



The Chronicles of Chrestomanci, Vol. 2

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In this multiple parallel universes of the Twelve Related Worlds, only an enchanter with nine lives is powerful enough to control the rampant misuse of magic -- and to hold the title Chrestomanci... There is a world in which the peaceful city-state of Caprona is threatened by the malevolent machinations of a mysterious enchanter...and another in which magic is outlawed and witches are still burned at the stake.

In two worlds the practice of magic has gone dangerously awry, there is only one solution -- call upon the Chrestomanci.

The Chronicles of Chrestomanci, Vol. 2 Details

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Author : Diana Wynne Jones

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From Reader Review The Chronicles of Chrestomanci, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Ata says

witch week is fantastic and gets brownie points for better use of guy fawkes than v for vendetta

Anna Catherine says

I meant to review this ages ago but I forgot, so this'll be a brief and rusty review. I LOVED the first story. It was SO CREEPY. It reminded me of a Doctor Who episode. The second one was really neat, and I liked how it kept you guessing. I did get frustrated at characters having big messes to fix in their lives, but that's because I'm a sissy. XD Great read!

Kaethe says

These two make an odd pair. Witch Week is a boarding school farce with silliness all over the place. The Magicians of Caprona has lighthearted moments, but is a pretty earnest tale of children during war time. They don't have much in common, except the focus on children and magic, but they are both perfect. Caprona gets extra bonus points for the importance of cats.

Lisa says

I was missing a lot of world building. I liked the premise of book 4 in particular but I never invested in any of the characters.

Monica says

I remember this book being much different than the first Chrestomanci volume, but once I got over the fact that Chrestomanci only makes cameo appearances in these two stories I really enjoyed them. Jones is a very unique storyteller, and I definitely plan to read her books to my children some day.

Tiana Hanson says

When compared to the first volume, the second volume is a bit weaker. Both stories are excellent examinations of how things could be just a little different in parallel worlds with different rules on magic, but with Chrestomanci as only a cameo character in both, it was hard to link them to the first two stories.

Nevertheless, they're very in-depth stories and well worth the read.

Michelle says

Enjoyable Jones fantasy stories, though less organized than the first two. There are some creepy puppet scenes and sadly less extravagant dressing gowns, but generally still solid Chrestomanci fare.

Hanne Federwölkchen says

I have to say it with Mr. Gaiman: Always perfectly magical!

Katy says

3.5 stars

Emily Collins says

I sort of consider this book the weakest link when looking at the Chrestomanci series, but that's really only because I'm not too fond of Witch Week - I think it's bad form to get us horribly attached to characters and then suddenly change those characters into slightly different but really maybe the same characters. It's too much for me.

Magicians of Caprona, on the other hand (Romeo and Juliet, anyone?), is fascinating! Look at how differently magic is treated over there, a few countries over from England! They perform it differently and learn it differently and somehow it all just makes sense anyway! It's incredible! I loved Caprona - that book became an on-the-edge-of-your-seat-read-under-the-table book. Definitely.

Michelle Smith says

Just read the first one. Didn't like it as much as the first but I warmed to it.

Ursula says

Not as good as the first volume set, but still very good.

Martine says

The second Chrestomanci volume features two novels which have only two things in common: they both feature magic, and Chrestomanci shows up in both of them. However, the great wizard only makes brief appearances in the book, leaving centre stage to child protagonists who save society from an awful lot of harm by a combination of courage, brains, imagination and magic.

The first book in the volume, *The Magicians of Caprona*, is set in a world reminiscent of Renaissance Italy. It's basically Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, except with added magic. As Diana Wynne Jones tells the tale, two wizarding families are responsible for the spells that keep the city of Caprona flourishing: the Montanas and the Petroccis, who have been feuding for generations and seem unlikely ever to patch things up. When the city's spells start weakening, it looks like Caprona may be usurped by other cities. Obviously something is very wrong, but who is causing the mischief? Is it the Montanas, the Petroccis, or is there a third party involved? Montana and Petrocchi children start investigating the matter, saving Caprona from perdition and unifying their houses in the process. Well, what did you expect?

The second book, *Witch Week*, is set in a completely different milieu: a boarding school in a modern England which is remarkably like ours, except that magic of any kind is strictly forbidden and witches are burnt at the stake. One day, a teacher finds a note advising him there is a witch in his class. This leads to a genuine witch hunt in which several pupils who might be witches (but aren't sure themselves) are accused of witchcraft by nasty classmates. The accused try to save their hides by hiding, pretending they're completely normal or pointing their fingers at others. And then rumours start spreading that the Inquisition is about to pay a visit to the school, bringing equipment with them which will surely help them find the witch, and suddenly a whole lot of people seem to get *very* nervous. Could it be that there's more than one witch at the school? And if so, what are they going to do when the Inquisition shows up?

This second volume of Chrestomanci stories (there is a third one, too, but I haven't read that yet) is less impressive than the first one, but still compulsively readable. The first story is charming but predictable -- a three-star affair with some good characterisation and amusing set pieces but little genuine development. Adult readers will spot the plot twists a mile off, and the fact that Chrestomanci's cameo is completely bland doesn't help, either. The second story, however, is very strong -- worth a full five stars for its great and ever so recognisable depiction of an adolescent witch hunt and adolescence in general. Apart from the very real possibility that they'll die at the stake, the protagonists of *Witch Week* are teenagers like people we've known and may well have been ourselves. They are intelligent but unpopular kids who are bullied by popular cliques and alternate between trying to avoid trouble and plotting subtle revenge on those who have caused them harm. The tone of the story is pleasantly rebellious and anarchic, and it's well crafted, keeping you guessing at the witches' identities and crossing your fingers for the underdogs until the very end. Chrestomanci makes an appearance in this story, as well, and it's considerably more fun than the one in *The Magicians of Caprona*.

In short, Volume II of the Chronicles of Chrestomanci is a solid addition to the series -- not as original as Volume I, but definitely worth checking out if you like Harry Potter-style fantasy. Just read Volume I first to get a feel for the world in which the stories are set and Chrestomanci's role in it...

Alyssa Nelson says

This volume holds two stories from the Chrestomanci series: The Magicians of Caprona and Witch Week. Each story focuses on a different alternate dimension, with the Chrestomanci serving as the ultimate go-to

for all magic-related weirdness going on, so he serves as a unifying force throughout the stories.

The Magicians of Caprona

This is a loose retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story, but more focus on magic and war rather than romance. Two houses of famous magicians are feuding, because—well, reasons,—and they each think the other one is horrible. Because of that, Caprona is weakening and there is a war on the way that they probably can't win. It looks especially dire when two young magicians (one from each family) go missing and each house thinks the other kidnapped the missing child.

I loved this so much. Jones just has such a way about her writing to make the stories particularly magical. Many of the twists were predictable, but the simple telling of the story was wonderful. The characters are brilliant and so vivid, they're practically jumping off the page at you, walking around with you as you read. There were some characters that revealed unexpected depths in this story, and I enjoyed how everything was woven together. Magic, romance, action, adventure, mystery — this story has EVERYTHING you could possibly want. I couldn't get enough of it. It's my favorite Chrestomanci story so far.

Witch Week

In a dimension where magic is outlawed, there seems to be a whole lot of magic happening at a boarding school. A teacher gets an anonymous note from a student that hints that the person using magic might just be in their own class. Drama and suspense ensues.

I didn't like this as much as *Magicians of Caprona*, but I still liked it quite a bit; it just took a lot more for me to get into this one. Much of the beginning just seemed to focus on some whiny teenagers, which I didn't find particularly interesting. What hooked me in, though, was the idea of magic being outlawed in a dimension where there is clearly a lot of magic going around. The best parts in this book for me were when magic was used and how BRILLIANTLY it exploded out of people who so desperately tried to keep it in. The action picks up a great deal halfway through when Chrestomanci shows up, and I enjoyed the resolution a lot. These twists were less predictable than *Magicians of Caprona*, and I liked how it tied in nicely with a previous book in the series.

Overall, though, I greatly recommend the entire series. Diana Wynne Jones is a gem and writes such brilliant middle grade fantasy; it's stuff that will keep you thinking about long after you've read it. She's definitely an inspiration and one of my absolute favorite writers of the fantasy genre. Her Chrestomanci series is no exception.

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

Erin says

I tried, I really did, but I've been trying to finish this book for six weeks now and I'm just not into it. I made it through *The Magicians of Caprona*, which was really rambly and directionless, and ended rather abruptly. Chrestomanci really wasn't even part of the story; more like he had a special appearance for a few pages. So I've lost interest and I'm thinking this book probably won't get finished.

Mahra says

Witch Week

Best best best series I ever read!

1. Mr Crossly chasing Ms Hedge was my fav side character action
2. I love the diversity in the book specially that it was written in the 1980s so HATS Off!!!
3. Do I have to mention how Dianna Wynne Jones writing is HEAVENLY??
4. Okay gotta say that the Simon Says spell that Charles put on Simon was fun!
5. Am I the only one who hated Theresa?
6. I kinda felt sorry for Brian.
7. I want more adventures about Nan & Estelle !!
8. When Estelle was in love with Chrestomanci.. same girl saaaaame!!!?♥?♥?♥???
9. I KINDA WANTED TO SEE MORE CHANT AND MILLIE BUT I KNEW IT WAS WAY TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
10. I need a legit fan art of Chrestomanci?
11. I kept thinking where would Chrestomanci appear in the story and I thought he might be in disguise as Mr. Wentworth lol!
12. When Estelle & Nan used the SUPER EMERGENCY spell which was “KRESTOMANSIII” and Chrestomanci just appeared.. I died from happiness.
13. I wish I can say Chrestomanci 3 Times and he would appear.
14. The adventures in each book in this series NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME!
15. I felt so terribly sad when I knew I only have two books left??
16. My fav part is when everyone kept telling Simon to say something and he said it and everything came back together (the two worlds merged) and Mr. Crossly FINALLY GOT A DATE WITH Eileen (ms hedge)
17. And I kinda thought Charles Morgan would have like a 9-life stuff but wait we have Cat lol
18. And how Estelle n Nan were bffs
19. And Brian and Simon were friends ?? Wow
20. Also my fav part is when Chrestomanci got Theresa's name wrong !!

All in all,

I loved this book/adventures so much, I can't wait to read the next “Magicians Of Caprona”.. am I going too fast in reading this series ? I don't want it to end!!

Magicians of Caprona Review

Spectacular Adventure !

1. I love how Tonino can talk to cats!
2. Describing an Italian family and their culture was really entertaining specially when Tonino disappeared and they were all worried and they had to send Benvenuto to fetch him and they all cared about Tonino the family that is.
3. The Petrocchis and Montanas hatred was really unbearable I kept guessing how would they be all friendly

at the end of the book?

4. Tonino & Angelica in the puppet show omg! That was a horrible spell!

5. I DID NOT EXPECT THE DUTCHESS TO BE THE EVIL ENCHANTER! Nor did I expect her to be the white devil! Which explains why both families repsected cats!

6. Also I was literally worried when the wench dutchess (almost) shot benvenuto!!

7. I KNEW IT THAT MARCO WAS A PETROCCHII! He hid it very well even from me! I always hoped there would be a love story between the two families and now we have extra two (Paolo & Reneta) (Tonino and Angelica)

8. Rinaldo is a bit of a jerk

9. I enjoyed this book so much I just fell in love with the Caprona that I wanna visit Italy one day and maybe I will find the statue of the Angel ? I better google it ASAP!

10. What I will always admire is that Chrestomanci is not the “hero” in any of the stories like I just have to guess when he will appear or what he will do and he is so charming

11. I'm ever so excited to draw all the ppl in this story I just love this book so much!

On the quest to read the final book! Or more that I should read Mixed Magic first and then Pinhoe Egg!

Hillary says

I thought these Chrestomanci books were even better than the first two. By the end of the fourth, I really came to love the quirks of Chrestomanci, and I love the complicated series of worlds Jones has created.

Paul Black says

This volume is two completely separate stories. Each is set in the Chrestomanci universe. He doesn't appear until near the end to pull things together. Although both were imaginative and the writing was delightful, I didn't like them as much as the original (two).

Julien Devin says

One of the stories is really great (witch week) while the other is aggressively mediocre (caprona) so I guess that averages to 4 stars?

Kim says

The magicians of Caprona is a little different, It's to me a bit darker than the other 2 stories I read from the Chrestomanci chronicles. It's settled in Italy where 2 families are in war for a long time. When a real war is starting the two families will have to work together to make an end to the war that will destroy Caprona the city both families love.

The second story : Witch week, is totally different. It's about a world where witches get burned at the stake. So being a witch is really terrifying in this world. When someone in class gets accused of being a witch everything goes wrong. everybody starts accusing everybody and it gets really dangerous. I like this book the best because the world looks most like our own.
