

Chorus Skating

Alan Dean Foster

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The Spellsinger is back in a brand-new non-stop adventure. To avoid boredom, Spellsinger Jon-Tom and his faithful otter companion, Mudge, embark on a quest that seems to have no end. They rescue a gaggle of spoiled princesses, wage war on a guerrilla gorilla, and escape from a mocking maelstrom before getting on the wrong side of an evil alien band.

Chorus Skating Details

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From Reader Review Chorus Skating for online ebook

Craig Russo says

A nice conclusion.

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

The final Spellsinger story opens with a strange phenomenon affecting a pair of fishermen, with the subsequent revelation that Jon-Tom's son Buncan is at a special magical school, where he does poorly grade-wise but has an enthusiastic attitude. Jon-Tom and his otter friend Mudge then embark on another adventure, meeting bandits along the way and mongooses that join them for a few chapters, not to mention several princesses, spending a sizeable intervention in wetlands. The concluding entry is enjoyable for the most part, though as with its predecessors, one can easily forget the species to which specific characters belong.

Brian says

9/20/2018 - 2/10

Unfortunately the final Spellsinger book didn't get any better. It seemed like a bunch of sloppy writing to cash in on a series. There's stupid inconsistencies: in the 6th book Mudge has a lot of kids, but in the 7th it's just twins; in the 7th the female kid is Neena, in the 8th she becomes Noctor? The premise is forced and contrived - Jon-Tom and Mudge are bored, having a midlife crisis, and need to have a "dangerous" quest. This devolves into another series of disjoint adventure stories that just aren't interesting or very readable (telling jokes to escape a maelstrom just seemed like lazy writing). The whole arc with the princesses is pretty damn annoying and sexist (OMG, no fish sauce...the horror!). Plus the old married guys that are so besotted they can't function around the princesses is pretty creepy. The plot is sloppy too. The premise of chasing some lost music, and Caz just popping up all the time leads to a very underwhelming conclusion with a poorly written antagonist of Hinckel. The only reason this is not a 1/10 is that it wasn't too tough to read and I did complete it without throwing my kindle against the wall.

Simon says

Erm. Well. having just found out there even was an 8th volume in this series that I read and loved when I was a teenager. This was really just a crushing disappointment. I'm sort of shelving my plan to re-read the first 6 in the series.

(Let us just forget the monstrosity that is Son Of Spellsinger even exists.)

So... maybe the original books were decent, and the last two were just shite... But, yeah, I think I will leave my happy memories in the past, and not risk spoiling them.

David J. Reese says

Much better than the previous book about the children's adventure. It was easy reading and I would recommend to anyone who wanted to wrap up the series.

It is pretty weird to read a couple of books in the series decades after I read the first 5 or 6... At times though, I was reminded of my reading the earlier books in the 1980s.

It was about what I expected.

Peter Curd says

It's done! I've finished the Spellsinger series! It wasn't a hard series to work through, really they are "easy listening" stories, but it felt like a long time.

It's a return to form after the diversion through the 7th book (Son of Spellsinger), focusing again on the cast of the third 6 stories with a layer of "elderly" creakiness thrown on top. Really though, chronologically the cast can't be older than their early 40s so the frequent comments on dodgy backs, pained knees, and worn out fingers is a little over the top. Foster himself must have been older than that when writing this book, I hope he wasn't feeling his age quite that much!

The story follows the same rambling through the country meeting people and solving their problems motif that has been the series staple since the third book, this time focusing only on one sub-plot. This could have been a problem, but for once the new characters (because, of course, bringing back old characters would be far too dull) aren't all annoying. All of them are interesting, and the majority have a good mix of personality and motivations. It felt a little like he was trying to cram in a few more "tribes"/species to get them off his list, but it was a good variety which added to the plot rather than being entirely fluff.

My biggest gribe is the continuation of the trend towards terrible female characters. Since the midpoint in the series I think Foster went off women, and starting writing awful characters with only two possible guises - the house-proud busybody or the acquisitive wet rag. Even once strong characters from the beginning of the series are not immune, morphing into a totally different person on their reappearance. In this book the problem is multiplied by the number of female characters brought in at once. What Foster was doing, I can't imagine, but he does manage to introduce a new group with a different background to those we've seen before that I became quite attached to. Of course they are all men, since they are well written.

I still don't think I can recommend the Spellsinger books to any particular group, or type of fan. They aren't good fantasy stories, they aren't good adventure stories, and I don't think they are good "anthropamorphic animal" stories (although I'm no expert in that genre). I was able to enjoy them though, and this is one of the better ones for sure. I will miss one or two of the characters - but all the best characters left after their respective book never to be seen again anyway so I'm used to that.

Helen says

The title pretty much illustrates the type of humour in this book, puns of all sorts. I hadn't read anything else by this author so it took me a while to realise that the world in this series is a world of animals and magic can be worked through music. The magician behind the duar (guitar), however is a sometime law student, sometime rock musician, from San Francisco who arrived by accident in the first book of the series. He takes songs he knows from the world of rock & pop, twists the words to suit the situation and sings it. He's a little erratic, however, so he can't guarantee the results, as his friend the otter is forever reminding him. The two friends set out to help a phrase of music find its composition because they are bored with inaction, but the pleasant summer trip is interrupted by the need to rescue a group of princesses from a collector who has them caged in his country house. They have everything they could want except the right to leave and that's the one thing they do want: the bonobo princess, the otter princess, the mountain gorilla princess, the ocelot princess, etc. It's full of puns, rock songs, animal jokes and magic. Lots of fun. (There's even the "Badges? We don't need no stinkin' badges!" adapted perfectly to the narration and I will never forget the pin stripe suited owl and his brief case full of bureaucratic bumpf.)

Max says

This was a pretty good send-off to the Spellsinger series. Jon-Tom and Mudge are thankfully back to being the protagonists, and we're back to rock and roll rather than rap as the basis for the magic. There's definitely a big theme of aging and ending here, as the plot is sparked by Jon-Tom having a bit of a midlife crisis. He realizes that he's wasting his talents on housework rather than going on adventures like he used to. He and Mudge thus go chasing after a cloud of lost music in what at first seems a small adventure, but turns out to be a pretty big deal - magic is disappearing all over the world, and only they can stop it. Along the way, there's the usual wacky characters and adventures, including death by bureaucratic owl and a maelstrom with a sense of humor. The threat to the world doesn't become apparent until a bit more than halfway through, but there's enough wackiness and fun that I was kept entertained the whole time. It was nice to see Jon-Tom and Mudge going on one last adventure, and I was pretty pleased to see that the cover of the paperback edition actually is relevant. All in all, I've had a lot of fun reading the Spellsinger series, and while I'm a bit disappointed that this is the last one, it's a pretty good note to end on.

James Thornton says

Outstanding as are all Alan Dean Foster books. I have started!

my son reading this and other of Fosters series. I hope he enjoys them as much as I have. Keep writing.

Cheryl says

Not one of his better books but still engaging.