



SandRider

Angie Sage

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In PathFinder, readers journeyed with Alice TodHunter Moon, a young PathFinder who found her way to the Castle seven years after the events of the original Septimus Heap series.

Now it's two months later and Alice is settled into her new life in the Castle. Being Apprentice to ExtraOrdinary Wizard Septimus Heap is tricky—there's loads of new Magyk to learn—but at least she's mastered the Unseen charm.

She's lucky she has, too—that Unseen will come in handy when she sets out with friends Oskar and Ferdie on a perilous journey to retrieve the Egg of the Orm from the Desert of the Singing Sands. If they don't reach the Egg before it hatches, the new baby Orm could imprint on the evil sorcerer Oraton-Marr, giving him unlimited Magyk to do with what he wishes....

Bursting with humorous and poignant moments, SandRider celebrates the satisfaction of taking charge of one's path in life—unexpected adventures and all.

Perfect for anyone who can't get enough of the world of Septimus Heap!

SandRider Details

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Author : Angie Sage

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From Reader Review SandRider for online ebook

Deb says

This is the second in the Todd Moon series. From the castle, to the forest of witches, to the Red City and to the desert; the same great characters and a sorcerer and a dragon—it is full of action.

Samma says

Hype, hype, hype...and then kind of a lack-luster ending. Still excited for the thrilling trilogy conclusion, but...a little sad that this series hasn't been as amazing for me as the original series.

Ashton Hoffman says

This one was a definite improvement over the last! I liked it a lot :). In fact, if it wasn't for the slow beginning, I would almost say it's good enough on its own power, no references to the old series needed. I'm very excited for StarChaser!

Anne Schell says

It was a good story

This story line isn't as good as the as the original stories. It does not has the well loved feel of the other

Eric Parker says

I enjoyed this book more than the first in the series. While I still have some issues with the way that she is building her characters, they are getting more interesting. The Dragon Spit Fyre is the best part to me!

Kevin says

This series is new to me so I was glad that the book worked as a standalone read - there were only one or two points where references to other books stood out but I didn't feel I was missing out on anything.

The story is simple and works well - bad guy steals egg, threatens people, recruits others... Okay simple may undersell it, there's a good amount going on there, but it fits together seamlessly and it becomes simple.

I loved the basic premise of this book though. Having strong female characters and female leads in a fantasy

novel is far too rare but Sage does a truly superb job with Alice Todhunter Moon. What makes it stand out however is that this book doesn't care, it's just about kids on an adventure in the style of the Famous Five or Secret Seven - a trick that seems to have slipped from fashion as the need to brand as a book for boys or girls grows. The book is strong enough for that universal appeal, it will be enjoyed by both boys and girls.

It's good at crossing age boundaries too. The book has both parts and chapters, nice and brief ones that will help encourage reluctant readers. The writing treats younger readers with respect, it doesn't dumb down at all, which also means it will retain a lot of appeal for older readers. I'd struggle to actually put an age bracket on the target audience but it no doubt has a very broad appeal. It's a fine read as an adult too - the stylised text for magical words did interrupt the flow a little for me and I would've happily done without, but in truth I suspect when I was younger I would've found it rather charming.

Sage has created a vivid world with some great concepts and some fresh approaches to common conundrums in fantasy writing. The characters are grounded in reality and easy to relate to, drawing you in quickly and easily. A very strong individual book and a great omen for the series in general. Fun for everyone!

Sara Saif says

What can I say? I'm biased.

-As I predicted, Sam and Marwick (Wolf Boy) had a larger role in this one. Marcia and Milo were completely absent from the picture and shockingly, I didn't realize it until after I was finished reading the book. It's a wonderful balance of old and new characters where new ones mingle with the old and characters who were previously minor come to the forefront unexpectedly.

-The Draa family keeps increasing. I didn't like Kaznim even though she was just a scared kid trying to look out for her family. The Red Queen business was quite strange. She looks and sounds like a Castle queen but we didn't get to know her much.

-There was too little Septimus in the book for my liking. I kinda hoped that the Orm would imprint on him. #theproblemwithlovingacharactertoomuch. I have to say, though, that I find reading about the grown-up gang really satisfying. There was this scene in which Septimus, Beetle and Marwick were together and I was just so *thrilled* trying to imagine them as they are now vs as they were before. It's bittersweet but so totally awesome. Also, can we get a love interest for Septimus, like pretty please?

-With all the fuss about Oraton-Marr and the Orm Egg, the PathFinder bit was lost in the narrative. I'd like to know a little more about those gilled ancestors who traveled the stars.

-The scene where all the Heap brothers are together was just so brand spanking adorable and funny. I am *glad* the famous Physik woman Galen had a defined presence in this. Ever since the *Magyk* I'd been waiting to see her. Now the story has come full circle.

Can I hug them all? Pleeeeeeease?

Rayna says

I loved Tod's continued adventures! These characters are so well written and this part of their journey was almost as fun as the first part. The cast grew again, but never made the story feel bogged down or too busy. Every appearance of characters from the Septimus Heap series still makes me so very happy.

Hannah Belyea says

Oraton-Marr has brought the stolen Orm Egg to the Singing Sands and is going to have it imprint on him so he can use it to take over the Wizard Tower, and only by combining their strengths can Tod and her friends hope to stop him before it hatches in his clutches! Sage delivers an enticing sequel that will give fans an exciting and creative adventure sure to without a doubt please all ages! Will Tod be able to balance the promises she has given to everyone she cares for?

Cathy says

It's probably more of a 3.5 compared to some other books I've read, by this author, but it's a step up from the first book so I feel it deserved a four star rating. It felt more substantial than the first one in this part of the series. I felt like I sped though that in a few hours. Maybe this really was longer, it's so hard to tell when I borrow audiobooks from the library, I don't have much record of things. The story felt a bit more mature too, though they're still older tween-aged kids I'd say, or quite young teens. As with the original Septimus series, I'd still recommend these books for families traveling together, they're innocent enough for little ones but entertaining enough for everyone. But they aren't funny the way the other books were, they don't have the witty asides or little perceptive comments that kept cracking me up. The narrator is very good, though it's hard to compare to the humor and voices of the man who did the Septimus books (two men, the man who did the first book was stellar), sorry I've forgotten the names but they're in my reviews somewhere. Anyway, this woman is really very good as well. The material just isn't quite as good as the books I'm comparing it too.

Miranda says

I like the idea of continuing the universe and learning about the characters later in their lives. Unfortunately, I am not a fan of the new cast of characters, and I wasn't really intrigued by the stopping-the-Oraton-Marr storyline.

Deborah Pickstone says

The new series continues and forms part of the old series. Angie Sage remains very readable and her characters are mainly likable. She seems to have a particular fondness for Lucy Heap, though, to whom I just cannot warm. There's a bit too much willful misunderstanding of friends' motives in this and it becomes

annoying.

Jeanette says

I am thankful to have won this book in the Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

A good book, but feel that my teenage grandchildren will enjoy this book than I. It's the first time that I have read any books by this author and if my grandchildren enjoy, then I may consider purchasing other books in this series.

Skip says

Evil wizard Oraton-Morr takes the last Orm egg out into the desert so that he can be the person to whom it bonds, enhancing his powers because Orms produce lapis lazuli. One of his minions kidnaps a tortoise belonging to Kaznim, a desert dweller from a magical family, and in rescuing Ptolemy, she finds herself in the realm of the new Extraordinary Wizard, Septimus Heap and his apprentice Alice TodHunter Moon. They are seeking the Orm too, and a shaky alliance is formed. Good fun, and nice to have the Heaps, Beetle, SpitFyre, and Queen Jenna back though Tod and her two oldest friends are the main characters and an exciting sled race too. My only disappointment was fewer illustrations by the talented Mark Zug.

Amy says

I love Angie Sage's ability to paint a picture for her audience. The world and characters she creates feel so real and unique. The interactions between Tod and her friends as well as Tod and Septimus Heap were in my opinion the highlight of this book. My only complaint was that compared to the first book there wasn't as much going on plotwise. The story was fun, but the conflict didn't feel as strong as the first book. It did however set up some plot lines that I think will pay off in the next book. Overall, I really enjoyed this book and if you are looking for a great middle grade series then I would give these books a try.

Ellen says

If I was 12 years old, I would be reading this under the covers at night with a flash light! I adore this series (Septimus Heap and Alice Tod Hunter Moon) and this one was fun not just for that 12 year old girl inside me but the adult too! What an exciting adventure for Alice (mostly known as Tod) and Kaznim (a determined child of the desert), who together with twins Oskar and Ferdie race to get to the Egg of the Orm before it hatches. There are wicked witches, a huge dragon, an evil sorcerer, magic sleds (that work both in snow and sand), a nasty evil Red Queen who loves to behead folks and a delightful disobedient genie. All this made for a fun read. Loved it!!!!

Caleb Tyler says

I loved this book and how it doesn't just get rid of all the old characters and we get to see them grown up but I also love all of the new characters and how it switches point of view at all of the right moments and how it even does show the story from the villains perspective.

Denise says

I love this series, maybe more than the original Heap series. I love being able to catch up and hear tidbits about "old friends" and having new details to flush out original characters backstories. Also, I just like the kids in the "Tribe of three."

Mary Catelli says

The next book in the Todhunter series. So to speak. Tod herself does not appear for quite a bit. Indeed, in the first portion, the returning characters are the evil wizard, and Spit Fyre.

But the wizard Oraton-Morr takes the last Orm egg out into the desert, takes a baby hostage to ensure its safety, and goes off to wait for its hatching, so he can make it imprint on him. But the boy set to watch the egg at one point steals the turtle of the sister of the kidnapped baby, and that sister, Kaznim, steals something from him and sets out to find her turtle. Alas for her, this puts her through an unstable Way, where she stumbles on Sam Heap and Marwick, who tell her there's no easy way back. They take her with them to the Castle -- it becomes progressively clearer than Sam is desperately injured -- and arrive back, even managing to reach the people on the other side of a Seal and get out.

Despite the pother over Sam, they manage to notice that Kaznim has things related to the Orm egg, which they know could be extremely dangerous if Oraton-Morr succeeds.

It involves a sled race, a witch who's decided to freelance, the history of a healer at the Wizard's Tower, Tod's best friends being taken for Snow Sprites, a malicious ghost, a charm used out of place, a vicious queen, a tiger, and much more.

Pat says

Couldn't decide 3 stars or 4. I love Sage's writing and I love this trilogy following in the path of the Septimus Heap series. I was disappointed I guess for one thing in the seeming lack of editing for lack of a better explanation. For instance, she repeats in kind of sloppy writing about Tod's homesickness and jealousy of others having mothers in several places in the book. Also sometimes the story didn't seem to explain why Septimus didn't figure out obvious stuff or how he got to the desert in the end. Maybe I just missed it, I don't know. Somethings just seemed kind of arbitrary, like why didn't Tod go back and get Septimus to go with her to the desert? The explanation either wasn't there or wasn't in character. First Tod is totally into following the Wizard Tower protocols and then suddenly she isn't. There seemed to be a lack of consistency or something. I kind of felt at the end that I really missed stuff that was going on at the castle or in the Wizard

Tower. I wanted to see the other side of the story I guess. But over all I enjoyed it. I'm looking forward to the 3rd installment.
