile, their growing family faces new problems. The worst of those troubles now falls upon the last of the Sons of Destiny...

Hope, Morganen's foretold bride, has finally arrived on the island. She hasn't been telling the full truth about herself, and the consequences will stretch further than even she anticipates. Just as Morgan gets used to Hope's Revelation, new enemies arrive on the Isle, seeking to steal away the brothers' chance at creating a new nation. During the attack, an old foe resurfaces and strikes amid the confusion, kidnapping the final bride-to-be.

Either Morg will rescue Hope and help his family complete the Prophecies of the Seer Draganna and the last Duchess of Nightfall, carving a new kingdom in the process...or their enemies will be free to slaughter them all....”

From the start it was clear that this series would only be eight parts long and with the release of the Mage the end of the Sons of Destiny series is finally known. Therefore with mixed emotions I picked up my copy of The Mage, I really wanted to know Morg's story because he is one of my favorite characters in the series and of course how the series would end. At the same time I felt a bit sad because it was also the last time I would return to Jean Johnson's world, Nightfall Isle and those sexy twins.

The story begins with a flashback, we get to know Hope better (Morg's destined bride-to-be), who she really is and how she met Kelly. As some readers might already have guessed, Hope is not from Kelly's world. This flashback covers a time period of five years, the years that Hope spent on Earth and explains how she got there.

Hope is actually the Duchess Haupanea of Nightfall who lived 200 years earlier on Nightfall and then magically disappeared. Now that she is back she has no intentions to claim her Duchy again, she wants to be

a chocolatier. It is hilarious to read how she and Kelly devour their chocolate while the others don't even know what chocolate is. Hope is levelheaded, practical and smart but also a bit insecure for once again she has to start her life all over again. First on Earth and now on Nightfall, for the Nightfall she once knew is gone. She also used to be a Seer for the God Nauvea, but it looks like her Goddess has forsaken her.

As the youngest brother, Morg has some insecurities of his own; he feels he is just plain looking in comparison with his brothers. He is the even-tempered one, the reasonable one, the diplomat of the family, except when it comes to Hope he cannot think straight and is jealous. He is in love with her but is astonished when he discovers who Hope really is and all of a sudden he feels like he doesn't know the woman he loves at all. He feels hurt that she did not take him into her confidence about something so significant as who she really is. Hope has to make up for that, but he soon finds out that she still is the Hope who he fell in love with.

The Mage is by far the most romantic part of the series. For two-third of the story the courting between Morg and Hope takes center stage, there is lots of witty banter going on between the two of them that made me smile, the incident with the shorts is hilarious and Hope gives Morg a piece of her mind about it. The love scenes are provocative erotic and sensual, they involve a lot of food and liquid chocolate and they made my heart beat faster and faster. What woman wouldn't want to trade places with Hope when Morg licks off the chocolate from her body! These scenes certainly put my imagination in overdrive.

Quote:

“Hope found herself quickly overwhelmed. Morganen didn't just kiss her as a man who wanted a woman; he kissed her as if she could give a drowning man his breath, a starving man his food.”

“Well, am I as good as chocolate? Or am I even better?”

The one thing I noticed immediately is that there is a lot more interaction between the characters and less lengthy descriptions of certain things than in part 7 The Flame. The oh so familiar bickering between the brothers, their typical humor and rivalry is uplifting. All the characters we come to love and know pass in review, but the spotlight really is on Morg, Hope and Kelly. The witty banter between the characters, the humor and the love scenes make this story a fluent and fast-paced read.

After 200 pages the pace of the story changes and the overarching plotline takes over. It is in the last part of the book that all the plotlines come together and get unraveled. Basically the grand finale of the Sons of Destiny series is split in two. An old enemy resurfaces suddenly and kidnaps Hope, time is running out and now Kelly has no choice then to send Morg to his old homeland Katan to diplomatic solve the issue and to get Hope back safely. Only Katan does not co-operate and now we get to see how powerful Morg really is. At the same time Kelly has to start the resurrection of the Convocation of the Gods to get the approval of the Gods to become an incipient kingdom. There are too many schemes and attacks going on to delay it any longer.

But for me the end was not the big bang I was waiting for. It is not spectacular; all the plotlines come together and get unraveled neatly. The convocation of the Gods is funny and witty, it is quite a happening for all Nightfallers, it is Nightfall's history in the making. But the end is too smooth; all the threats from the past are solved to simple. Yes, it is all obvious and it all makes sense but for my taste is it solved too easily. The other thing I struggled with was that in the end Morg became more and more interesting and that his new found position in life raises more questions for me than answers. The entire end is just not spectacular enough to satisfy all my cravings, it would have been nice to read an epilogue in which we return to Nightfall

a couple of years later to see how everyone is doing.

Though perhaps I put my expectations for the end too high, The Mage is still a great and enjoyable read and Morg & Hope are fantastic characters. The story is rich and layered because of the storylines and previous parts in the series, the characters have grown more rounded with each part and I will miss all of them! Jean Johnson has created a world that is unique and entrancing. The Corvis twins have earned their permanent place on my bookshelves and I will always have a soft spot for Jean Johnson's Sons of Destiny series.

Joe says

Another good one. This one ended with a can't put this down, high action finish. Well done

The Window Seat says

The Mage is the final book in the Sons of Destiny series. In this book, we see the courtship of the final brother. Until now, Morganen, the youngest of the brothers and the strongest mage on the island, has been the matchmaker for his brothers. This has gone both good and bad at times, but now, he is ready for his own match. He has known throughout the whole series who his match would be, but she has been far out of reach. His match is his sister-in-law Kelly's best friend from her home world, Hope. Now that all his brothers are matched, it is time for Hope to join them all on Nightfall Island.

But Hope is not what she seems. Rather than being nothing more than Kelly's outworld best friend, Hope is actually the former Duchess of Nightfall. She fled Nightfall when her world was in chaos and is only now returning home two hundred years later. She is a Seer with the ability to predict the future and she sees that Nightfall has a lot of work to do before they fulfill their destiny to hold the Convocation of the Gods and become an officially sanctioned kingdom. Hope comes home to Nightfall bearing all her prophecies and, of course, cacao plants so she can bring the first chocolate to Nightfall. While this is a fun idea, it seems that she has at least one ulterior motive. She is worried that without chocolate, Kelly, a true outworlder, will never be able to bear children on Nightfall - something that Kelly and Saber desperately want.

For the full review, please go to <http://thewindowseat13.blogspot.com/2013/07/the-mage.html>

Stasha says

The final book in the Brothers of Destiny and it was a let down after a 7 book build up. I can't believe I read the whole series. The writing needed an editor who understands the concept of split infinitives. My daughter and I had a riot parsing the following sentence from page 86 - - "The Darkhanan Witch looked much like she always did, her blonde hair plaited into a coronet on her head and the hooded, black, deep-sleeved robe draped over her shoulders that she always wore, regardless of the weather."

No, really, she does have another set of shoulders that she can use to replace the ones "she always wore."

By the end of the series I really hated Kelly and resented that Morg had saved her from the house fire. I

empathized with her arsonists I wanted to get rid of her too.

Thank goodness the series is over and I still can't believe I wasted my time on them. At least I didn't pay for them - I borrowed them from the library.

Emmie says

5 stars for & Hope 4 stars for tying up loose ends -5 for Kelly constantly interrupting touching moments & generally taking over. Seriously - I've never wanted to b* slap a "heroine" as much as this one. Without Kelly the book was a 4.5 - with Kelly a 3.

Nfadziela Lee says

Im very sure other review already recount what in this book. Then I just express my opinion which sadly lack what I loved about X-Factors ending/closure. But overall it still rated 5stars for me since I love Morganen character right from the beginning of this series. And it was so great this story of him present him with a special mate former duchess. Dont forget at the end, Morg the one who became the king of the so called country after encounter to save Hope from evil duke. The story overall really great it just that I prefer a much more and I dont even know what it is.. :D

Annette says

This book suffers from an identity crisis. It's not a good romance (the hero and heroine have been courting for the last 7 books - their romance is overshadowed by all the loose ends that are tied up to end the series) and it's not a good fantasy story either (very predictable).

However, it was nice to see Morganen get his happy ending.

Joyce says

This was the best of the last six I read. Would have gotten five but the love scenes were too weird for me.

Terri says

I was really satisfied at how the saga wrapped up. To see Morganen fight for Hope. The convocation of the Gods was as interesting as I hoped. I love this series!
