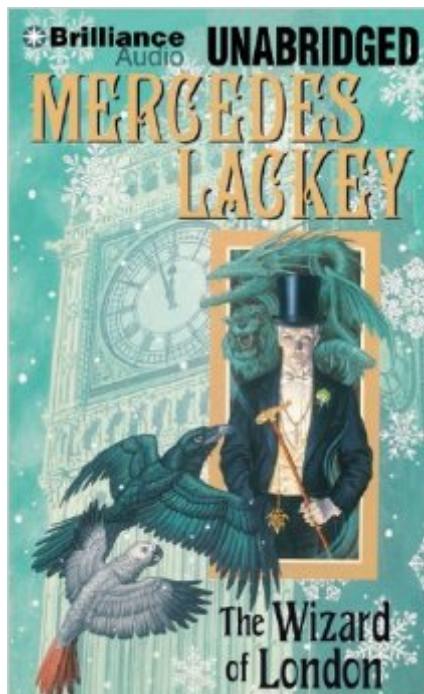


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The Wizard Of London (Elemental Masters)



Synopsis

The letter that introduced twelve-year-old Sarah Jane Lyon-White to Isabelle Harton, who ran the Harton School in central London, seemed quite simple and straightforward. But it was what was not written in the letter that resonated to Isabelle's own finely tuned extra-senses: Sarah has gifts we cannot train, the letter whispered to her, nor can anyone we know. Those we trust tell us that you can. And it was true, for the Harton School was far from ordinary. It was Isabelle's job to train children who possessed the odd types of magic that could not be trained by London's powerful Elemental Masters: clairvoyants, telepaths, those with the ability to sense hidden danger, the vision to see into the past, and even that rarest of all talents: the ability to see and communicate with the dead. But Isabelle was uneasy, for though she knew that Sarah Jane had a touch of telepathy, there seemed to be something else about the girl - something that had not yet manifested. And Isabelle was right to be worried, for as soon as Sarah's full talents became evident, there was an attempt made on her life. For Sarah was that rarest of magicians: a true medium, and for some reason, a powerful Elemental Master wanted her dead. Isabelle knew that to protect her ward she would have to seek help from the Elemental Masters of the city. That meant she would also see Lord David Alderscroft, the man she had once loved, but who had inexplicably chilled toward her and broken her heart long ago - for he was the leader of the city's Elemental Masters, the man who was now called the Wizard of London.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Over the years, I don't read quite the number of fantasy novels that I used to. Now I am a touch more selective in my reading tastes, and a book needs something unique to catch my attention -- say, a setting that isn't the usual Tolkeinesque, or medieval world, or characters that aren't just pasty little copies of heroic warriors or wicked sorcery and the like. After a while, they get very dull and forgettable. However, there is one genre of storytelling that I've always enjoyed -- that of the fairy tale, and it's proved to be a nearly inexhaustible ground for writers and artists. Popular author Mercedes Lackey has written several novels in her Elemental Masters series, with *The Wizard of London* being the fourth one published so far. The story opens in a world that is very much like our own Victorian London, where poverty and riches exist side by side. On a dockside, a woman, Isabelle Harton, is waiting for a child from Africa to arrive. Officially, Sarah is being sent to live in England for her health, the heat and diseases of the Congo being too much for a little girl. But the reality is that Sarah's missionary parents, who are Elemental Mages, are not able to train her as her own talents demand, and have persuaded Isabelle to take her into her school. As we see, Isabelle and her husband, Frederick, run a school for children in one of the more seedier parts of London. They try to manage on what few funds that they do have, but it's a struggle -- the couple are more concerned with providing a safe, comfortable place for their charges instead of having the latest in deportment or dancing lessons. Most of all, they are trying to teach them how to protect and use their paranormal gifts. Of course, they can't always keep the outside world out.

The Wizard of London (2005) is the fourth Fantasy novel in the Elemental Masters series, following *Phoenix and Ashes*. In this novel, Isabelle Helen Harton is headmistress of the Harton School For Boys and Girls, a boarding school for the children of expatriates in India and elsewhere. The school is staffed by Isabelle's former servants and friends from India and thus provides a sense of home in the strange homeland. Unlike many other boarding schools, the Mem's'b and her staff are always willing to let a homesick boy or girl cry on their shoulders. Then too, the Harton School provides special training to boys and girls with different Talents than Elemental Magic. The Mem's'b has various psychic skills such as telepathy and psychometry and some of her staff have similar talents. Frederick Harton, her husband, also has some precognitive ability. The Harton School has been praised by mages and psychics around the world, especially for its warm and caring atmosphere. The parents of Sarah Jane Lyon-White have heard about the school and have written to reserve a place for her. Isabelle meets the ship at the dock, sorts out Sarah's luggage, settles her in a cab, and then welcomes her with a hug. Although she loves the Mem's'b, Sarah is still lonely at Harton.

She gets along with the other students, but lacks real friends among the children. She also misses Grey, her parrot and protector. Since she is more used to conversing with adults than children, Sarah's best friends are the Gurkha, the Sikh and the Muslim warriors who protect the school. One day she is asked to help Karamjit pass on a basket of food to poor children at the back gate. There she meets Nan, a gifted child of the streets.

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