



Tech Mage

Chris Fox

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A Man With No Past Fighting for a Future

Aran awakens in chains with no memory. He's conscripted into the Confederate Marines as a Tech Mage, given a spellrifle, then hurled into the war with the draconic Krox and their Void Wyrms masters.

Desperate to escape, Aran struggles to master his abilities, while surviving the Krox onslaught. Fighting alongside him are a Major who will do anything to win, a Captain who will stop at nothing to see him dead, and a woman whose past is as blank as his own.

Caught between survival and loyalty Aran must choose. If he flees he will survive, but the Krox will win and the galaxy will burn. Stopping them requires a price Aran may be unable to pay:

Learning to trust the very people who enslaved him.

Tech Mage Details

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From Reader Review Tech Mage for online ebook

Dominic says

Magic in space. Fantastic

Another fantastic book from Chris Fox. Magic and space. What a fantastic combination. One of my favorite things about Chris Fox's writing is he writes women as real characters. They are not relegated to some support role, weak damsels in distress or made bitches to be strong decisive characters.

Kate Rhoad says

Really had to work at it to like this book. There wasn't much at the beginning to help me find something I could relate to. Even the characters were distant and unapproachable. I did get through it and it did get easier as things began to feel a bit familiar but the characters were never lovable. Won't read more but good luck to the author.

Jason says

This was an utterly fascinating read. Imagine taking all the futuristic world of starship combat, but then mixing it with elements of Mages that weave magic through sigils or glyphs in the air to form complex spells to either cast defensive or offensive spells. Then add in armour that is specially designed to do battle (void armour) in these circumstances, along with pistols and rifles that are able to cast magic as well, at different levels, depending on the capability of the user. There are potions as well that allow for a range of different things, depending on who brewed it – healing, invisibility, amplification. Then there are the Krox, the enemy, whose allies are Void Wyrms, or as we know them, Dragons. So we have starships, with spell cannons and spell drives, casting offensive and defensive magic against Dragons in space.

It is a pretty fun concept, made all the better by Chris Fox and his well-developed and engaging characters as well as a storyline that is at the same time thrilling and exhilarating. The story moves at an incredible speed, and there is so much exceptional detail, the dialogue is masterful, and although there are elements from some different stories I can think of (such as J.S. Morin's Black Ocean Series), there are very few books that come to mind that combine Magic and Technology so completely as this series, or do it as well.

The main story starts with the main character, Aran, awakening with no memory, nothing, to be told that he has been mind-wiped and is now the property of some slavers. He makes a pact with one of the other slaves, and through a series of events, they end up under another Slaver called Nara.

Through another series of events, Aran and Nara end up with a Major of the Confederate Army, aboard her ship, 'The Wurm Hunter'. They are all that stand between the Krox, and army of Void Wyrms and a planet full of people, as well as possibly the future of the galaxy.

This is an exceptional story, incredibly action packed, with the most amazing storyline, it is part thrilling, part terrifying, with the combination of Magic and Technology mixed in this unique hybrid that creates this story that you will just not be able to put down, with characters that you will be become very engaged with. This is just a sensational thrill ride, and should not be missed.

James Marsh says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of the audio book in exchange for an honest review.

Magitek Chronicles is a space marine story set in a Space Fantasy world. It has the normal military science fiction tropes but with elements welded in from fantasy. This is critical to understanding just what you are in for.

Some franchises I've enjoyed that do similar things include Star Wars, RWBY, Final Fantasy and Babylon 5.

If the idea of a space marine shooting a rifle that flings level 3 Void spells or a space dragon fighting capital ships fills you with delight then you are in the right place. Buckle in and enjoy the ride.

From the moment you are dropped into the world with an amnesiac hero, the brisk action keeps up a break neck pace to a rousing conclusion that promises the action and plot will only continue to escalate in future sequels which I will be delighted to read.

The characterization is interesting because the main characters have no memory. We get hints of who they might have been and I look forward to learning more but they are sympathetic and likeable.

The tone balances levity with mind blowing magic sci fi action. The use of weapons, armor, ships, spells, potions etc gives it nearly a LitRPG feel but not in a distracting way.

The spectacle alone is enough to recommend the book. I hope the rest of the series continues to deliver on its large promise.

The narrator did an excellent job. His voice is clear, easy to understand and helps guide you along, even while pronouncing the names of strange demons, dragons and old gods. There is some minor cursing but the worst of it was heavily accented which was appreciated.

David Estes says

Dragons in space? Hell yes. Magical weapons and the ability to collect additional powers from weird god-memory portals? CHECK. Tech Mage is a nonstop thrill ride with captivating characters and rich world building. Don't miss this one.

Ammon says

This review is for the audiobook version of Tech Mage by Chris Fox and narrated by Ryan Kennard Burke.

Let me just say, "wow!" I wasn't prepared to enjoy Tech Mage as much as I did. I am a fan of Sci-Fi and Fantasy as distinct genres. I usually hate it when the two are lumped together as a single category of literature. They are distinct IMHO.

However, Tech Mage, like the Pern novels and some of Piers Anthony's early works, successfully blends the two genres in a way that feels natural and organic. I love the concept of magic being harnessed by technology.

Aran is a decent protagonist and I especially enjoyed his relationship with Nara (spelling? sorry, in Audio you have to guess these things) as it developed from slave/captor to peers to ... we'll see.

The narrator, Ryan Kennard Burke, does a fine job with the performance. He comes across (to me at least) as a poor man's Luke Daniels. He has a similar sound, range, and expressions. This isn't meant as a slight against Burke. Daniels is audiobook A-List royalty and any comparison to him is high praise.

If you're looking for true Sci-Fi/Fantasy with a touch of military and political intrigue thrown in for good measure, then pick up Tech Mage. I'll probably be checking out the rest of this series as it is released.

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

William Howe says

Not really a book 1

There is too much that isn't explained. If you label a novel as the first book in a series, it needs to act like the first book and establish the universe. I understand this follows another series, but if you can't get into this series without reading the previous one, then it's not book one.

I do not plan on starting the previous series either. Magic is no reason to do away with logic.

Ryan Mueller says

This book can be summed up in two words: crazy and fun.

This can be both a good thing and a bad thing. I will say that I was entertained the entire time. However, it did feel like I was dropped into a world with no idea what was going on. It also took me a while to warm to the characters, and while I liked them overall, I never felt any deep connection to them.

Despite that, this book was just plain fun to read. Fantasy and science fiction are my two favorite genres. So what could be better than putting the two together? I could see space fantasy becoming one of those niche genres I really enjoy, and this was a solid entry in that genre.

Rating: 8/10

Paris Clark says

Good

Excellent imagination and combination of technology and magic. The depth of the story is compelling and am curious if any romantic intrigue will be added in the series

Adam says

Ok premise yet lacking in execution

The premise is interesting enough, it reminded me a bit of the Hand of Mars series. It is interesting too and I want to better imagine the way things work yet somehow it is a bit difficult in the way it's written.

Viewpoint reminds me of a TV series- a few main characters. This works well in the interpersonal scenes but gets lost in the larger space opera actions: case in point, they are on a cruiser in space yet it only ever seems like there are 6 people on the whole ship?

Bottom line: promising elements weighed down with muddled writing and clashing styles of personal storytelling vs expansive space opera action. If the author can get these right a la David Weber for example, then this will be a great addition to the genre.

Brian Turner says

Interesting mix of sci-fi meets fantasy, as hi-tech space crews use magic to power their ships and weapons. The dragons of the Krox have been working their way through the galaxy enslaving planets. The Confederacy are slowly being picked off as they try to counteract the threat. Voria is a high magic user, one of the Shay. After getting a vision of the people she will need, she picks up Aran and Nara.

Mostly the action moves at a good pace with plenty happening in each chapter. There's a few predictable parts but overall it's a good start to a series. The characters mesh well together and all have something to contribute.

Michael Stokes says

Great Effort

Mr. Fox, a tip of the hat to you Sir. I've had trouble with the re-imagining of myths and legends that has set boundaries to our human hubris and daring. But now books and films depicts vampires as friends and lovers, dragons a pets and benign creatures who can be tamed. I am a firm believer that we should fear the night and that which thrives therein and there are powers in this universe that should scare us and humble us. In physics there is string theory that says we are surrounded by at least 7 dimensions we do not know how to access and personally I find it impossible to accept that these dimensions are empty and void.

Your book feels so right on so many levels. Is there chaos, destruction and death embodied in corporeal and non-corporeal beings? I believe the answer is yes. You have told a very good story that speaks to my primal fears and I will hold onto those fears as long as I live. I enjoyed your book like a primitive listening to cautionary tales around a fire. Keep up the good work.

DJay says

For me, this book had a lot of potential. It had the ability to set up a wonderful world with wonderful characters, but it doesn't. It sets up for you to get lost. When you start the book, you know that there is technology and magic, but you don't know how either of it works, and then you also recognize that there is ZERO explanation of how anything works as far as the magic goes. He is all you get. There's a war, your mind was wiped, and you are now fighting on a side you don't if you belong to or not. That's about it.

The characters don't really develop at all. People who are jerks in the beginning are still jerks in the end. A lot of people are doing messed up stuff in the name of survival, and the people cough in the crossfire are pretty much left to fend for themselves. Then there's a moment when something happens and it's pretty much Deus Ex Machina and undone with a beer. No I'm serious. A Beer.

There is NO way this book ends with the way it ends. I'm all about having a nice ending, but the characters in this book are so under powered, and the bad guys aren't even OP. They are gods playing with ants and the ants win because....reasons.

The character development is about as flat as pancakes and the "bonds" between them are less believable than someone calming to have found Bigfoot riding on the back of a unicorn holding a leprechaun. The one good thing is that characters I didn't like did die. And believe me, there are some MAJOR asshats in this book that deserve to die, be res'd and then killed again.

The possible "romantic" story (if you could try and justifiably call it that.) is also not believable. I've seen better love scenes in porn flicks.

The biggest grip I have is the lack of world building. NOTHING is explained in the book. There is ZERO backstory. it just starts. And despite people having their mind wipe, they just remember (at key points mind you.) how to use their powers despite NEVER being told anything. They just all of a sudden remember how to throw lightning bolts up someone's ass or how to turn invisible at the right time, or how to summon the holy undead to storm beaches like it's D Day at Normandy. (I'm obviously being over the top here, but it's akin to what happens in the book. I'm deadass serious about that.)

So if you want a book that does nothing but throw you in a situation you know nothing about, but what to see people die left and right. This book is for you.

If you want something that actually ties all the points together and that fleshes out what is an AWESOME premise with characters and worlds that are being begged to brought to life. I would tell you to skip this book. Seriously.

To sum it up. This book is like hearing one of your friends who has problems telling a story explain to you one of the most EPIC adventures in the world but forgets key points. Yeah, they get from A to B, but it leaves you with so many questions.

I'm just so disappointed in this book. I really wanted to be good. I really did.

NormaCenva says

Actual Rating 3,5 Stars

It is an interesting book, with good world-building and characters but it did not grip me, I hope that the other two books in the series will get better, so - we will see!

Dave Daniels says

"I received a free copy from the author. I had the option of reviewing or not."

I love when an author brings something I had never thought of before and that is what I got a Full plate of here!

I can't wait until the next one...
