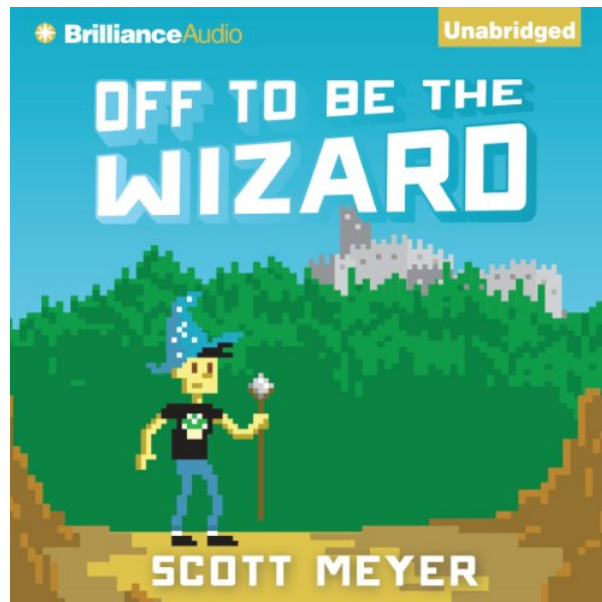
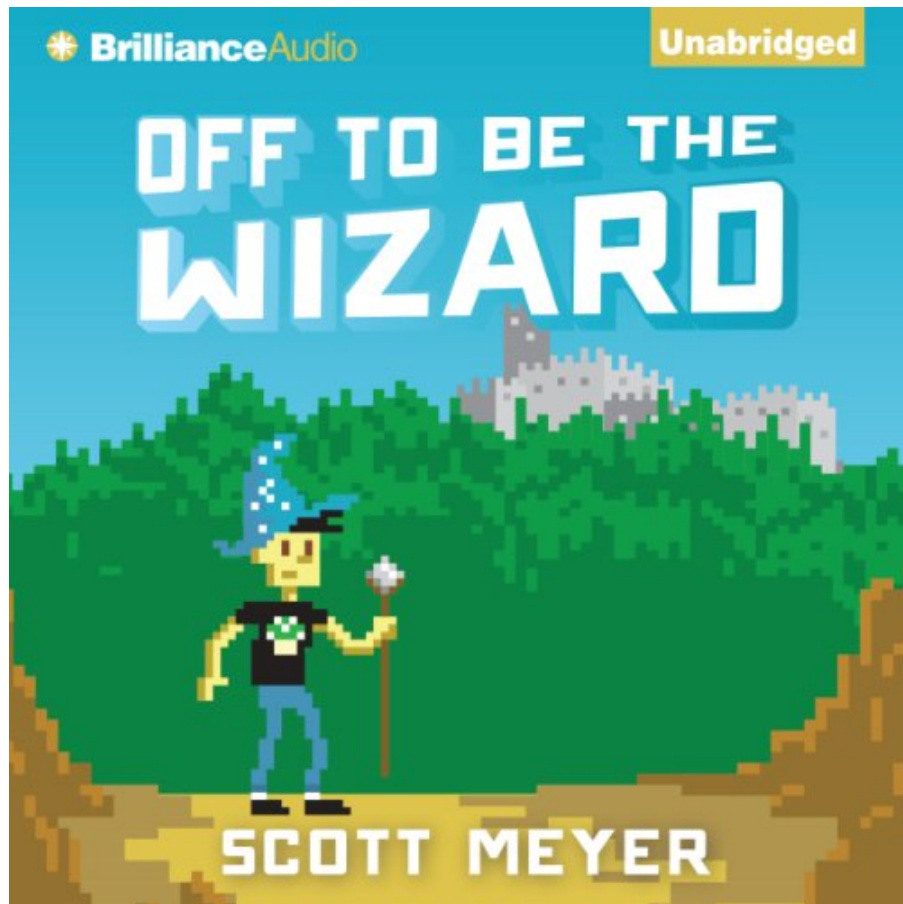


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It's a simple story. Boy finds proof that reality is a computer program. Boy uses program to manipulate time and space. Boy gets in trouble. Boy flees back in time to Medieval England to live as a wizard while he tries to think of a way to fix things. Boy gets in more trouble.

Oh, and boy meets girl at some point.

Off to Be the Wizard is a light, comedic novel about computers, time travel, and human stupidity, written by Scott Meyer, the creator of the internationally known comic strip Basic Instructions.

Magic will be made! Legends will be created! Stew will be eaten!

- Sales Rank: #138 in Audible
- Published on: 2014-03-18
- Released on: 2014-03-18
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 645 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

A charming little book that can be a touch off-putting at first

By David R. Tisdale, II

I went through three phases with Off To Be The Wizard. At first, I really wanted to like it but didn't. Then, I didn't want to like it but couldn't help myself from really enjoying it. Finally, I accepted the book on its own terms and enjoyed it immensely. I had gone through all three phases by 30% into the book, so at least try to make it that far.

What gave rise to these three phases? The first phase, wanting to like it but not, was due to the writing. I'm not sure if this is Meyer's first full-length novel or not, but prose in the first 20% or so of the book is flat and boring. Meyer uses lots of passive voice and very monotone descriptions. Imagine someone uninterestingly describing something that might be interesting if not for their boring description, and you'll have the right idea. Eventually, and thankfully, Meyer finds his writer's voice and the prose really becomes a pleasure to read. There's a lot of dry wit and it really is very charming.

The second phase, not wanting to like it but liking it anyway, is due to Meyer's lack of deep research into Medieval England, where our protagonist finds himself. In the age of Wikipedia, I was a bit disappointed that Meyer seemed to pretty well write Medieval England based on his idea of it. The locals of the time speak fairly modern English, which was the main thing that irked me, and didn't seem too put off at seeing things like saran wrap or sequin robes. This really messed with my suspension of disbelief.

However, as I continued reading I hit the third phase, acceptance on the books own terms. Off To Be The Wizard clearly wasn't meant to be a serious treatise on Medieval England, and though Meyer does make some very good critiques on various issues in the book, neither was it meant to be a parody. It's simply a good, fun book, with some silly moments and lots of good humor. Once I accepted that, I couldn't put it down.

So do I like this book? Well, I had already purchased the next in the series by the time I'd gotten to 95% of Off To Be The Wizard, and I eagerly look forward to starting that one next.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Great story and a unique concept (don't get Kindle in Motion)

By Amazon Customer

I love the "computer file controls the world" concept. The humor and dialogue are great throughout, many laugh out loud moments. Other reviews say it matches the author's style from his web site, Basic instructions, but after reading a few comics on there i didn't really feel it. This book is well told, with lots of crafty situations that remind me of Christopher Stasheff's novels like The Warlock in Spite of Himself.

This was my first purchase of a Kindle in Motion book. The premise seems neat, and the indexing features would have been neat for searching if I'd forgotten something, except I forgot they even existed. The illustrations and animations are novel and add a lot of character... If they weren't distractingly inconsistent with the story. It would describe a scene one way, and the companion image would show something notably different. It gave me the feeling the illustrator had a general idea of the setting, but hadn't read the scene for specifics.

The other KiM issue is that it completely disables font/background palette changes. While the parchment and other styles of background textures were neat, I primarily read in darker conditions and overall always prefer high contrast (white text on black). That made reading this book quite literally painful at times.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

I will be purchasing & reading the next book of this series!

By Amazon Customer

The humor and story-telling have a very Douglas Adams feel. I like to think this is what it would have been like, if Adams had written The Matrix.

It took me a few pages to get the feel for Scott Meyer's writing style. Initially I thought the beginning was a little awkward and it got better after the first chapter. But after finishing the book and re-reading the first few pages, I realize that I just needed those few pages to adjust. So if you aren't sure, at least make it through the first two chapters before deciding.

My reading of this book slightly annoyed my family, because I would frequently laugh at it, but then couldn't tell them why it was funny, because I didn't want to give them any spoilers. I will definitely be passing this along to my teenager, and I recommend it to anyone who identifies in some form or fashion as a geek &/or nerd.

Amazon only let me choose from "No," "Some," or "Explicit" for sexual content. I would have chosen somewhere between "No," and "Some" if they had finer selection options. There are innuendoes and references to explicit writing, but there is not really any sexual content within the book. Most of the innuendoes are on a level where young children would miss them completely, (please don't take that as a recommendation of this book for young children) but older children, teenagers, and those of us who still feel 12 on the inside will find them quite funny.

The violence is fairly minor and essential to the plot.

(FYI I won this as an e-book in a goodreads giveaway.)

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