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*Max Frei , Max Frei*

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## ?????????? ??????? Details

Date : Published 1999 by ?????? (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9785768407391

Author : Max Frei , Max Frei

Format : Hardcover 576 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Cultural, Russia, Fiction, Urban Fantasy, Magic

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## From Reader Review ?????????? ?????????? for online ebook

## Ann Sem says

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### **Softness says**

I was so excited to read book two! It is one long story and this book picked up right where the first left off. I love this world and the Secret Investigative Force. New colorful characters were introduced, more regions and history explained, lovely and deadly magic explored, and silly antics everywhere. Now I desperately want a mug of Kamra. And book three!! :)

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### **????? ?????? says**

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### **Hellread says**

[The world is insufficiently believable. It's expansive and detailed and lived in, but it's just. too full of inconsistencies, most of them created by itself. If you really start thinking about it (which you shouldn't with these books), then it's world-hole galore. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Molly Severns says**

The Stranger's Woes: Book Two of the Labyrinths of Echo is three more delicious tales about the infallible Sir Max. I can't remember the last time a book made me laugh out loud (except the first book in the series) (P.S. it come in an English version as well)

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### **Sheilah says**

I read the first book in the series almost two years ago now, but I kept remembering it. A quirky tale about a

normal guy who finds himself transported (willingly) to another world. The strange deadpan humor that is rampant throughout the story, the extravagant clothing, the curious characters that Max Frei (pen name), or also known as Svetlana Martynchik created would not leave me alone. I had to continue the series. I wanted to know where the main character, also called Max would go. What was going to happen on the other side of the rabbit hole?

Book 2 continues Max's adventures in the city of Echo, a parallel universe to our own. As an investigator you follow him on several jobs and a budding romance. To be honest, while there is always something going on, nothing important really happens until about the last 50 pages. At which point the story shifts and it is clear you have reached the climax.

While most of it felt like filler content, I have to say I enjoyed it for what it was. This series is very unique and the humor is strange, but agreeable. I welcomed being back in Echo and following Max around as he continued living his life.

<https://cellardoorbooks.wordpress.com>

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### **Elvira says**

Well, I was glad to find out that the reason I postponed finishing this book for 2 years was not my Russian. I picked it up in English this time and still the first half or rather two thirds were really just... meh. There is no one, unified theme, no one plot, rather a few dozen stories, where Max gets out from whatever horrible mess he finds himself in by pure luck. I think that it what makes it boring, the ease with which Max deals with everything. A gang of dead people? Oh, let me just try that lethal sphere I was taught only 5 minutes ago...

Not much for suspense and thrill (except maybe the last bit), since Max can never fail, but there are few good laughs and a lot of imagination involved, so it is not all bad.

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### **Karla Huebner says**

As with the first book in the series, I had mixed feelings. Surely the translation can't be very good. And in this volume, the diction shifts heavily to use of every possible American locution--despite being in another world, where we've gotten used to people exclaiming "Sinning Magicians!" and greeting one another with "I see you as if in a waking dream," we now get all the characters saying things like "gosh" and "by the way" and "aw shucks." And at the outset, it appeared that the mild tendency toward scatological humor evident in the latter part of the first book was going to take a major role in this one, but I am glad to say that it did not.

Like the first book, this one really has no plot, but consists of several linked adventures. First Max and Melamori visit a forest to deal with a group of bandits who have returned from the dead; in the second, the pair (forbidden by strict tradition to have sex together ever again after their accidental encounter in the Quarter of Trysts) fall for new and bizarre but apparently very suitable partners; in the third a local cemetery keeps sprouting undead and in the midst of this disturbance Max foolishly returns to our world and gets stuck there for a very long time. In this last, we're taken away from his beloved Echo where he is blissfully happy and constantly learning of new powers he never imagined one could have, and the story takes a more existential, disturbing turn. I'll refrain from revealing the end, apart from noting that it's not completely

gloomy and Tom & Jerry cartoons play an important role.

My reaction at the end of the book is that despite all sorts of linguistic annoyances, there is indeed something delightful and mildly addictive about these books. Some of the jokes are pretty funny even in English, and while much of the time the reader is floating through a world that has little obvious internal logic and we never know why anything works or why Max is such a wonder boy there, the author's wild imagination conjures up bizarre treats and even (relatively rarely, but definitely there) reflections on the human condition. I thought I'd quit after reading the two books I own, but I might have to see what happens next now that Max has agreed to be a king in absentia.

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### **Rebecca says**

One of the most bizarre things I've ever read, with no background explanation whatsoever. You just get thrown into this strange world and go along with the flow. Interesting experience.

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### **????? says**

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### **arjuna says**

Thoroughly enjoyable, if a little bemusing; I always feel I'm missing out on something somewhere in Russian translations - as if there are things I should know on a metaphorical level which would make the funny bits funnier and the whole thing more meaningful. But that's not a complaint - it leaves one something to strive for. I'm happy enough with the ongoing not-quite-picaresque shaggy dogness of Max's adventures; they're gentle, colourful, and odd. Odd is good. Looking forward to vol 3, and with a very strong urge to reread vol 1, to re-immerse myself. Recommended.

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### **Mona says**

The magical adventures of Sir Max continue in this book. I enjoyed reading The Stranger so much that I just had to continue with The Stranger's Woes. The characters are all engaging; I particularly love the fact that they're always meeting to eat in a tavern somewhere in the book. The best part is that this book (as well as the previous one) is so funny. Definitely worth rereading.

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### **Valeria says**

The very best fantasy book ever "The Stranger" has the very best sequel. In this 4 stories things get even

more interesting and more mysterious. Also the love line gets developed in an unexpected way. This is also the book, where my favourite character of all times appears: Lady Tehhi Shekk.

## **Siobhán Bayertz says**

More 3.5 stars to be honest.

To me it felt more rushed and that not as much thought went into the story as with the first book in the series. Sure, in essence and after finishing it you think "that was pretty good" but the fact that nothing of import or interest happens at the beginning only for one big 'thing' happen, that's your climax of the story and then: 'The End'.

There was a lot of filler in this book. I mean yeah, there was always something that seemed to be important happening but it was all a bit "meh".

In saying that, I still enjoyed it. Sequels are always a tricky thing to pull off, especially when coming off a brilliant book but this turned out better than many sequels do.

The humour in it is a bit odd but still made me laugh a lot, the characters are like-able and once you get passed the first bit, it's very interesting and has you wanting to keep reading.

## **Marianne says**

For the 2nd time out of 2 books in this series, I was just kinda liking it until the last 50-100 pages, at which point it got REALLY good. Way to keep me reading, Max Frei :D.

**Katya says**

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**Julia says**

Quite amazing second book in the Labirints series

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**Kirill says**

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**Tim Hicks says**

Continuing where #1 left off, weird and wonderful. Some of the developments are interestingly non-routine, such as his problem with Melamori (keep wanting to call her Melamine). But it's all great fun.  
More in my review of book #3.

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**Ginny says**

Starting with book 2 of this series probably isn't the best introduction to Max Frei. In spite of that, I was hooked from about page 3, and I am completely charmed and delighted by Sir Max and all the denizens of the House by the Bridge. This is the most engaging fantasy series I have read in a long time. Somewhat reminiscent of Michael Moorcock and even G. B. Shaw and Oscar Wilde - I could listen to these characters spout "piffle" forever.

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