

SPELL SWEEPER by Lee Edward Födi

EXCERPT

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How magic works

(and why we have to clean it up)

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In books and movies, wizards stroll around, flicking their wands, turning people into toads or zapping recalcitrant dragons into submission. In reality, it's not that simple.

Magic is messy.

It's like when you squeeze toothpaste onto your toothbrush—there's always a bit that ends up on your brush handle, the counter, or dripping down your chin. Magic works the same way.

The first thing you learn in wizard school is that there is a Field of Magical Matter. When wizards want to perform a spell (or, if you want to get all official about it, a Magical Occurrence), they have to access the Field. Basically, they have to squeeze a giant magical toothpaste tube. And, like I said, it's messy, always leaving something behind. We usually refer to it as spell dust, but it's essentially leftover enchanted residue. How much depends on the Magical Occurrence. A wizard utters a simple spell? You just circle your broom around her feet and go for lunch. Someone magically relocates, let's say for the sake of argument, a giant statue of the school's founder? You better strap on your full spell sweeper kit because it's going to be a loooong day.

But you do need to strap on the kit, because spell dust is definitely not the sort of thing you want to leave sitting around for very long. It causes ALL sorts of problems.