

# ***THE MAGICIAN'S SON***

## ***THE STORY OF THROCKTON***

### ***CHAPTER 4***

The librarian was a young woman with brown hair pulled back into a long single braid, which hung gracefully down her back. She had on a white short-sleeved blouse and a tight black skirt that reached to the top of her knees.

He went to her and asked, "How do I find books on a certain topic?"

"What topic are you looking for?" she asked.

"I'm not really sure," Throckton replied, not wanting her to know the reason for his trip to the library.

"Well, if you follow me I'll show you the program on our computer that will help you," she said, as she took him to a row of computers on a long table that went from one end of the library to the other.

Throckton sat down and the librarian showed him how to log onto the computer. Then she showed him the tools he could use to do research on any topic he wanted.

Throckton thanked her and then started his research.

To begin with, he watched the recorded lectures from his first year classes. He took many notes. When he was done with that, he had a thought.

"What if I could get the second year textbooks? Then I could study those as well," he said to himself.

He found the books for the second year students.

The names of these books were:

*Magic for Second Year Students*

*Magic and How it Shaped Antiquity*

*Intermediate Magic Spells*

When he clicked on the books, nothing happened. He clicked on them again, and still nothing.

He went over the librarian and asked her why he was not able to open the books he was selecting.

“You’re a first year student. You will need special permission to look at second year textbooks,” she replied.

“How do I get permission?” Throckton asked.

“You’ll need to talk to Malinda. She is the only one who can do that,” the librarian answered.

“OK, will you send me to see Malinda, please?” Throckton said a little frustrated.

Suddenly he was in Malinda’s office in front of her desk.

Malinda looked up.

“What can I do for you Throckton?” she asked.

Throckton rambled, “Well, I was in the library and I wanted to look at the second year text books, but the librarian said I wasn’t allowed to see them. Then I asked her why and she said I had to get your permission. So now I’m here.”

“Why do you want to look at the second year books?” Malinda asked, while she leaned forward wondering what his answer might be.

Thinking quickly of a good reason to study the books, he began, “I’m having trouble understanding the spells in the first year books. If I can read the second year books, they might help me to understand them better. Please, let me read them.”

Malinda sat back in her chair to think.

“OK, Throckton. I was impressed with you when you turned my glass into a bottle yesterday. You are working hard to catch up. I’m impressed.

“I’m not really sure why you need the second year books, but I’ll give you permission.

“Give me just a second and then I’ll note it in the computer.

“There, that should do it.

“It’ll take a few minutes for the librarian to see it so be patient,” she advised him.

Throckton was excited.

Malinda sent him back to the library.

As soon as he was in front of the librarian’s desk, Throckton quickly told her, “Malinda has given me permission. You should see my account updated.”

Throckton was not very patient waiting for the librarian to allow him to get the books. He stood at the desk in anticipation of the approval. When the librarian finally gave him permission, he went to his favorite computer and selected the books he wanted.

He opened the first book and began to read. The books were better than he thought. He stayed in the library all day.

On Monday, in his first class, ‘Magic Spells Level 1’, he impressed the teacher by doing all of the tasks she asked him to do. He was still bored, but he knew if he pretended that he was excited, the teacher would like him. Then he would be able to ask her things to help him later on.

He did the same in all of his classes. The other students began to ask him how to do some of the spells. He did not say much. He told them they needed to study more.

Every night he went to the library and continued to study the level two books.

One night, while he was sitting in the library studying, he heard some of the students talking about how they were planning to escape.

He used one of the new spells he learned to listen to what they were saying.

He overheard Gore talking.

“We need to find a way to get past Gossling. If we can do that, we have a good chance of getting out of here. Does anyone have an idea on how to get past him?” Gore asked the other two students who were sitting with him.

Throckton changed his seat to be closer to them.

The three students became silent when he did.

“Don’t worry, I won’t say anything,” Throckton offered. “I heard what you were saying about getting out of here. I have some ideas, if you are willing to listen.”

A bit surprised at Throckton’s offer, Gore asked, “So what is your idea?”

“We can cast a spell of sleepiness on Gossling when he’s alone. Then we can take his keys and open the doors. It is really simple,” Throckton shared his plan.

“A spell for sleepiness? Where did you learn a spell for sleepiness?” Germania asked.

“I found it in the second year book,” Throckton told them.

“How did you get a second year book?” Gore asked very surprised.

“I got special permission from Malinda. I’ve been studying them for a few days now. I’ve learned a lot. I’m having some problems with the spells, but I’m learning them,” Throckton answered.

“There’s one problem with your theory,” Gore spoke up.

“What’s that?” Throckton asked.

“Don’t you know that first year students can’t use spells? They won’t work. We can only use the spells in the classroom or during study time. Most of all we can’t use them on people,” Gore informed him.

Throckton sat back in his chair surprised at what they had just told him.

“There has to be a way to make those spells work,” he said to them.

Leaning forward, Throckton came up with another thought, “Wait, I have an idea. Let’s find a second year student who will help us!”

“How are we going to do that? We aren’t allowed to talk to second year students,” Gore reminded Throckton. “Besides, I’m sure someone already thought of your idea in the past.”

Not to be discouraged, Throckton offered a new plan, “Maybe the best way is to get Gossling to trust us. When he’s not paying attention, we can steal the keys and get out of here.”

“That’s silly. He has those keys on his belt for a reason. No one can get close

enough to him without him knowing it. He's got this bubble around him that no one can get through. You're going to have to come up with a better plan than that," Gore informed him of the weaknesses of his ideas.

After that, the students in the group pretty much ignored him.

Not feeling discouraged, Throckton began to come up with a new plan. He would study all of the material in the books as hard as he could. That way he would be able to do the spells he needed. He knew he needed to become a second year student. Then he would be able to talk to one of them to find out more information about how to use the spells he was learning.

Throckton became obsessed with learning. So much so, the librarian became frustrated with him because of all of the questions he continued to ask.

He realized the spells he really wanted to learn were above his ability because the spells were more advanced than he had learned before, and they would require more work. His teachers told him he needed to have the basic spells memorized before he could move on to the next level. This made sense to him. At least he had learned something from the classes he was attending. He studied hard to learn what he needed to know from level one and up.

He listened to all of the lectures, watched the videos that explained magic, and read the books from cover to cover.

His plan was coming together. It was just a matter of time until he would escape and go home.

When he felt he was ready, he went to Malinda and asked her a question.

"Malinda, if I can pass all of my first year exams, would I be promoted to a second year student?" Throckton asked Malinda.

"Do you mean you want to take the exams from the end of the year and not just the tests for the midterm?" she asked.

"Yes, I want to take all of the exams to finish the first year requirements," he stated.

“Well yes, that’s how it works. If you pass all the exams, we will promote you to a second year student,” she replied.

“May I take the exams now?” Throckton asked.

Very surprised at his request, Malinda said to him, “We’ve never had a student request to take the exams early before, much less the entire school year. You’ve only been here for three weeks. How do you think you can pass the tests?”

“I’d like to try. May I take the tests, please?” Throckton begged Malinda.

“I’ll see what I can do, and I’ll let you know later. I’ll need to speak to your teachers about this,” Malinda said, very surprised at the initiative Throckton was showing.

Continuing to talk to him, “You surprise me Throckton. I never thought you would be willing to work this hard. The librarian has told me that you have been in the library every night. She says you have been reading the second year textbooks.

“Do you really think you are ready to take the exams?” she asked again.

“Yes, and I would like to try to pass the second year tests as well,” Throckton added, which really astonished her.

“Second year tests as well!? Now you really surprise me,” Malinda said, even more shocked. “We have to take it one step at a time. If you pass your first year tests, then we’ll talk about it.”

The next day Malinda called Throckton over to her table.

“Your teachers are willing to let you take the tests tomorrow. If you pass them, we’ll talk about the second year tests. If you fail just one of the first year tests, you’ll have to take the first year classes for the rest of the year. Does that sound fair?”

“Yes, I can live with that,” Throckton replied.

The next day at breakfast, Malinda called Throckton to her table, “When you are ready, I will send you to the library to take the exams. Gossling will meet you there,” Malinda gave the news to him.

Throckton was excited. When he finished his breakfast, Malinda sent him to the

library.

The librarian greeted him and handed him the first test. He went to one of the tables and began answering the questions. Gossling was there to watch him, to administer the written test, to evaluate his abilities in creating spells, and to prevent him from cheating.

It took most of the day. When he was finished, Gossling congratulated him.

“You’ve done very well young man. I’m not sure about the scores on your essays, but you did all of the spells perfectly. We’ll let you know at dinner tonight how you did.” Gossling said with a smile.

Throckton thanked Gossling for helping him.

He went back to his room where he rested until it was dinnertime.

When he walked into the dining hall, the students stood up and clapped for him. Malinda was standing at the front of the room.

“Throckton, come up here please,” she motioned for Throckton to join her.

Throckton went to the front of the room, and then Malinda stood up to talk to the all of those who were in the room.

“I want all of you to know that Throckton has passed all of his first year exams. We are promoting him to a second year student,” she said to him while giving him a piece of paper.

“With this certificate you will be able to perform second year magic as well as take second year classes,” she smiled as she gave him the news.

Throckton had a perfect score in every class except Physical Education. He never liked to do sports, but his score was high enough to pass.

“Now may I take my second year exams?” he asked.

Surprised at Throckton’s eagerness, she smiled and said to him, “I’ll talk to the second year teachers to see what they say. If they all agree, the day after tomorrow we’ll do the same thing.”

Throckton was nervous. He never liked to wait for anything.

The next day at breakfast, he ran up to Malinda.

Throckton asked out of breath, “What... did the... teachers say? Are they going... to let me... take the tests?”

I’ve talked to the second year teachers and they’ll prepare the tests for you to take. We’re all really surprised at you.

“Tell me, you’ve never even been in a second year classroom. What makes you feel like you can pass the exams?” Malinda asked.

“I’ve been studying really hard. I’m confident that I can pass the test. Thanks!” Throckton said.

Throckton spent his time in the library reading and practicing. When he was not in the library, he was in his room doing the same thing.

The next day, after breakfast, Malinda sent him to the library.

Once again, Gossling watched as Throckton took the tests and observed his spells.

At the end of the day, Gossling said to him, “Throckton, you amaze me. You have learned all of the spells and the required learning of a second year student in less than four weeks.”

After pausing for a moment Gossling continued, “I’m puzzled as to why you were sent here. You have an amazing memory!”

Throckton paused, and then replied, “Let’s just say I have a motivation for learning.”

The next day Malinda called Throckton to the front of the dining room again.

“Never in all my years at the Magician’s Academy have we had a student pass two years of classes in just four weeks. You are an amazing student. Once again, congratulations!” Malinda smiled at Throckton.

“You are now officially a third year student. You’ll begin your classes tomorrow, unless you want to test for the third year exams. Do you?” she asked, jokingly.

“Perhaps next week, I haven’t begun reading those textbooks yet,” he replied.

The room filled with laughter.

Malinda smiled at him as she handed him another certificate that gave him the rights to perform third year spells.

Now he would be able to take the courses he needed to get to the next level.

Many of the students in the school went over to his table to talk to him. They all wanted to know how he had passed the tests so quickly. He was becoming very popular.

Varanda spent a lot time at his table listening to him tell about how he learned the lessons so quickly. She liked spending time with Throckton, but because he was so busy, he hardly noticed.

All he told them was that he studied hard and that he did not use any magic. He just worked hard.

Even with all of the attention, Throckton did not have any friends, and he liked it that way. Friends were just a distraction.

Throckton preferred to be left alone, but it was not easy. The other students were fascinated by his ability to learn so quickly. They kept asking him questions so they could be like him.

He didn't answer them. He just wanted to finish what he has started.

Gore came over and sat at his table.

"So, is your plan going to work?" he asked.

"I still have a lot of work to do. I'll let you know what you can do to help when the time comes. I know I can't do this on my own. I'm going to need your help. It'll be soon though so don't worry," Throckton answered. "For the time being, keep your distance. We don't want anyone to be suspicious.

"I'm now a third year and you are not supposed to talk to me, so be very careful. I don't want anyone to know what we are planning," Throckton warned Gore.

Afterward he went back to the library. He looked up the books needed for his new classes. He found them in the computer, but when he requested them, he got an error.

It said, 'Access Denied'.

Throckton went to the librarian and asked why he was not able to get the books.

“You’re a second year student. You’re not authorized to have them yet. Wait until you are a third year, and then you can access them,” the librarian informed him, and then she went back to sorting papers on her desk.

Throckton did not give up easily.