

the TECHNO MAGE

by S. W. RAINE

She's being held hostage and yet, Magaliana doesn't want to be saved.

Close friends Ikarim, Arteus, and Magaliana always knew the dangers of sky pirates, but what they didn't expect was having their airship repair shop pillaged and being separated when Magaliana, a noble, is sold for a hefty bounty.

Once in the hands of the Techno Mage, her world changes. He's a mythical man with the ability to flawlessly combine both technology and alchemy, and his mythical ship is a haven for Magaliana. There, she discovers how to refine her craft.

Ikarim and Arteus are determined to escape the sky pirates to save her, but do they have what it takes before the Techno Mage initiates his grand plan?



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ABOUT

Raine is Canadian, born and raised, and constantly moved between Ontario and Quebec with her military family. She moved to Michigan, USA, in 2004, where she currently still resides with her husband and son.

She has always had a vivid imagination and loved reading and writing from a very young age. She took courses in Children's Literature through ICL in Illinois, and published her debut steampunk adventure in 2020. She has participated in NaNoWriMo for over a decade and was a Municipal Liaison for the Detroit region for six years.



LOOK INSIDE

CHAPTER 1

The sound of metallic tinkering and sudden hisses of steam filled the repair shop. Sweat beaded across Ikarim's forehead as he pulled back from the gigantic motor he'd been repairing. The heat inside the building was stuffy, even with the high bay door opened. He removed his oily, rust-stained fiddler cap and wiped his brow with the back of his bare forearm. Despite it being the cleanest part of his body, a streak of dirt still smeared above his green eyes.

He glanced at a tall and lanky young man who pulled on a thick rope with gloved hands and levied another hunk of machinery about the room as if it weighed practically nothing. Ikarim shook his head and chuckled to himself; even with his toned form, he would never have been able to make it look that effortless. He combed his fingers through his messy blond hair, secured the hat back on his head, and returned to his work.

A small copper bell, attached to a string running to another area of the building, chimed. Ikarim looked up to the device, then turned to the lanky man, puzzled. "Isn't it a bit early for a break?" he mused out loud.

The thin man shrugged, just as confused.

"What? I cannot allow my beloved employees another well-deserved breather?"

The voice was gruff. Both young men turned their attention to an elderly man who stood on the landing, one hand braced on the railing for steadiness, the other on the brass Derby handle of his cane. He had once been a tall man;

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his height now crumpled with age. A black top hat adorned with a pair of goggles sat atop his head. His finely-waxed white handlebar moustache was shaped in an uprising swirl, his goatee beard expertly trimmed. He turned to move closer to the staircase, and the monocle over his left eye shimmered iridescently. Despite his age, his visible blue eye was still fierce, revealing a youthful fire still alight in the old man's soul.

"*Doktor Gesselmeyer*," Ikarim greeted, setting his massive wrench down.

"Is everything well?" the lanky man asked as he moved toward the Scientist.

"Everything is well, *Arteus*. I simply came to inform you I will be running errands and will be late returning home. Could you lock up shop for me, my boy?"

"Yes, *Vater*. Of course."

"And can I trust you to have this piece finished by tonight? The *Kapitän* will pay extra if it is in top shape by morning."

"Of course, *Vater*. We have everything under control."

"And will we have an infusion ready by morning as well?" asked the old man.

"I will make certain that Mags has it ready," Ikarim piped in.

"Where is Mags?" *Arteus* asked, craning his long neck to catch a glimpse of the Alchemist.

"Ah." *Gesselmeyer* pulled away from the railing and limped to the door with the aid of his cane. "The *Dame Wieggraf* is currently dealing with another suitor arranged by her father. Fetch her in ten minutes when your break is over."

"I love this novel. It's got all action, adventure, and steampunk goodness anyone could ask for. The villain is incredible too. Any villain you love to hate is a great one. Definitely worth reading." - Judy

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