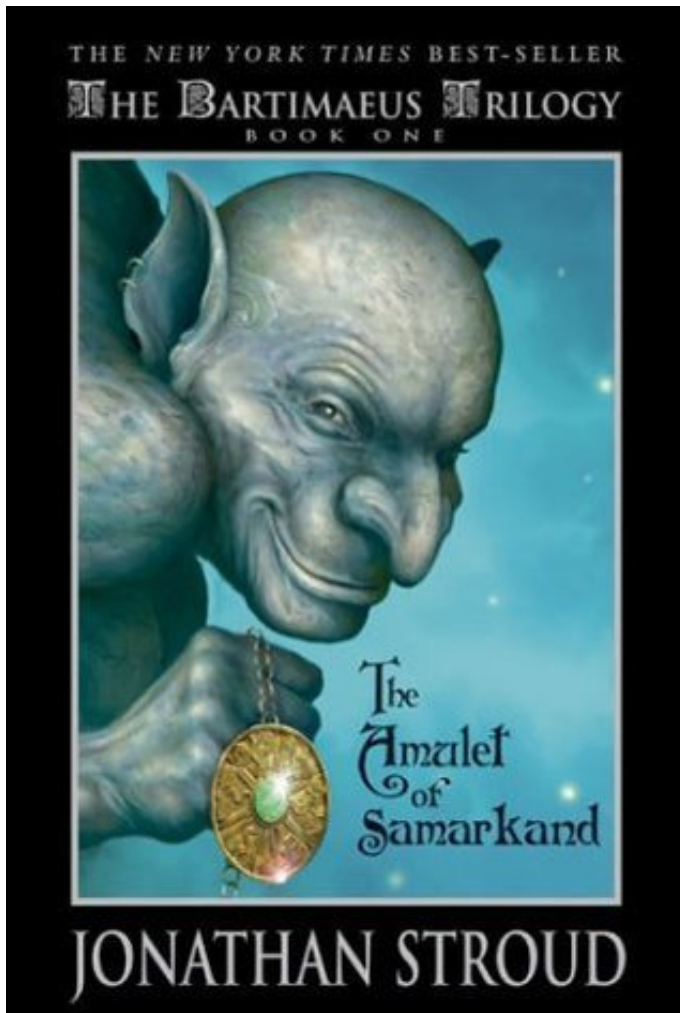

Jonathan Stroud

The Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Sequence #1)



Title: The Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Sequence #1)

Author: Jonathan Stroud

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Description

Nathaniel is a boy magician-in-training, sold to the government by his birth parents at the age of five and sent to live as an apprentice to a master. Powerful magicians rule Britain, and its empire, and Nathaniel is told his is the "ultimate sacrifice" for a "noble destiny."

If leaving his parents and erasing his past life isn't tough enough, Nathaniel's master, Arthur Underwood, is a cold, condescending, and cruel middle-ranking magician in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The boy's only saving grace is the master's wife, Martha Underwood, who shows him genuine affection that he rewards with fierce devotion. Nathaniel gets along tolerably well over the years in the Underwood household until the summer before his eleventh birthday. Everything changes when he is publicly humiliated by the ruthless magician Simon Lovelace and betrayed by his cowardly master who does not defend him.

Nathaniel vows revenge. In a Faustian fever, he devours magical texts and hones his magic skills, all the while trying to appear subservient to his master. When he musters the strength to summon the 5,000-year-old djinni Bartimaeus to avenge Lovelace by stealing the powerful Amulet of Samarkand, the boy magician plunges into a situation more dangerous and deadly than anything he could ever imagine.

Insightful reviews

Jamie: A very interesting and fun read. Bartimaeus is an unforgettable character and very witty. Well done Jonathan Stroud for a well invented young adult, fantasy novel. I ended up enjoying this book more than I thought I would.

When I first started reading, the pace was a bit...well, I guess scattered is the best way to put it. But Stroud quickly picks up the pieces and creates a unique and thorough environment and story. The book is written in two styles. The first is first person with Bartimaeus. He is a djinn with quick wit and lots of random thoughts (which the author even added as footnotes). The other is third person and focuses on Nathaniel. He is a magician's apprentice who summons Bartimaeus for a small case of revenge.

The story bounces between these two as the adventure moves along and a little game of revenge gets to be so much more than either thought it could. Bartimaeus starts off warning the boy early on that he was over his head...what an understatement. Or is it? Truly a good read.

Luana: **‘L’esercito più formidabile di questo tipo che si sia mai visto fu messo insieme dal faraone Tuthmosi III nel 1478 a.C. Comprende una legione di afrit e un gruppo di jinn di vario livello, di cui il più notevole era sicuramente... No, la modestia mi impedisce di proseguire.’**

-Bartimeus

Londra ha aperto le porte alla magia, ma questa volta ad attraversarle non sono i già noti ed affezionatissimi Harry&co., bensì *Nathaniel*, apprendista mago, combinaguai, intrepido vendicatore che nulla farebbe senza il suo fidato antagonista, ma compagno di sventure *Bartimeus*, jinn irriverente, di grande prestigio e che ebbe addirittura l'onore di parlare con Bartimeus in persona.

Di prodotti fantasy stracolmi di elementi magici, folletti variegati e fatine multiformi ce ne son stati sciorinati fin troppi, ma **Jonathan Stroud**ibalza la scena facendo di Londra lo scenario di una storia tutta nuova e di una prospettiva nettamente ribaltata in cui un demone, anzi, IL demone, Bartimeus, riesce addirittura ad essere più buono di un mago corrotto nel compiere gli ordini impartitigli da Nathaniel, maghetto dodicenne ancora apprendista che ha deciso di giocare col fuoco per vendicarsi di un torto subito dall'ambizioso Lovelace e dalle umiliazioni continue ricevute dal suo maestro Underwood, mago di infimo livello con il pallino della mai raggiunta fama. Lo stile dello giovane scrittore è dinamico, fresco, scevro di inutili fronzoli, di tecnicismi e di dimostrazioni di bravura, insomma, più che guadagnarsi il favor populi, è palese che a Stroud interessava scrivere una bella storia, i cui caratteri fossero impressi anche nel modo di scrivere. La narrazione è scoppiettante, non esistono punti morti e tutto ciò di cui il lettore ha voglia è solo leggere, leggere e continuare a leggere preferibilmente senza che debba arrivare mai una fine. Ma purtroppo una fine c'è, come per ogni libro, solo che, (e qui vorrei conoscere Stroud di persona e ringraziarlo), per fortuna, la fine di questo libro apre un varco verso gli altri due libri della storia, che leggerò più in là nel tempo per non dover dire troppo presto addio a questa coppia sgangherata, ma sempre vincente di Nathaniel e Bartimeus.

La forza di questo libro, oltre che nella trama che non starò qui a raccontare, sta nella capacità dell'autore di presentare così bene ed approfonditamente i due protagonisti, il maghetto strappato alla famiglia d'origine per entrare nelle grinfie dell'inetto maestro che dovrebbe condurlo alla gloria da mago, ma che in realtà non ci sa proprio fare, e il demone dal maghetto convocato. Nasce tutto così, da una semplice formula di Convocazione iniziamo a conoscere questa coppia mal assortita che a Londra darà molto da fare a polizia, maghi e quant'altro. Ironia, lotte, intrighi nel jet set politico stranamente intrecciato con la magia, costituiscono la maglia di fondo di un libro che mette in ottima luce un genere, il fantasy, da me assai poco – pochissimo – apprezzato. Sono gli autori bravi come Stroud a far sentir dei vecchi reazionari barbuti delle donzelle che come che di solito si creano la loro élite di storie e autori senza mai fare capolino fuori.

Si è parlato di questo libro come dell'*Anti Harry*, e io non posso che confermare questa idea. Laddove la Rowling ha creato un mondo di bontà, in cui si rivendicano l'orgoglio, gli affetti e ci si batte contro il male, Stroud ha invece assemblato una copia di mago e demone che fa scoppiare una catena di eventi a reazione solo perché a Nathaniel brucia la ferita ancora accesa dell'ingiustizia commessa nei suoi confronti da un gruppo di maghi superiori e Bartimeus, da lui convocato, è obbligato a diventare schiavo del maghetto e a seguirlo in ogni suo mirabolante e mal pensato piano.

Insomma, nostalgici di Harry e della magia, ecco a voi una nuova saga dalle mille qualità nella quale buttarvi, sempre tenendo a mente che qui non ci sono i buoni, e che tutta la trama si può facilmente riassumere in una sorta di 'sbaraglia lo sbaragliabile,' altro che 'salva il salvabile' a cui ci avevano abituati Hogwarts e compagnia.

Lasciatevi trascinare dall'ambizione di Nathaniel e dall'irriverenza di Bartimeus, sono disponibili per voi risate a crepappele e avventure da mozzare il fiato. E a voi, Nat e Bart,

arrivederci a presto con *L'occhio del Golem*.

Femmy: I love this book! A djinn with an attitude (who had me constantly chuckling to myself), and a boy bent on revenge. Great characters, fast-paced action, fully-realized world with a cool magic system, what more could you want?

What I appreciate most, though, is that the characters face real danger. None of that false suspense -- you know, like the ones you see on movies/television like [Prison Break](#). Apologies for the fans, but it really irked me whenever Michael Scofield is in the tunnel and the guard is approaching his cell to check on the prisoners and it seems like Michael is gonna get caught, but then he miraculously materialized under his blanket!

Well, you won't find any of that nonsense here! In this book, when you do something dangerous, you're gonna face the consequences. This, of course, opens doors to deliciously unexpected plot twists that keeps you reading until the dead of night.

Bought from Amazon, 14 Nov 07

Giovanna: 4.5 "One magician demanded I express him a picture of the affection of his life. I rustled up a mirror." I most likely should still create a shelf known as Lys-recommends. Anyway, I really relatively fairly loved this book; I mean, nice world-building, stable plot, a snarky dem...ehm, djinni, what is to not like? The amulet of Samarkand have been sitting in my wishlist for a while, and in spite of that I knew virtually not anything approximately it. I most likely further it in the course of certainly one of my crazy-add moments after which forgot to envision it out. Foolish me. Still, I went into it virtually blind and very beloved it so I cannot say it did not cross well. What is seen is that Stroud can write a few complicated international (and one I would like to grasp extra about) and making it fascinating and funny. I am used to sluggish beginnings in delusion yet this one all started with a bang. Bartimaeus perspective is so rattling fun. His footnotes! He is the single one that could make me learn footnotes and lead them to funny! Nathaniel has potential. I did not love him yet I believe he should be a fascinating personality within the subsequent book. Except that...well, I am hoping I'm going to get to different books by means of Stroud soon!

Salman H. Dhruvo: good I don't frequently evaluate any ebook with Harry Potter yet this one the following simply made me do so. It used to be a grand read. Approximately every thing in regards to the publication is simply great. Jonathan created a brand new magical global the place magicians don't have any energy of themselves. They use the spirits (imps, djinnis, afrits) to accomplish their each initiatives via summoning and commanding them. They're arrogant, boastful, self-centered creatures (the magicians). Each magician is assigned to coach an apprentice. The most protagonist of the booklet Nathaniel is an apprentice. He's below the surveillance of a scrawny, not-so-powerful Mr. Underwood. Quickly he will get into enmity with Simon Lovelace - a heinous magician thriving on wish of power. And in technique of looking revenge he will get intertwined among a long way huge conspiracy than he may ever imagine. So he summons a djinni to assist himself. The following comes the identify personality Bartimaeus. Ah!! What a character. Definitely the simplest that I have learn in a protracted time. Funny, wicked, clever and of significant power. The item that I'm such a lot inspired with is the

writing style. simply brilliant!!! specifically in Bartimaeus's POV. The footnotes!! I don't take into account the final time I have learned such funny and depraved footnotes!!! The plot itself used to be nice too, absolutely there's a moment plot going beneath the 1st person who would definitely to be persisted within the subsequent installment of the book. I'm expecting studying the Golem's Eye beautiful quickly :)

Jeff: I loved the writing variety of Jonathan Stroud. so much younger grownup authors have one sort and one perspective. I discovered the voice of Bartimaeus hilarious and the spotlight of the book. The footnotes have been bizarre first and foremost yet after you have to grasp the demon it simply fit. due to Bartimaeus' sort it overshadowed Nathaniel's chapters. a few of them have been virtually boring and before everything I discovered myself annoyed while I observed I had one other "Nathaniel" bankruptcy to read. it will probably have kept away from a number of the suggestive material. I had learned stories that this used to be a "Harry Potter knockoff" yet I discovered it different from the Harry Potter books in nearly each method apart from the truth that it has to do with magic and a boy. Even then, it's the "Bartimaeus Trilogy" that occurs to have a boy in it. Will learn the subsequent publication within the series.

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