



## The Moment of the Magician

*Alan Dean Foster*

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In the fourth exciting book of Foster's new fantasy series, Jon-Tom the Spellsinger and his otter comrade Mudge find their journey southward full of strong spells and deadly foes. Should they ever reach the city of Quasequa, their mission is to unmask the mysterious new magician, Marcus the Ineluctable. Original.

## **The Moment of the Magician Details**

Date : Published (first published November 1984)

ISBN : 9785555661340

Author : Alan Dean Foster

Format : 320 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Humor, Science Fiction Fantasy



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## From Reader Review The Moment of the Magician for online ebook

### **Jeremy Michael Gallen says**

In the fourth book of Alan Dean Foster's Spellsinger series, Spellsinger Jon-Tom and his lutrine comrade Mudge embark on a journey to the city of Quasequa due to the appearance of a new magician calling himself Markus the Ineluctable. The story opens with several animals speaking at the Quorum in the aforementioned city, debating the selection of an advisor in magical matters, among them the salamander Oplode the Sly. When the raven messenger Pandro informs the turtle wizard Clothahump of Markus's arrival, his pupils Jon-Tom and Mudge set off on their mentioned journey to the city. This installment is pretty much on par with its predecessors, not a bad thing, though as in prior entries it can be hard to keep track of what species certain characters belong to.

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### **Mandy says**

The vocabulary was impressive at times, and it's decently written. However, the premise was a bit cheesy for me and its execution was at times a little disappointing. It's very much a save the world adventure story, but the plot progression was easily distracted at times. It kept getting off track for me.

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### **Sina says**

Im weit entfernten Quasequa taucht Markus, der Unvermeidliche auf. Ein Zauberer höchster Klasse. Er macht dem dort amtierenden Hexer Oplode seine Position streitig. Oplode traut dem Frieden jedoch nicht und sucht bei Clodsahamp um Hilfe. Dieser schickt Jon-Tom auf die Reise. Jon-Tom macht sich auch sofort auf den Weg, mit der Hoffnung, dass Markus vielleicht auch aus seiner Welt stammen könnte, da die Hinweise darauf deuten. Vielleicht könnten sie ja gemeinsam einen Weg finden, wieder zurückzukehren.

Im vierten Band des Bannsänger-Zyklus muss Jon-Tom diesmal einem Zauberer entgegentreten, der im fernen Quasequa die Herrschaft an sich gerissen haben soll. Jon-Tom hofft jedoch, dass dieser Zauberer auch nach einem Weg sucht, um wieder nach Hause zurückzukehren. Vielleicht stammen sie ja auch aus der gleichen Welt.

Und so macht sich Jon-Tom zusammen mit seinem Otterfreund Mudge wieder auf einen weiten Weg, um die Welt zu retten oder sich komplett lächerlich zu machen. Der Weg ist beschwerlich, von Risiken gespickt und es müssen natürlich einige Abenteuer bestanden werden, bevor das eigentliche Ziel erreicht ist.

Sehr lustig wird es ab der Hälfte des Buches, den Jon-Tom trifft auf einen Haufen durchgeknallter Otter, der seine Geduld sehr oft auf die Probe stellt.

Der chaotische Pulk von Pelzträgern zerrt an den Nerven des Bannsängers, lässt kein Fettnäpfchen aus, sind aber auch ein Herz und eine Seele, wenn es darauf ankommt.

Apropos Bannsänger. Jon-Tom scheint sehr viel besser geworden zu sein. Meist kommt auch wirklich dass bei dem Banngesang heraus, was Jon-Tom beabsichtigt. Doch gibt es auch immer wieder Momente, wo alles komplett schief läuft.

Außerdem gibt es ein Wiedersehen mit einem alten Bekannten aus den ersten zwei Bänden.

Nach der Resignation aus dem dritten Teil, macht sich Jon-Tom nun doch wieder mehr Hoffnung, einen Weg nach Hause zu finden. Mit dem unbekannten Zauberer ergibt sich für ihn ein völlig neues Bild. Jon-Tom ist sich sehr sicher, dass er und Markus einen Weg finden, zurückzukehren. Aber erstens kommt es anders, und zweitens als man denkt...

Der gewohnt flüssige Schreibstil des Autors lässt einem wieder durch die Geschichte fliegen. Ist man am Anfang noch in den heimischen Glockenwäldern, geht es alsbald auf eine abenteuerliche Reise in die Ferne. Jon-Tom hat nun schon einiges mitgemacht, seit er in Mudges und Clodsahamps Welt angekommen ist und meist war es nichts Erfreuliches. Man wünscht ihm förmlich, dass er endlich mal ein Erfolgserlebnis hat.

Teil 4 hat mir wieder besser gefallen, als der dritte Band, denn er war rasanter und abenteuerlicher.

Fazit:

Besser als Teil 3, fast wieder so gut wie die ersten beiden Teile.

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### **Todd Mulholland says**

The same-ness starts getting to you in binge reading.

This is the fourth book of the spellsinger series. However, there ends up (other than the first) being a level of same-ness to the stories. A problem appears. Jon-Tom has to go take care of it. Mudge doesn't want to go. They take a long journey. Jon-Tom succeeds in getting them past the problem, except for one time when Mudge has to save them. They get to the problem, and things go badly, until Jon-Tom manages to defeat/solve the problem. There is a hint that more adventures continue. When the next book starts, those adventures haven't appeared, but details from the previous story have been dropped.

For this book, problem = An evil wizard who may be from Jon-Tom's world that's taken over a town.  
Problem Mudge has to solve = Plated folk colony. Dropped threads into the next novel = the troupe of otters they've picked up along the way.

Last book, problem = Clothahump's headache. Problem Mudge has to solve = the bandit (not pirate) band.  
Dropped threads = Roseroar, the unicorn, and Folly (what happened to all of them?)

That said, they're entertaining escapist fiction. If you've liked the others, you'll like this one.

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### **Nai Wang says**

You will only like these books if you already enjoy funny 80's fantasy books like Xanth or Myth.

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### **David Sarkies says**

#### **The series is beginning to drag**

4 February 2012

I guess the Spellsinger series are beginning to drag on by this time. As I mentioned previously, one of the main reasons that I continued reading them was because I wanted to see if Talea would return, but I guess by the time I reached this book it became clear that she wasn't. However, as also mentioned, the problem with Jon-Tom is that he is still trapped in this world with no way to return, though one would wonder why he would want to return since he is a powerful magician here, while back on Earth he is little more than a janitor.

Jon-Tom is once again summoned by Clothahump, the wizard turtle, who sends him to a swamp to the south to investigate the appearance of another wizard (a wizard who, as it turns out, has come from our world).

Jon-Tom and the dirty otter Mudge decide to go on a journey to confront him, and if need be, defeat him.

Many have suggested that Foster's continuity begins to degrade in this book. It is as if he had forgotten what he had written in his previous books and was not sitting down to create a Spellsinger franchise. However, the franchise lasted six books, and dropped away for a while. He has since written another two, so they are eight in total (not that I have read, or plan to read, the last two).

Sometimes a franchise works well, other times it doesn't. I did enjoy the Spellsinger series, though did not necessarily get too caught up in the continuity as a kid. It was only when I studied filmmaking that I came to understand the importance of continuity (and I guess having Talea stick around would have been one of those important aspects, but then we must remember that Jon-Tom is an American college student who has become a hero in this world, and the mentality seems to be having a short time of passion before moving on to the next person).

The continuity problems involve which animals can talk and which cannot. The main one people criticise are the horses, who in the first books are identified as being unable to speak, but in this book turns out that they can. This is not something that can easily be explained away (unlike some continuity problems in other films). There is also mention of a change in the roles of some of the animals.

It has been a long time since I read this book, and there are no really decent synopsis' of this book on the internet, and as such there is little more than I can write about it. I should discuss the concept of the quest in the fantasy novel also being a reflection of one's quest to adulthood, or one's quest of self-discovery, but I will leave that for another time.

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## Mars says

Before I begin this review, I would like to say a few words.

A non-negligible number of authors write books that include music. These books usually feature flowery descriptions of a long list of their favorite songs. If you feel a pressing desire to join their ranks, PLEASE RESIST IT. I am familiar with most of the tracks mentioned in these works, and I like quite a few of them, but the resulting "literature" is unreadable crap that would get you a smack-down from your English professor. Piers Anthony, Eric Flint, and many others have failed to pull it off. You will, too.

The Moment (and probably the other books in the series - it's the only one I've read) is only a mild offender in this case - it makes do with just listing the author's favorite songs, but doesn't go into excruciating detail about them.

The story is... Well, quite admittedly, the story is shit. Evil magician takes over a faraway city, and Our

Intrepid Hero (OIH) and his Sarcastic Sidekick go to deal with him, and have adventures on the way. OIH moons over a girl he met in another book, thinks about how wonderful having magic is, and wishes with all his heart to return to his own world where he will have neither. SS hates OIH's singing, is annoyed by the adventures, finds the entire thing to be endless trouble - but goes along with most of this crap anyway, throughout the book.

Sounds like a recipe for a 1-star rating, indeed. But yet, there are just enough silly situations and (I can't quite bring myself to call them philosophical thoughts) to make it bearable reading - but not nearly enough to make the book actually good.

To save you a handful of hours of time better spent elsewhere, here's one of the best parts of the book:

[They encounter an area where it rains upwards, the entire purpose of which phenomenon seems to be to trigger this sequence. Jon-Tom is OIH, Mudge the Otter is the aforementioned sidekick.]

Jon-Tom watched the up-pour a while longer before rejoining his friend. He curled up underneath his cape but lay wide-awake, staring out into the storm. The steady rush of sky-bound water was soothing.

"Actually, it's kind of neat. I mean, there's a wonderful symmetry to it, a kind of meteorological poetry."

"Right, mate. Me thought exactly. Now go to sleep."

Jon-Tom turned to him. The otter's silhouette was barely visible against the fading fire. "You live too fast, Mudge. Sometimes I don't think you have the slightest appreciation for any of the world's natural wonders."

"Wot, me?" He blinked sleepily at Jon-Tom. "Ow can you say that, mate? Why this upside-down drizzle, it revises me 'ole estimation o' 'ow the world's constructed."

"Does it? Then maybe there's hope for you yet, if it enables you to appreciate the strangeness and beauty of nature, the astounding surprises that it has in store for all of us. There is magnificence in a slightly altered natural phenomenon like rain."

"Actually, mate, I see it a little differently. See, I always thought the world was a toilet. 'Tis nice to learn that it can function as a bidet also." Whereupon he rolled over once more and went back to sleep.

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## **Serena says**

I enjoyed the characters, and their world and hope I get the chance to read the story again and/or to read more within the series.

My Rating System:

\* couldn't finish, \*\* wouldn't recommend, \*\*\* would recommend, \*\*\*\* would read again, \*\*\*\*\* have read again.

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## **Arito Sato says**

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<http://www.amazon.co.jp/%E3%82%8F%E3%...>

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### **Tim Gray says**

Yes it's in many ways fantasy pulp fiction, but it's written by a skilled writer, and loads of fun. I haven't read this book for 20 years I reckon, and it's still fresh and fun.

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### **Barbi Faye (The Book Fae) says**

Book Four is peopled with tough-talking prairie dogs, some magical mime-vines, & a mammoth mountain of living muck. Say that ten times fast! Spellsinging Jon-Tom & his buddy otter Mudge, adventure south to the city of Quasequa. Our intrepid band go up against their foe, Marcus the Ineluctable, a power hungry magician and his minions and of course save the day! Natch!

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### **Peter Curd says**

This story did drag a bit for me. The travelling became the entire story - the actual plot was resolved within a couple of chapters at the end - and left all sorts of holes open.

You know how in a good story there are loads of tangential bits that don't make sense on their own but then - boom - everything is revealed? Well The Moment of the Magician does the bits, but forgets the boom. None of the odd little side plots are resolved and it just becomes a walking story. Most of the Spellsinger books fit this description but this is by far the most blatant and most unoriginal yet.

The characters stayed a little more fixed this time without new "leads" appearing all over the place, which was nice, and we got some nice scenes with JonTom and Mudge doing things together which threw me back to the first book and happier times (for me, as the reader).

I am running out of things to say about these books, they are all very similar and writing this a few days later I find it hard to remember what happened and what was in the next book (yes, I've dived straight into number 5. 6? I've lost count) but I could be anywhere or anywhen in the timeline and be equally confused.

They are fun enough but I don't feel like I'm learning anything!

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### **Ngutierrez31 says**

As always, the Spellsinger series continues to be a delight. A debauchery crazed group of otters, underwater plated folk, will-o-wisps, mime trees, and magic and wonder everywhere in between. In the vein of the previous books, the books are not so much about the destination, but rather the journey. I enjoyed this thoroughly.

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## **Brian says**

8/5/2018 - 5/10

With book 4, the series definitely seems to be going down in quality. The plot seemed like an excuse to have a bunch of short and unconnected encounters while traveling (each resolved in about a chapter). This all led to a short and not very satisfying conclusion. The characters seemed more one-dimensional than usual, and that's not saying much.

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## **Ensiform says**

Look, I don't mind that ungulates are non-sapient in one book and intelligent in the next, or that the race of the police changes, or that the social standing of rodents changes --- but when most of the plot or dialogue serves only as comic effect, it makes the reality of the characters, their dialogue, disappointing. I'd like more of the starkness of the original book; this series is getting more and more cartoony. Still an intriguing main plotline, tho.

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