



The Half-Assed Wizard

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A couple of jerks wake me up at the crack of noon. Seems my klepto uncle stole an ancient deck of Tarot cards from a high-powered wizard, and too many losers want to ruin my day to get them back.

The cards are cool, so I check them out, but my magic-happy cousin, Sabrina, tells me I'm not supposed to touch them. Oops. Too late. Now the damn cards are tuned to me, and if someone else wants to use them, I have to die. Why couldn't she have led with that information?

Magic was never my scene, but my dad is one of the most powerful wizards in the world, so I've got unrealized potential if I ever bother to apply myself. I'd rather power nap, but with wizards, gunslingers, and cannibalistic shark dudes coming at me, that's not gonna happen.

They say I'm a half-assed wizard, but if I don't play my cards right, I'm gonna get my whole ass killed.

The Half-Assed Wizard Details

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Author : Gary Jonas

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From Reader Review The Half-Assed Wizard for online ebook

AudioBookReviewer says

My original The Half-Assed Wizard audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

Brett Masters is the son of one of the world's greatest wizards. Magic runs through his veins, and he should be as good, if not more powerful than his father. Only problem is, he's really lazy, and would much rather sleep until noon, play guitar with a magic pick and generally drink and smoke his way through life. When a pack of ancient tarot cards arrives at his house, his whole easy life is turned upside down. It seems everyone wants them and will use any means to get them.

Sabrina, Bretts magically skilled cousin, comes to help, but he's having none of, still doing everything he can to retain his easy life, graciously provided by his dad's monthly allowance. But the villains keep coming, ever more powerful, and Brett's just going to have to do something resembling magic to keep them off, well maybe after a nap.

This tongue-in-cheek novel is a lot of fun. Brett is all about sex, drugs and rock and roll and skating through life. It's full of colorful characters and magic objects that highlight the ridiculous nature of Brett's world. It's a fun poke at Harry Potter and similar stories.

The story is performed by Joe Hempel who does a great job as the voice of Brett describing his own story. All the character voices are good and easily discernible. A great job by a pro. The production quality is excellent too, as you would expect.

The Half-Assed Wizard is a light-hearted romp through the magically ridiculous. It doesn't take itself seriously, even making fun of its own plot. "All this for a pack of tarot cards?" It is book one in a series of unknown length, but still a complete novel that wraps up fully. Future volumes are likely to involve the further adventures of the half-assed wizard and his colorful friends. If you enjoy your fantasy/magic/wizard stories with a good helping of humor, you should give this one a listen.

Audiobook was provided for review by the narrator.

Elena Alvarez Dosil says

Review originally published at: <http://www.lomeraniel.com/audiobookre...>

Brett's father is one of the most powerful wizards in the word, but Brett is just not interested in magic. He likes the easy life that comes with family money, and his expectations in life are none beyond playing with his band. One day Brett receives a mysterious package that will get him out of his comfort zone and in great danger. He will either have to change his ways or die.

As a fan of Jonathan Shade's adventures, I was looking forward to this book. Among all the epic fantasy books, finding gems like this urban fantasy book is simply refreshing. It is not that I don't like epic fantasy, I love it, but sometimes characters and situations we can easily relate to are welcome. Gary Jonas writes very

vivid and down to earth characters and great dialogs. His books have that fresh humor so difficult to find in fantasy books, and this is what makes them amazing and original.

Brett is not an especially likable character, and that means that he will have to undergo an evolution, apart from using his cheeky techniques, to be able to save his bacon. This will make Brett an interesting character.

The ending is somehow predictable, but I still enjoyed the ride. I was a funny and light listen, ideal for a lazy day. I wish the next book was already available.

I really enjoyed Joe Hempel's narration. He has wonderful character interpretation skills, inflicting the right amount of emotion, irony, and sarcasm. Hempel has a decent voice range and knows how to use it in a subtle way, something important when narrating audiobooks. The best part is that he makes you forget that you are listening to a book, to the point that you feel part of the story.

I received a copy of this book in audio format from the narrator in exchange for an honest review.

nelcir says

Third son of a powerful and rich family of wizards, Brett should also be powerful, it happens that he has no interest in learning to be so. Brett is extremely lazy, and never wanted to expend any effort in this learning. He likes music, parties and women, in short ... bohemia.

But everything changes when someone knocks on his door looking for a package addressed to his father, sent by his uncle and everything gets complicated, much more than Brett would like.

A fun book with interesting characters and a story that will continue to develop in the coming volumes ... so I am just going to the next one. :)

Terceiro filho de uma poderosa e rica família de magos, Brett deveria também ser poderoso, acontece que ele não tem o mínimo interesse em aprender a sê-lo. Brett é extremamente preguiçoso, e nunca quis dispendar qualquer esforço nesse aprendizado. Gosta de música, festas e mulheres, resumindo... boemia.

Mas tudo muda quando alguém bate em sua porta a procura de um pacote endereçado a seu pai, remetido por seu tio e tudo se complica, muito mais do que Brett gostaria.

Um livro divertido, com personagens interessantes e uma história que continuará a se desenvolver nos próximos volumes... então, vamos ao próximo. :)

Frank Bertino says

It's in the Cards

Brett is a party hardy musician. He is from a line of powerful wizards, however magic is just too much work. The only magic he cares about is his magic pick which allows him to play extraordinary lead guitar in the band. His father tests him one last time with stolen ancient tarot cards, but he obviously fails since magic is just too much trouble. He is kicked out of his father's house that he lives in and has his funds cut off. Reality strikes as a life or death test arises with a jealous wizard, cannibalistic shark men, and others wanting to kill him, his family and friends for the cards. Motivation by not wanting to die and discovering that his family

and friends can't help and will die as well, he reluctantly uses powerful but uncontrolled magic to dampen their enthusiasm for killing them. Fortunately for Brett, his father reinstates his housing and stipend. Unfortunately for Brett, he must actually work for it by learning control of his magic. I very much enjoyed this book with Brett's BS degree in smartass and the other humor of the book. I like the story with the interesting plot filled with action. I look forward to getting into the next book.

Montzalee Wittmann says

The Half-Assed Wizard: Book 1

Written by: Gary Jonas

Narrated by: Joe Hempel

I requested this audible book and the review is voluntary.

I have read almost all of Gary Jonas books and love them all so much so when I saw this I jumped for it. I have the eBook of this book but just haven't read it yet. I would love to 'hear' it. I was lucky to be chosen. This book do not disappoint. It was full of the Jonas humor, adventure, and crazy situations that Jonas characters seem to get into. Fun and exciting is the words I would describe this book. I am always glad to read his book and want to kick myself for waiting to read this.

The narrator did an awesome job so I am glad that I waited in that way. I have listened to this narrator before and he always adds so much to a story. He takes a great story and makes it "POP". Great job!!!

Justin says

Not bad, I probably wont buy the sequel though.

Kat Lebo says

The Half-Assed Wizard

by Gary Jonas

This is the first book in a new series, according to the cover. Goodreads' listing indicates it was published on June 4th of this year (or 2 days ago), so guess I picked it up the second day it existed. Huh. Can't really tell, because, although there is a credit for the cover design and for the editing, I couldn't find a copyright or publishing notice anywhere on my Kindle e-book edition. (Goodreads says it was published by Denton & White). I even did a search for the words Denton and copyright and 2017 and ISBN. Nothing. Nada. Strange.

However, the book was a very quick, very enjoyable read. The characters were interesting and this reader liked who I think I was supposed to like and disliked who I think I was supposed to dislike. Always a plus. It was a fun storyline, as full of humor as it was full of action.

So, our ne'er-do-well hero, Brett, is the third-born child of the most powerful wizard in the world. All of his siblings and his near relatives have done very well in the wizarding business, but it just doesn't appeal to Brett. He's managed to reach the age of about 30 without applying himself to much of anything other than partying and playing music. Oh, and he is a first-class sleeper. All that changes when a box of ancient tarot cards is delivered to his family's ancestral home, where he lives. Will Brett come to terms with adulthood?

Will he come to terms with his magical powers? A handful of wizards, a witch, some for-hire thugs, many mako clansmen (sharks made humanoid), his father, cousin, and a few of his friends, including one vampire, will get a chance to find out.

I look forward to the next book in the series, "The Big-Ass Witch."

Susan says

This was a fast-paced, fun, and snarky wizarding tale. Brett Masters is way more interested in sleeping, attempting to make music with his band, and drinking than he is in family wizarding politics. He comes from a rich and powerful family and has never had to work for his keep. Things are about to be upended!

I could totally picture Brett. I've known a few people like him stuck in that place of not contributing to anything so it was easy to get a feel for this main character right away. The entire story, I was rooting for him, hoping he'd get his feet under him and finally save the day.

His cousin, Sabrina, showed a polar opposite to Brett. She hails from the same rich and powerful family, is an accomplished wizard herself, and is a motivational power, constantly pushing Brett to do something... anything, really. While she's not our only female character, she is the main one. More than once she has to be rescued but she also spends a third of the time kicking butt.

The shark men! Ack! These guys were a bit creepy. No one wants to tango with shark men... unless you're a half-assed wizard that is pretty drunk and out of good options (like running away and hiding for half a century).

There's also Brett's band. Michael was the one that stood out the most to me. He has dreamy vampire eyes that can melt the panties off of almost anyone. Unfortunately, his charm doesn't work on powerful wizards like Brett's dad or his main adversary. Michael does give Brett some much needed advice about living in the real world, but I think Brett was too drunk to take much of it in.

There's plenty of rock and roll references. I only caught some of them. I'm sure others will recognize songs, musicians, and the like. The enchanted guitar pick was a fun little tidbit.

Overall, this tale is enjoyable. There's not much character depth and the plot is pretty straight forward but the characters make it excellent brain candy. I look forward to the sequel! 4/5 stars.

I received a free copy of this book.

The Narration: Joe Hempel makes an excellent slacker Brett Masters. He has this perfect don't give a flip attitude for this character. I also really liked his drunk Brett voice. His female voices were sometimes feminine and sometimes needed a little boost to sound like a woman. All his character voices were distinct. 4.5/5 stars.

David says

A great laugh out loud book, the main character is a lazy rich easy going hippie, musician, wizard of dubious means. I would love to live his life. Please read this book and enjoy the main character getting to grips with magic or not as the case maybe. His world turned upside down when a package arrives for his father, and of course he opens it. Which in turn makes his life go down a road he really does not want or need. Wait till you get to sixty nine reference in the book it's hilarious. If your feeling a bit down, read this and laugh out loud. Fab

Val Moss says

Funny

That was a very funny book. I like the characters and the story. Can't wait till I get my hands on the next one.

Sinisa Mikasinovic says

I didn't know anything about Gary Jonas before I got this book. But I did listen to a few of Joe Hempel's epic narrations, and that set me up with great expectations.

Magic! I love magic!

Sadly, the book turned out to be more on an average side. Even Joe Hempel couldn't make me rate it more than 3*. His narration is still good, and I gave his performance 4* on Audible. He wasn't on top of his game either.

The Half-Assed Wizard is a well-named book. It tells us about Brett, a super-lazy person who could be a great wizard - if he only wanted to. Third son of a great Wizard, he never excelled at magic as it was too difficult - he had to practice.

I can't underline how annoying it was to hear about his life and all the things he does with it: Complaining and sleeping. In the face of threat and imminent danger, he responds with annoyance that people won't let him sleep. If he was my son, I'd beat the living shit out of him.

So, we have an extremely lazy person who lives on his dad's money, and essentially does nothing with his life. One day, two mob strongmen come at his house and tell him to just sit still and do nothing. A job right down his alley, right? There's a package arriving at his house, something his uncle stole and mailed to him, and they will pick it up and leave.

Pick it up. And leave. You. Just. Sit. Still.

No. This is exactly the moment where our annoying anti-hero chooses to find himself horribly inconvenienced because they made him get out of the bed before 2pm. He also decides it's a good idea to piss them off.

He is not a wizard, mind you. If you remember, magic was too hard for him. So we have just an ordinary

guy, whose super power is taking a nap whenever he has a chance. So, no. Pissing off hired guns is not a good idea under those circumstances. Although rarely it ever is, to be honest.

Entire plot is a sequence of improbable events, enriched with Bretts annoyed remarks. Sometimes they were pretty funny, sometimes they were not. Writing looked like a rushed job at moments. And in addition, ending was cut seriously short.

Writer seemed to be going out of his ways to avoid cliche situations, but then ended up with something unexpected and had to work around that as well. Not very high percentage of people would follow the same train of thoughts as our protagonist Brett. Or anyone else for that matter. I'm talking about people with common sense here.

People *are* acting strange in this book, sometimes borderline illogical. And that prevents enjoying it. There's so much disbelief you have to suspend.

All in all - not a bad book, but not a particularly good one either. Could have been much better with some fixes, that's true, but it isn't terrible by any means. Just... not what I hoped for. When I go through my big backlog of queued up books, I will give the sequel a try.

This book has been provided to me free of charge by the narrator

Terri says

This is a review of the audio version of this book:

This story is very entertaining, and I can't wait for more. Brett is the third son of a powerful wizard. As such, he should also be very powerful. However, Brett is too lazy to put forth the effort. Magic is work, and this slacker isn't interested in work. When a package is delivered and bad guys come looking for it, Brett's life becomes more complicated than he likes.

I really enjoyed getting to know Brett and the rest of the cast of characters. I can see how he could drive people crazy, and I laughed out loud at times. I also found his reasons understandable, once they were revealed. I'm so glad that there will be more stories about these people! I found both the writing and the performance to be terrific. This was a great pairing of an author with a great sense of humor and originality, and a narrator with the skills to bring the story to life. I felt like Brett was speaking to me.

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

Rabid Reader says

This is an quick, entertaining and amusing story. Brett is the third son of a powerful wizard, but he resents his families expectations and has sailed through life as a lazy, rich kid who would rather sleep, party and play music, than have anything to do with magic or work. His easy life is turned upside down when he opens a package his uncle sent and chaos ensues from then on. Generally Brett is an indolent, smartass who is only concerned with himself, but somehow you can not help but like him as he is reluctantly dragged into the

wizarding business. Magic, ancient tarot cards, shark people and a meat eating rug, combined with lots of action and dry, sarcastic humour make the story both entertaining and fun. The narrator captures the characters well and he is a master at sarcasm. He easily pulls you into the fast paced action and humour of the story and brings it all to life. I enjoyed this engaging audiobook and will look forward to seeing how Brett and his magic progress in the next book.

Kay says

Describing this book in six words or less: Slacker Trust-Fund Wizard Avoids Responsibilities.

More extended version is that a wizard who has absolutely no motivation to get off the teat opens mail containing ancient tarot cards. Turns out a host of other people want those same cards as well. That's as far as I'll get into it because to say more would be to post spoilers and I'm not about that life. Throughout the novel, he acts the part of someone who doesn't take life seriously and is content to live off of his parents wealth.

Well that's true for most of the book and I still thoroughly enjoyed it. The Half-Ass Wizard is quick to get through, and I think that is part of the appeal. There isn't a lot of room for fillers and all the extra things that are common in full-sized novels. In the end everything had a purpose. The dialog of the main character can get a bit annoying at times, but annoying in a good way. The responsible adult in me wanted to just shake the guy, but the novel wouldn't be half as fun if he were a driven businessman.

Anyway, I really enjoyed this book and wouldn't mind continuing the series. This book was given to me for free at my requests and I provided this voluntary review.

Colin Rowlands says

The lead character Brett, is somewhat of a slacker, the third child of a powerful wizarding family and is fond of requesting explanations to anything to be in six words or less, so here's the six word version of my review:

Fun book, good narration, enjoyable starting-point.

While I enjoyed this book from the start and indeed went through it very quickly as it is not overly long either, I did think that the author may have laid it on a bit thick about just how lazy the main character was when that would obviously be changing by the end of the book.

However, this minor issue did not detract from my overall enjoyment of the book and I will be looking out for subsequent books in the series.

I had previously listened to a book with this narrator and like that one I found his performance to nicely enhance my opinion of the book, so another good job from him.

I would recommend this book to fans of urban fantasy, particularly those who prefer their protagonist to have a bit of snark to them.

[Note - I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.]
