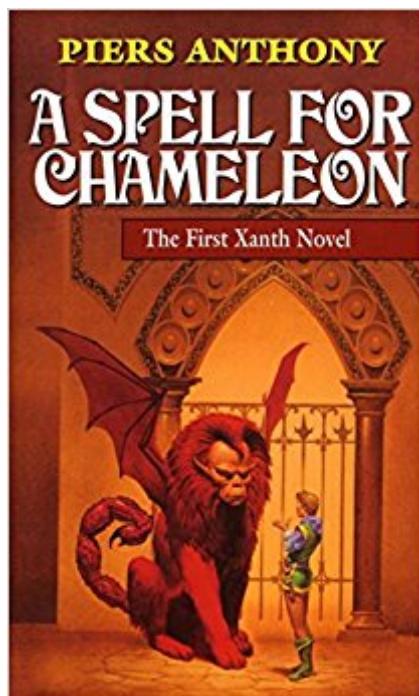


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A Spell For Chameleon (Xanth, Book 1)



Synopsis

Xanth was the enchanted land where magic ruled--where every citizen had a special spell only he could cast. That is, except for Bink of North Village. He was sure he possessed no magic, and knew that if he didn't find some soon, he would be exiled. According to the Good Magician Humpfrey, the charts said that Bink was as powerful as the King or even the Evil Magician Trent. Unfortunately, no one could determine its form. Meanwhile, Bink was in despair. If he didn't find his magic soon, he would be forced to leave....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though already developing a successful career in SF with such heady novels as Chthon and Omnivore, Piers Anthony did not reach brand-name status until he cooked up some fantasy in 1977. And it was cheerful, humorous fantasy at that, as in his first Xanth series novel, A Spell for Chameleon. The book's young hero, Bink, is without magical powers in a world ruled entirely by magic. Worse still, if he doesn't discover his own magical talent soon, he will be forever banished from his homeland. Naturally, it takes an epic quest for Bink to learn what his unique talent truly is--and perhaps to win the girl of his dreams as well. A Spell for Chameleon was the very first of Anthony's bestselling (and still ongoing) humorous fantasy series. Noteworthy for their outrageous word puns and bizarre characters, the Xanth books are a light yet often satisfying brew, especially when compared with the author's sometimes nihilistic and ultraviolent hard SF. --Stanley Wiater
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Xanth was the enchanted land where magic ruled--where every citizen had a special spell only he could cast. That is, except for Bink of North Village. He was sure he possessed no magic, and knew that if he didn't find some soon, he would be exiled. According to the Good Magician Humpfrey, the charts said that Bink was as powerful as the King or even the Evil Magician Trent. Unfortunately, no one could determine its form. Meanwhile, Bink was in despair. If he didn't find his magic soon, he would be forced to leave....

Given the number of fans the Xanth series has I was expecting more from this book. A big plus for this book was the world of Xanth itself and how Anthony introduces it to the reader through the interaction of the characters. It is easy to see that the world has a lot more to offer than a single book can impart and the world is a lot of fun therefore you will (I do) want to read more stories that take place in Xanth. On the down side was the main protagonist. He's a bit shallow and one dimensional therefore making it hard to get behind him. The supporting cast on the other hand is worth cheering for. This book would probably make a good read for a 13 to 15 year old or anyone who doesn't have the streak of cynicism we tend to get as we age. There are a few sexual situations in the book but nothing graphic and much more tame than those you'll find on television. I might be wrong but think this particular story would resonate better with boys than girls. Even though I only gave this a 3 star rating I will be going back for more Xanth reading. Just not in a hurry.

I really hoped I'd like this, a couple of people I thought highly of recommended these years ago, but the books were mostly out-of-print. I did like a lot of the magic. Many of the magical creatures are out of myths and legend. There are some great, unique magical creations: bread trees, blanket trees, beer barrel trees, and so on. I was a bit taken aback at just how sexist this was, even though it was only first published in 1977--not that long ago. The sex happened "off-stage" thankfully. I think onstage, graphic bump-and-grind through the lens of this book would have been the proverbial straw that would have made me quit reading. I did finish. It was a funny, lighter read, but I'd be careful of whom I recommend it to...There were a few punctuation and word-choice issues in the Kindle edition. Several times when the text probably should have said "Trent," it said "Treat."

I read this years ago and it is just as good as I remember. An engaging hero who is self effacing but bright and courageous. A heroine who is both clever and beautiful but in an unexpected way. A villain who is not really bad and a magical imaginative world that is unparalleled. Fantasy literature. A true classic worthy of six stars!

This fantasy story is a thoroughly enjoyable read. Character development covers many aspects not typically covered in fantasy novels such sociopolitical aspects. While not covered in depth, it is looked at enough to explain some of the plot points that occur.

To be a Xanthcitysen in a nation one needs some magic. Binks does not have any apparently. There is no one more honest than he is. He is more powerful than anyone.

Classic Piers Anthony Xanth series, light and entertaining read. Arguably a precursor to the current romantic fantasy phenomenon.

It's been awhile since I spent time with Piers Anthony's work. This was a pleasant distraction with interesting characters set in an unusual place. Xanth is worth visiting.

It was a good story and the book itself was in good shape. Lots of puns and clean adventure. Kids can read this too.

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