



Trudi Canavan

The High Lord
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A note on how the Black Magician trilogy began, from Trudi Canavan:

Years ago I saw a late night news report about how the homeless and street workers of Barcelona were being transported to other cities so everything would look nice for the Olympics. That night I dreamed I was one among a crowd being driven out of a city...by magicians. Usually the dreams I write down as potential stories suffer badly under the cold light of day, but this one didn't. It became the first chapter of *The Magicians' Guild*.

At the time there were a lot of books about dragons, elves, lost heirs and prophecies on the market, but what I loved most and found there was little of was stories that dealt with magic as the sole fantastic element. Magic that had structure and rules, that was so much a part of the characters' lives that they used it for everyday actions such as opening a door as well for great and wondrous purposes.

I considered how technology might develop in a world with magic: how a society might form, who would have the power and how it would be controlled. I decided that magicians would form the highest class of this society. They would chose who they taught their secrets to, and so it was likely that they would select novices only from their own class.

And then I created Sonea, an ordinary girl whose determination and loyalty, rather than royal blood or inherited power, would give her the strength to defy the restrictions of her society, and fight her enemies. And thus the *Black Magician* trilogy was born.

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