

= Septimus Heap =

Septimus Heap is a series of fantasy novels featuring a protagonist of the same name written by English author Angie Sage . In all , it features seven novels , entitled *Magyk* , *Flyte* , *Physik* , *Queste* , *Syren* , *Darke* and *Fyre* , the first ( *Magyk* ) in 2005 and the final ( *Fyre* ) in 2013 . A full colour supplement to the series , entitled *The Magyk Papers* , was published in June 2009 , and an online novella titled *The Darke Toad* is also available . A sequel trilogy , *The TodHunter Moon Series* , set seven years after the events of *Fyre* , began in October 2014 , with the second book released in October 2015 .

The series follows the adventures of Septimus Heap who , as a seventh son of a seventh son , has extraordinary magical powers . After he becomes an apprentice to the arch ( " ExtraOrdinary " ) wizard of the series , Marcia Overstrand , he must study for seven years and a day until his apprenticeship ends . In the first book , he is known as Young Army Expendable Boy 412 , until his great @-@ aunt , Zelda Zanuba Heap reveals his true identity . His adventures are placed in the context of the warmth and strength of his family , and developed alongside those of Jenna , his adoptive sister , who is heir to the throne of the Castle , the community where they live . The novels , set in an elaborate fantastic world , describe the many challenges that Septimus and his friends must overcome .

The books have appeared on national bestsellers lists and received worldwide critical acclaim ; Warner Bros. acquired the rights to produce a movie based on the first book . The series has been noted for the realism and richness of its characters , the compelling nature of their adventures , and its humour . It has been compared with *Harry Potter* and other works within the genre .

= = Development = =

Author Angie Sage has said that the character of Septimus Heap , his ultimate fate , and the world he inhabits , were fully formed in her imagination from the beginning , but she had not decided on the intermediate steps on his journey , nor on the characters he would meet . Sage described Septimus Heap 's world as a place where numerous creatures and people suddenly appear and become involved in events .

Commenting on the development of the Septimus Heap character , Sage has described him as someone in a strange and hostile world who has no idea of his real identity . The series gained momentum with the development of the character of Marcia Overstrand , which Sage credits as an inspiration . Septimus Heap is centred on the warmth and strength of the Heap family . In an interview Sage said :

I like their chaotic acceptance of life , and the fact that they don 't do what they are told by authority if they think it is wrong . Stuff happens to them that makes their life difficult at times but they don 't moan about things , they just get on and sort it out as best they can . They are remarkably accepting of other people , I think because they are so strong as a unit . They are also a family which becomes separated by circumstances- and I wanted to show that families can still be close to each other and care for each other even though they live apart . The family relationships develop as the books progress , and are central to the story .

Sage keeps a boat ( called Muriel ) in real life , as does the character Sally Mullin in *Magyk* . Other inspirations for the series included Sage 's love of history and the misty landscape of Cornwall , where she lived before starting the series . Another factor in the development of the series was her love of daydreaming : " Slowly ... lots of thinking , and daydreaming . I am a big fan of daydreaming and staring out of the window . Then keeping all my thoughts and ideas in a dog @-@ eared old envelope for ages . " With *The Wilton Villager* , Sage further expanded her inspiration behind the series .

It was an idea I had had for a very long time , and I waited a long time while it grew and developed . [ ... ] I try and write the books I would have loved to have read as a child and teenager . [ ... ] It all started with the spelling of the first title , ' *Magyk* . ' I felt the way that magic is normally spelled makes people think of conjuring tricks and stage magicians and I wanted to avoid that , but in the

past , before spelling became standardized , people would spell words how they chose to , sometimes in different ways in the same sentence . Magic was often spelled magyck , so all I did was to change that a little . After that I carried on using archaic spelling for words associated with magic and the supernatural . It makes them look a little different , gives a different flavor to them .

= = The series and relating books = =

= = = Septimus Heap Heptalogy = = =

= = = = Magyk = = = =

The plot of the first book , entitled Magyk ( published in March 2005 ) , revolves around the pauper Heap family : Silas , Sarah and their seven children . The story begins when Silas finds Jenna in the snow . Septimus is born on the same day , but is declared dead by the midwife , who steals the baby and brings him to DomDaniel , an evil wizard . However , he is confused with the midwife 's own son and is sent to the Supreme Custodian to help start a boy army . On her tenth birthday , Jenna learns from ExtraOrdinary Wizard Marcia Overstrand that she is a princess , but that she ? and the Heap family ? are in danger . Jenna and Nicko Heap escape to their Aunt Zelda 's cottage . They are accompanied by a member of the Young Army called Boy 412 , who discovers his magic powers and a legendary ring while at Zelda 's . Marcia is imprisoned in DomDaniel ´ s boat , Vengeance , and nearly dies , but is rescued by Boy 412 , Jenna and Nicko after they find a flying Dragon Boat in a secret cavern by Zelda ´ s cottage . At the end of the novel , Boy 412 is revealed to be Septimus , and his family hears of his past .

= = = = Flyte = = = =

The second book , Flyte ( published in March 2006 ) , begins with Septimus ( now the apprentice to ExtraOrdinary Wizard Marcia ) witnessing the kidnapping of Jenna by her older brother Simon . After seeking help from Nicko and a friend from the Young Army , Septimus finds Jenna at The Port , but they are followed by Simon . They fly to The Castle in the Dragon Boat , engaging in aerial combat with Simon on the way . Marcia 's life is threatened by the reassembled bones of DomDaniel , but with Septimus 's help , she destroys him . The novel also features the discovery of the lost " Flyte " charm , which gives the book its title , and an egg that hatches into a dragon Septimus names Spit Fyre .

= = = = Physik = = = =

The antagonist of the third book , Physik ( published in March 2007 ) , is the 500 @-@ year @-@ old spirit of Queen Etheldredda , who is accidentally released by Silas Heap . She sends Septimus to her immortal son Marcellus Pye . He is transported back in time to become the apprentice of the young Marcellus Pye , an alchemist who teaches him about " Physik " . In the present timeline of the novel , the Castle is infected by a deadly plague and Queen Etheldredda has the plan to acquire eternal life . Jenna and Nicko meet a young trader Snorri Snorrelssen with whom they travel in time to bring Septimus back though Nicko and Snorri couldn 't escape . There , Jenna is taken to the living Queen Etheldredda , but she escapes with Septimus and they return to the present Castle . Marcia then destroys the substantial spirit of Etheldredda and Septimus brews an antidote to the plague using his knowledge of Physik .

= = = = Queste = = = =

The quest of the fourth book , Queste ( published in April 2008 ) , is a journey in time to the House

of Foryx , in which " all times meet " , to bring back Nicko and Snorri , who were trapped there after the events of the third book . Septimus is sent on this mission for nefarious reasons by a ghost called Tertius Fume . Assisted by Jenna and his friend Beetle , among others , he pieces together a map to the House of Foryx . When they reach the house , Septimus meets Hotep @-@ Ra , the first ExtraOrdinary Wizard , while Jenna and Beetle find Nicko and Snorri . Marcia and Sarah Heap arrive outside the house on Spit Fyre , and they return together to their own time .

= = = = Syren = = = =

The fifth book , Syren ( published in September 2009 ) , continues from where Queste ended . Septimus decides to bring back his friends from the House of Foryx country and he , Jenna and Beetle get trapped in a mysterious island . There he meets a mysterious girl called Syrah Syara who tells him about a dangerous plot by Tertius Fume to destroy The Castle . Together with the help of the others and a safe @-@ charm jinnee sent to him by Aunt Zelda , Septimus stops the invasion of The Castle by Fume and his jinnee warriors and saves Syrah from a terrible enchantment of a malice ghost called the Syren .

= = = = Darke = = = =

The sixth book , Darke ( published in America in June 2011 and England in October 2011 ) , sees Septimus and his friends battling the Darke which has engulfed the Castle and everything and everyone in it . The only thing that is standing in between is Merrin Meredith and his gang of Things and his Darke Dragon . Alther Mella has been Banished ( together with Tertius Fume ) and Septimus wants to release him from the Darke Halls thinking he could help in undoing the Darke . When Marcia Overstrand , the ExtraOrdinary Wizard undoes the Darke spell with the help of the Paired Codes , all is well . Beetle becomes Chief Hermetic Scribe ; Simon is reunited with his family after leaving his past behind and Princess Jenna is happy that the Palace and Castle are back to normal .

= = = = Fyre = = = =

The seventh and final novel , Fyre ( published in April 2013 ) , sees the cast featuring the toughest challenges yet as Septimus nears the end of his ExtraOrdinary Wizard training . The dreaded Two @-@ Faced Ring has been captured , but remains a grave threat , and must be plunged into the Alchemical Fyre for it to be destroyed for good . The ring , however , holds a threat far greater than most realize , and the restarting of the Fyre is , in itself , quite dangerous .

= = = TodHunter Moon trilogy = = =

The TodHunter trilogy starts seven years after ' Fyre ' .

= = = = Pathfinder = = = =

First in the TodHunter Moon trilogy , Pathfinder ( published on October 14 , 2014 ) picks up the world of Septimus Heap seven years after the events of Fyre .

= = = = SandRider = = = =

Second in the TodHunter Moon trilogy ( published on October 13 , 2015 ) .

= = = = StarCatcher = = = =

Third in the TodHunter Moon trilogy ( slated for release in October 2016 ) .

= = = Relating books = = =

= = = = Relating to the Septimus Heap Heptalogy = = = =

= = = = = The Darke Toad = = = = =

The Darke Toad is an eBook novella for Amazon Kindle ( published in February 2013 ) . The novella features the return of DomDaniel as well as the Port Witch Coven , and is set between Magyk and Flyte . The eBook includes two chapters of Fyre , the final book in the series .

= = = = = Septimus Heap : The Magyk Papers = = = = =

Septimus Heap : The Magyk Papers ( published in June 2009 ) is a supplement to the series in a full @-@ colour larger format with illustrations by Mark Zug . Angie Sage said in an interview that she is enjoying the process of developing this guidebook and thinking about the book 's structure and all its characters . Bloomsbury said that this Septimus Heap encyclopedia is a dazzling cornucopia of information on every aspect of Septimus 's world and the creatures that inhabit it , including the secret files , the journal excerpts , charm theory , the seven basic spells , dispatches from the Message Rat Office , the history , and the maps .

= = Film adaptation = =

Warner Brothers bought the rights to produce a film version of the first book , Magyk . Karen Rosenfelt would produce the film , with Sage serving as an executive producer . According to Cinematical.com , the making of the movie would not start before the final Harry Potter movie was completed . Sage said that the screenplay will be developed after the writer 's strike was over .

It was announced on 17 July 2009 that the movie would be live action , with computer animated effects , and David Frankel as director and Rob Lieber to adapt Magyk . As of 2009 , a re @-@ write of the script was being done with screenwriter Mulroney and Warner Brothers were working with a studio to create some early conceptual design / look development . Sage commented : " It is very exciting to know that others are putting their creative input into my work ? quite amazing really . [ ... ] I 'm really looking forward to seeing the whole Septimus world up there on the big screen coming to life . "

As of June 2015 , it seems the movie has been shelved .

= = Characters = =

The eponymous protagonist of the series is Septimus Heap . As the seventh son of a seventh son , the aptly named Septimus has exceptional magical powers . He shares his birthday with Jenna , his adoptive sister , but is presumed dead at birth by his family . For most of the first novel he appears as Boy 412 , a child from the Young Army , where he has spent the first ten years of his life after DomDaniel attempted to abduct him . Thereafter he is apprentice to the ExtraOrdinary Wizard Marcia Overstrand . He has a mop of curly hair , wears green apprentice robes and has a Dragon Ring on his right hand . In the second novel , he acquires a dragon called Spit Fyre as a pet . According to a review in the Manila Standard Today , the contrast between the caution he has learned from an early age and his longing for the love and affection of a family makes him an intriguing character .

Adopted by the Heap family as a baby in place of Septimus , Jenna Heap is the daughter of an assassinated queen . She is a small girl , with deep violet eyes and fair complexion ; she wears a deep red cloak and the gold circlet of the princess on her head . She is portrayed as loving and

caring at heart , but sometimes very stubborn . In the first novel she has a pet rock called Petroc Trelawney ( presumably named after Petroc Trelawny ) , which she loses when the Marram Marshes are flooded ; she later acquires a pet duck called Ethel . The ambiguity of Jenna 's characterization has been questioned , with one critic commenting : " [ A ] s the Princess or Queenling , she comes from a turbulent past and is thrust into the anonymous world of ordinary society without any inkling of her royal background . The reader is therefore left guessing whether or not she has it in her to rise to the tenets of her position as ruler of the Castle . "

Marcia Overstrand is the powerful , ambitious and wilful ExtraOrdinary Wizard of the series . She is characterized as stern , bad @-@ tempered and intimidating , but with a good heart beneath . Her affection towards her apprentice Septimus is manifest in the novels , as is the responsibility she feels to protect him and his sister , even with her own life . She is described as a tall woman , with long , dark curly hair and deep @-@ green eyes , and generally wears a deep purple tunic with purple python @-@ skin boots . Her symbol and source of power , an Akhu @-@ Amulet , which makes her ExtraOrdinary Wizard , hangs around her neck . Her haughty and vain characterization has been praised as a " well @-@ written stand @-@ alone " .

The main antagonist of the first two novels is DomDaniel , a Necromancer and ex @-@ ExtraOrdinary Wizard who wants to regain control of the Wizard Tower from Marcia Overstrand . The antagonist of the third novel , is Queen Etheldredda . Several other characters appear regularly in the novels , including Septimus 's parents Silas and Sarah Heap , Septimus 's friend Beetle , and a trader called Snorri Snorrelssen .

= = Fictional setting = =

Like other fantasy novels , the Septimus Heap series is set in an imaginary world . Maps are provided in all of the books . Magyk contains a map of the Castle and its surroundings to the Port in the south . An enlarged map of the Castle is also included . Flyte has a map showing the Badlands and the Borderlands in the north . Physik has an enlarged map of the Castle with more details showing the Alchemie chambers . Queste has a map for the House of Foryx , drawn by Snorri for Marcellus . Syren keeps the past maps but adds the isles of Syren . The map in Syren also mentions that the country that Septimus lives in is called " The Small Wet Country Across the Sea " . Darke has a map similar to that in Magyk , however , instead of including Marram Marshes which are south of the castle , it includes a map of the Darke Halls , bleak creek and the bottomless whirlpool . It also includes an enlarged map of the castle . At the end of Fyre , Septimus writes in the snow that the date is July 4 , 12 @,@ 004 . The book ends with a quote from Arthur C Clarke : " Any Sufficiently Advanced Technology is Indistinguishable from Magyk " . , hinting that the series is set in the far future . This also hinted at by a dialogue between Lucy Gringe and Wolf Boy in Syren about the Red Tube . Wolf Boy says he has heard stories that people used to travel to the moon in things like that . Lucy dismisses this , however , it 's apparent they are talking about Apollo moon missions . Hints that the story is set in the future also reveal themselves when Septimus and the possessed Syrah enter a chamber that goes up and down with the press of a button , indicating that they used an elevator .

= = = The Castle = = =

The Castle is the main location in the series . It is situated by a river on a piece of land , circular in shape , which has been cut off from the surrounding forest by an artificial moat . The Wizard Tower , the Palace and the Ramblings are located in the Castle . Sage based the structure on that of ancient walled cities which were completely self @-@ sufficient , like little nations in their own right .

The Wizard Tower is the place where the ExtraOrdinary Wizard ( Marcia Overstrand ) resides along with Ordinary Wizards and the ExtraOrdinary Apprentice ( Septimus Heap ) . Built by the first ExtraOrdinary Wizard , Hotep @-@ Ra , it is a purple 21 @-@ floor tower with a gold pyramid at the top , surrounded by an aura of magyk . The Palace is the royal residence , home to Jenna , Sarah and Silas . It is much older than the Wizard Tower with secret places , such as the Queen 's room ,

which is accessible only to the Queen or the Princess , and has a secret passage to the Marram Marshes .

= = = The lands around the Castle = = =

= = = Marram Marshes = = =

To the south of the Castle are the Marram Marshes , a long stretch of marshland near the mouth of the river , which is inhabited by many creatures , such as Brownies , Quake Oozes , Boggarts and pythons . Zelda Heap 's cottage is on Draggen Island , in the middle of the marshes . It is built above the secret temple where Septimus finds the Dragon Boat . Septimus also found the egg ( which he thought was a rock ) from which spit Fyre hatched in this temple . Sage has stated that the marshes are based on boggy areas at the end of a creek near her home , and that the tides and the phases of the moon in the novels are based on those for Falmouth , Cornwall .

= = = The Forest = = =

The Forest lies to the north @-@ west of the Castle , and is feared by the Castle 's inhabitants as a dark and dangerous area . The Wendron Witches and the witch community live there , as does Galen , Sarah Heap 's mentor in Physik . The Forest has many mysterious aspects , and is dominated by shape @-@ shifting or carnivorous trees , including Benjamin Heap , wolverines , and secrets . The Forest has a secret way to transport a character to the path leading to the House of Foryx . Sage based the Forest on medieval forests , which were huge and a law unto themselves , free from the authority of the outside world .

= = = The House of Foryx = = =

The House of Foryx is a magical house situated somewhere deep in another forest , surrounded by perpetual winter . It is an octagonal building flanked by four octagonal pillars . Here all times meet , and characters can go from one time to another . Characters can come into the building from any time , but can leave it in their own time only if another from that time stands outside the main door ; otherwise they are lost in time , and may even end up in a time when the House of Foryx did not exist , giving them no chance of ever returning . The house is named after Foryx , a huge elephantine creature in the Septimus Heap universe .

= = = Other locations = = =

= = = The Port = = =

The Port lies in the extreme south near the sea , and is portrayed as a place full of strangers . Here ships load their cargo , which is verified by the customs officer , Alice Nettles ( deceased ) . A dangerous coven called the Port Witch Coven can lure strangers into a trap or turn them into toads . There is a short cut from the Port to Zelda 's house in the Marram Marshes . The author created the Port because of her love of the hubbub accompanying the arrival of boats . According to Sage , she sees the Port as full of " beginnings and adventures ? and endings too . "

= = = The Badlands = = =

The Badlands are a rocky and hilly valley on the northern borders of the Septimus Heap world , where DomDaniel once practised his dark magic in an observatory atop a hill . They are inhabited by Land Wurms , giant carnivorous snakelike animals , making them a dangerous place . Simon Heap

also used to live there with Lucy Gringe .

= = Reception = =

The Septimus Heap novels have been published in 28 languages worldwide and have sold over one million copies in the United States , with each of the books appearing on national bestsellers lists . Published in March 2005 , the first book , *Magyk* , became an international bestseller after it appeared at number one on the New York Times Best Sellers List .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The series has received mostly positive reviews .

The Independent newspaper 's review of the audio books stated that the chapters are short enough to keep children of seven @-@ plus interested but , as there are ghosts , rats , soldiers and dragon boats to help Septimus and the young Princess fight the evil necromancer DomDaniel , there is enough to keep the whole family amused .

= = = Comparisons with other fantasy novels = = =

Some critics have noted similarities between names in Septimus Heap and those in Harry Potter , such as Petroc Trelawney ( Jenna 's pet rock ) and Sybill Trelawney ( a professor in Harry Potter ) ; also both series feature Boggarts ( which are intelligent Marsh creatures in Septimus Heap and shape @-@ shifters in Harry Potter ) . In response , British author Phil Knight has commented :

The Petroc Trelawney in the Septimus Heap books is nothing at all to do with Professor Trelawney . He is a Radio 3 presenter who may well be known to Angie Sage personally , but otherwise will be known over the air . Think : why would Jenna call a pet rock ' Trelawney ' ? To a Radio 3 listener like me , it 's perfectly logical ... And as for Boggarts , they 've been around here in the North of England for a long time . Manchester has Boggart Hole Clough , for example . They 're not really like either Sage 's or Rowling 's creatures , but pre @-@ exist either of them .

The series has also been compared to other fantasy novels : for instance , Hotep @-@ Ra 's magical ring evokes *The Lord of the Rings* , and the journeys in the series are " somewhat Narnia @-@ esque in how they play out " ; similarly the concept of a remarkably powerful seventh son of a seventh son was previously employed in the *Alvin Maker* series of Orson Scott Card . The sprinkling of borrowed ideas has not necessarily been regarded as a negative trait : these ideas play a part in developing the flavour of the series and " don 't necessarily deviate it from its originality " .