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The Paper Magician (The Paper Magician Series, Book 1)



Synopsis

“Charlie is a vibrant writer with an excellent voice and great world building. I thoroughly enjoyed the Paper Magician.” • Brandon Sanderson, author of Mistborn and The Way of Kings

Ceony Twill arrives at the cottage of Magician Emery Thane with a broken heart. Having graduated at the top of her class from the Tagis Praff School for the Magically Inclined, Ceony is assigned an apprenticeship in paper magic despite her dreams of bespelling metal. And once she’s bonded to paper, that will be her only magic forever. Yet the spells Ceony learns under the strange yet kind Thane turn out to be more marvelous than she could have ever imagined • animating paper creatures, bringing stories to life via ghostly images, even reading fortunes. But as she discovers these wonders, Ceony also learns of the extraordinary dangers of forbidden magic.

An Excisioner • a practitioner of dark, flesh magic • invades the cottage and rips Thane’s heart from his chest. To save her teacher’s life, Ceony must face the evil magician and embark on an unbelievable adventure that will take her into the chambers of Thane’s still-beating heart • and reveal the very soul of the man.

From the imaginative mind of debut author Charlie N. Holmberg, The Paper Magician is an extraordinary adventure both dark and whimsical that will delight readers of all ages. Short-Listed for the 2015 ALA Fantasy Reading List

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Such a brilliant magic world created in this story and a wonderful set up by the author. The idea of a paper magician seemed boring, but as you get into the book you can't help but cheer on our young apprentice and her teacher. Plus, a semi-forbidden romance, who could resist? When Thane's heart is ripped from his chest it was disturbing and brilliant! Now, Ceony is the only one who is willing to save her teacher. She throws herself into danger and learns some skills that are unknown to the mages of her world. I'd have to say the only weird part was when she moved through the chambers of Thane's heart in an attempt to save it. It works as a way to have Ceony bond with Thane, but it was hard to visualize in my head that she was inside his heart.

“But she still had time. Surely she still had time. Stories like this one weren't meant to end badly.”—Charlie N. Holmberg, *The Paper Magician*

Wouldn't you love to step into a world that you could animate man-made materials and have an origami-folded dog? I know I would. The Paper Magician (from The Paper Magician series and written by Charlie Holmberg) definitely caught my attention right from the start. From the different types of magic that could be studied, to the characters I could relate to, I was hooked and could not put the book down or wait to start the next. This mystical story follows the life of Ceony Twill, a reluctant apprentice to a Folder Magician, Emery Thane. What is a Folder Magician you ask? It is a Magician who has bonded to paper; they can breathe paper creatures to life, cast spells using paper chains, and produce imagery from what is read from paper. I don't dare spoil the book! I recommend this book to any young adults that love magic, fantastical events that make the pages fly by, and of course, a little romance. Bear in mind, while reading this book, I was curious to know more about the other forms of magic that is in this world. The Magicians could bond to other manmade materials like glass, metal, rubber and more. Hopefully Charlie Holmberg will write more series and include these within them. The fourth book in The Paper Magician series comes out May 15th, 2018.

The Paper Magician Series, Book 1
Author: Charlie N. Holmberg
Genre: New Adult Historical Fiction
Reviewed by: Kelsey Batchelor on 8/13/2017
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Pro-The magic- I like unique magic systems and the ones described in this book are very good. Paper magicians definitely have their limitations as each fold must be 100% accurate and therefore they must prepare in advance. Water is their greatest adversary as anything that gets wet, is not usable anymore. Clearly though you can use whatever medium you are bonded with and nothing else but you learn to master it from schooling and then apprenticeship. Con-The Romance- I think it was a little rushed and groaned inwardly when the romance feels started for Ceony. I was hoping that my earlier impression that Ceony wouldn't fall so easily would be incorrect but, unfortunately, I was wrong. It was very rushed and I did not feel that it should have developed. Brevity- This story felt more like a short story with its lack of descriptions. You can infer what the time line is based on people's birth dates but there is not a lot of description save for the house that Magician Thane owns. Heart- (minor spoilers here) Did not understand the purpose of why Lira did this spell... Would it not have been easier to just kill Ceony right then and there and not waste time with the heart? This section did give some inside into Thayne but other than that, this seemed to have no purpose.

Simply one of those books that warmed my heart to read. All of the subtle cues in the book that you notice as a reader were perfect. The events of the story move seamlessly from one part to the next, and the content was enjoyable from beginning to end. I love reading about magic, and the simplicity of the creator's imagination actually made it more enjoyable than some of the really complex stories I've read. There were a few typos and grammar errors that might cause slight hiccups in some areas, but overall a very pleasant read throughout. You can't help but fall in love with the main characters as both of their attributes are so quirky and real. I had a hard time putting this one down, and simply can't wait to read the next.

Charming treatment of magic with a little light romance and adventure. The central conceit of magic being an acknowledged profession, with schools, apprenticeships, etc. has been handled elsewhere, but the idea of a magician being bound to one particular material is innovative and engaging. There is one grisly scene but the book is definitely clean and suitable for YA or younger readers, while a nice read for adults. There is a bit of problem with pace (too much time in the heart) and predictability (the romance), but very enjoyable. This could be termed a teacup fantasy, nit quite steampunk, not quite scary. I particularly like the very appropriate relationship between the heroine and her mentor.

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