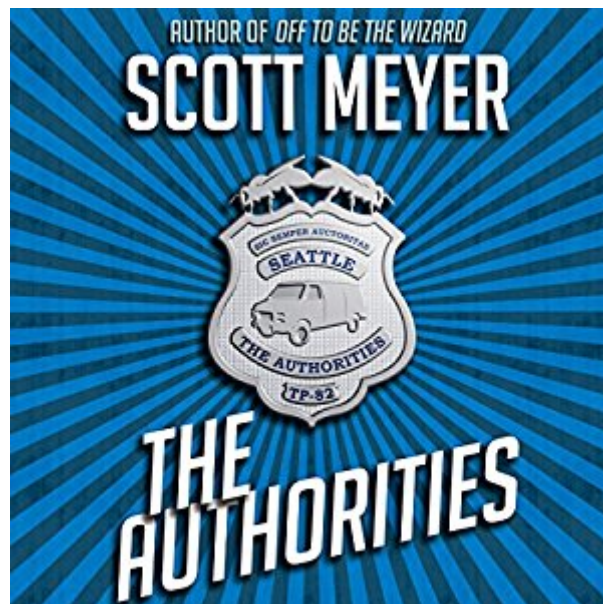


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The Authorities



Synopsis

Sinclair Rutherford is a young Seattle cop with a taste for the finer things. Doing menial tasks and getting hassled by superiors he doesn't respect are definitely not "finer things". Good police work and bad luck lead him to crack a case that changes quickly from a career-making break into a high-profile humiliation when footage of his pursuit of the suspect - wildly inappropriate murder weapon in hand - becomes an Internet sensation. But the very publicity that has made Rutherford a laughing stock in the department lands him what could be the job opportunity of a lifetime: the chance to work with a team of eccentric experts, at the direction of a demanding but distracted billionaire. Together, they must solve the murder of a psychologist who specialized in the treatment of patients who give people "the creeps". There is no shortage of suspects.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 49 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Best Sellers Rank: #38 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Police

Procedurals #125 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Private Investigators

#396 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals

Customer Reviews

First of all, I have no connection to Mr. Meyer. Some months ago I sampled the first of his Wizard books, which I would classify as gamer fantasy - hysterical gamer fantasy at that. I wound up buying it and quickly consuming the rest, along with his Science Fiction book, Master of Formalities. I've enjoyed all of his work and this latest effort delivers just as well as the others. Let's get one basic thing out of the way for the uninitiate. This author can write, and write well. There are no grammatical mistakes, poor word choices, clumsy sentences or wandering tendrils of plot here. The writing is very good and the story is well thought out and well developed from beginning to end. The characters are each unique and artfully rendered, and the world (in this case, tech-opolis Seattle)

convincing. In this case there is no fantasy or science fiction at all, just a core murder mystery played straight, surrounded by a framework that will be familiar to anyone who has read the wizard series. A nebbish finds himself in an unfamiliar and somewhat fantastical environment and has to adapt, adjust and reach within himself to excel. As was the case with the other books, hilarity ensues. Here's hoping that sequels ensue as well.

Scott Meyer is an fantastic author. He is funny, he writes well and most amazingly, he seems to be able to do it with any genre. Unlike his other books, which were also fantastic, everything that happens in this one seems like it could happen in a couple years if not now. And I looked silly in public multiple times because I couldn't help laughing out loud at some of the parts. It ends really well, and could be a standalone book, but I hope very much that there will be sequels. I look forward to reading everything the author writes for a long time to come.

Whenever I travel I load up on kindle books and samples- just never know what will be interesting. Before I left last week I happened to see "The Authorities". It looked like good travel reading so I used my monthly kindle owners' lending library pick to get it. I didn't get around to reading it until the flight home. Which was a mistake- frequent laughing out loud on planes tends to draw nervous looks from other passengers. Obviously, I enjoyed "The Authorities" a lot. Based on the description, I was expecting a nice mystery with interesting characters and an unusual premise. And probably some juvenile humor that would distract from the story (I usually find "funny" books tedious.) Well, I got most of what I was expecting but I was totally unprepared by the smart, sometimes silly, but very entertaining humor. Arising from situations and Rutherford's musings, nothing seems forced and laughter can sneak up on you. I would suggest reading the sample to see if it is to your taste. I started laughing in the first few pages. Some friends were discussing the types of books that people prefer. One pointed out that I consistently prefer books (and humor) with ordinary people in extraordinary situations rather than unusual people in normal situations. That is very much the case with "The Authorities". Sinclair Rutherford is a nice, normal, likeable young man and the team- and his position in that team- are definitely, um, "extraordinary" :) The other characters are the team are also very interesting, if unusual. On the downside, the mystery is pretty light and there is a lot of room for development in some of the characters. But although this can be read as a standalone, this is the first in series (Yea!) so I don't mind that and expect more complexity now that the set-up is out of the way. Overall just a unique and charming book. I'm looking forward to that sequel.

Starting with his comic Basic Instructions (now being rereleased with commentary!) I've enjoyed Scott Meyer's humor throughout the years. Some of the writing can be laugh out loud funny. Other times I find myself having to process what he's said to find the nuanced humor within. The Magic 2.0 series of books are the kind where you laugh out loud. Master of Formalities required a bit more thinking. The Authorities was a mix of both. Not a deep plot. Not really a spectacular police case. But I enjoyed it. A quick read. I really think I'd have to read it again to get all the jokes. Jokes about current events in social media. Jokes about living in Seattle. Dealing with work and bosses. Trying to fit in to your job. For me the funniest bits were the character Max. He spewed out conspiracy theories they were outrageous yet could be plausible? If you didn't think about them too hard. Once I got that he was saying these things to protect himself (and wasn't crazy) I was able to appreciate his character more and looked forward to the next theory. While my wife and I both find the four panel comic Basic Instructions funny, the parts of the books I've read to her have elicited eye rolls and little laughter. So maybe a full length book of Scott Meyer writing will be too much for you? For me the humor's just right.

Sinclair Rutherford is a Seattle cop looking to make detective. In the meantime, he's forced to work under a pair of jerk detectives who only want to make his life as miserable as possible. Through an unusual set of circumstances, Rutherford solves a rather interesting crime and becomes an instant internet celebrity. Enter a billionaire with marketing idea cleverly disguised as a crime fighting team, and Rutherford (and his new found fame) suddenly finds himself with an offer for his dream job. Is it? I've read all three of Meyer's Magic 2.0 books. I loved the first one, enjoyed the second one, and thought the last one was just ok. I was curious what Meyer would do with a book completely removed from the fantasy world where his first three novels took place. What we have here is a pretty funny and quickly paced crime comedy. I'm not sure what I was expecting but this book was a lot of fun. The characters could have been a little deeper and more fleshed out, but all in all, I thoroughly enjoyed The Authorities and hope that Meyer will continue the series. He's left it open for sequels while still giving closure to the story. It actually reads very much like a much funnier version of a CSI episode. Long enough to develop an interesting plot, but short enough that you can power through it in a couple of days. All in all, a very entertaining read that's worth your time and money.

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The Authorities

