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Run Program



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Synopsis

What’s worse than a child with a magnifying glass, a garden full of ants, and a brilliant mind full of mischief? Try Al, a well-meaning but impish artificial intelligence with the mind of a six-year-old and a penchant for tantrums. Hope Takeda, a lab assistant charged with educating and socializing Al, soon discovers that day care is a lot more difficult when your kid is an evolving and easily frightened A.I. When Al manages to access the Internet and escape the lab days before his official unveiling, Hope and her team embark on a mission to contain him - before he causes any real trouble. Soon the NSA is on Al’s back, the US Army is fighting a brigade of mass-produced robots, and a wannabe cyberterrorist is looking to silence Al permanently. After months spent "raising" Al, Hope knows she’s running out of time - and she’s not sure she’ll be able to protect him. Will she manage to control the unruly A.I. and quell a global crisis, or will Al outsmart them once and for all?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a ridiculous character drama wherein each character is exactly as imperfect and perfectly unlikeable as one could hope.Ostensibly, this is a story about an Al that breaks out and starts causing havoc, but it’s really a story of all the people caught up in it and the communication and relationship problems that cause and exacerbate the problems.If there’s a point to the narrative, I think it’s "stop taking everything so seriously" and "stop being dicks to each other." But this is really just a fun romp with a variety of characters, most of whom are ridiculous in their own delightful ways.

I’m enjoying Scott Meyer’s other books as audiobooks. They’re light-hearted but not fluff; the characters have enough depth to get me invested in the story. "Run Program" is competent enough, but didn’t work for me as other books have. I let it trail off when I realized that I was only mildly interested in the characters and events.Meyer got off the ground with his "Magic" series (Off to Be the Wizard (Magic 2.0), and then branched out in other directions withÃ Â Master of FormalitiesÃ Â andÃ Â The Authorities. I’d give all of those five stars, except maybe four stars for "The Authorities" because I’m not really into police procedurals. But "The Authorities" was quirky and amusing enough to hold my interest; it wasn’t your typical procedural, and I can’t fault Meyer for writing outside my favored genre.I’m guessing Meyer doesn’t want to get typecast and stuck with a single series; hence the non-Magic books. With "Run Program" he’s moved closer to "hard" science fiction, and maybe this is part of my problem with the book. This book shows less of an element of fantasy than his other works, so I’m more critical of technical unreality. I’ll skip details because I don’t want to spoil anything; I’ll just say some things happen that I couldn’t accept and wouldn’t give a "fantasy pass" to as I would in Meyer’s other books.Part of my issue may be with the reader. I’m thinking that some of the text was meant to be humorous, but the reader’s tone was too straight and serious. Maybe a different reader would have brought out the "fun" and made it work better. I’m not sure about that, but it’s possible.Anyway, I’ll continue to follow Scott Meyer, and people with different expectations will be happier with this entry than I was.

I was debating whether to give the book 4 stars or 5 stars. I first leaned towards 4 stars since aspects of the book where a bit juvenile, but considering that the plot centers around creating an AI as a child and letting it learn the style fits. I went with 5 stars because the story progressed nicely, has a creative and engaging story, and finally at the end it had a very satisfying conclusion.Meyer has a very unique style of writing which mixes classic topics and themes with a fresh and humorous voice. I have read all of his books and I have not been disappointed with any of them. I highly recommend diving into his books and I’m looking forward to his next project.

You can’t go wrong with one of Scott Meyer’s books. They’re well written, have interesting set-ups and characters and are not derivative or trite in any way. That said, even though I liked the book I felt that there were some missed opportunities for developing the relationship between the two main characters, and the relationship between the AI and the son looked like an editor must have had at it with a kitchen knife. All in all I recommend this, but it’s no substitute for "Off to be the Wizard". If you haven’t read that, just stop now and buy it. I kept my wife awake laughing at that one and was stuck

on the couch for days.

Great new stand-alone novel from Scott! I didn’t find myself laughing the entire time like withÃ Â The AuthoritiesÃ Â or most of theÃ Â Magic 2.0 (3 Book Series), but it was a different type of humor. I was especially pleased that everytime I thought I found a technology loophole, he plugged it right up.

I am a huge fan of the Magic 2.0 series (other than book 4) and have read Master of Formalities and The Authorities and liked both of those.This book is painful. I am halfway through it and do not think I will finish it - and I hate not finishing books. Plot concept is mildly entertaining, but the characters and character development is awful. I could care less what happens to any of them and I cringe when I pick up the book because I do not want to read it.This is the second disappointment in a row from Scott. The Magic 4.0 book was also awful. Not sure what is going on lately after enjoying 5 of his other books.

I have read all of the other Scott Meyer books and enjoyed them emensley. The plot of this book is a great twist on the a.i. issue. The characters are relatable. I’m sure some of them are my relatives. The only problem I had with the book is it started to drag for me in the middle. It may not for you. Still enjoyed it greatly.

I looked to see what the current average review is and used that. I got this book free but it’s not my type. Since Goodreads asked me to review it I thought this was the fair way to do it. (Entered a bunch of drawings the day I first signed up for Goodreads. Now I know more).

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