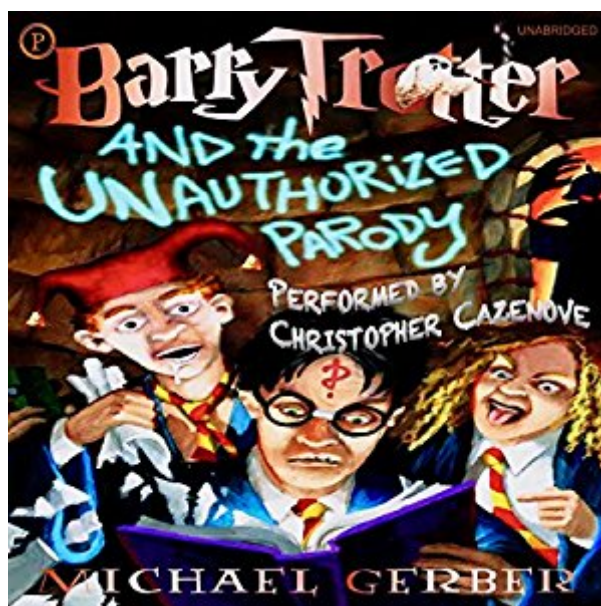


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Barry Trotter And The Unauthorized Parody



Synopsis

Warning: This isn't the real thing...it's funnier!"Stop that movie," Headmaster Alpo Bumblemore said, "or Hogwash is history!" After someone sells directions to the school to a sleazy Muddle tabloid, Barry Trotter, Ermine Cringer, and Lon Measly are hauled out of retirement to face their toughest challenge yet. Not only do the 22-year-olds have to elude packs of rabid fans, outwit Barry's sponging Uncle Serious, and vanquish their old foe Lord Valumart, they have to face the most powerful enemy of all: Hollywood!This audiobook has not been authorized or endorsed by J.K. Rowling or the publishers of the Harry Potter books. Harry Potter is a registered trademark of Warner Bros.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I simply cannot compliment the author and the narrator enough. Not only is it a-laugh-a-line funny, but the high-level ventriloquism Christopher uses adds a level of shine that outstrips almost any reading experience. Just wait until you hear and imagine Barry Trotter hit the redial button on his uncle's address book. There are also references to the top actors and actresses of the day, but that doesn't really impede this book's withstanding of the test of time. The book starts off simply, with Barry et al travelling to America to stop the latest Trotter film. Michael Gerber simply doesn't believe in the fourth wall, and this helps add to the comedic effect (case in point: Barry whines about the slow narration, keeping him on the stairs for several pages). I loved his parody of England's Sun newspaper (although it was a case of TMI at one point). While this is certainly not for everyone, those who enjoy toilet humour and R-rated comedy will enjoy this book with a 99% probability ratio.

Man, this book really seems to ... off 12 year olds! I'm 33, and I loved it. A friend of mine gave it to me. I've read the HP books, and liked them, but was always a bit unsatisfied. Back in the day, when I was representin' as a 12 year old myself, I read everything by Piers Anthony in sight. And it really ticks me off when people say that J.D. Rowling, or whatever her name is, is so clever because she comes up with stuff like "The Whomping Willow." Ever read a Xanth novel (there are only like 30 of them at last count)? I think everyone who finds the HP books so clever oughta take a ride on Mr. Gerber's "Bugging Birch." Anyway, the Barry Trotter book is hilarious, and it has a good storyline as well. I read a chapter or two a night before going to bed, and laughed my heiny off every time. The only bummer was that the book had to end. I really liked the characters, particularly Lon Measley. There's something really endearing about the moronic dog-boy. And after reading this book, I can't remember most of the real names of the characters and places in the HP books. I wish that there were more of these suckers coming out. I'd definitely look forward to them more than HP 5, 6, and 7. Hopefully, Mr. Gerber will at least continue to write novels, parody or otherwise. My final piece of advice to all the 12 year olds out there is to try reading something else (like the first two Xanth novels), because there's an awful lot of sci-fi/fantasy literature out there besides HP, and if you got a little perspective, you wouldn't cry foul when someone like Mr. Gerber bumrushed one of your icons.

Barry Trotter is a 22-year-old slacker wizard who still lives at Hogwash Academy with his half-canine-brained friend Lon Measley. The future of Hogwash is in peril because of the glut of fans that are camping out there, thanks to the fact that Barry sold a map to the place (now, if Hogwash is enchanted, it's never quite explained how a map would help the "Muddles" find the place, but, never mind). They are sent on a mission to the United States (of course, engaging the help of the third member of this triumverate, Ermine Cringer) to stop the production of the Barry Trotter movie. Along the way, they attempt to find author J.G. Rollins, and finally Barry confronts his mortal enemy, Lord Valumart. This book has enough bodily function gags to make the Farrelly brothers proud (turns out, this is not by accident), plus some wicked parody and an underlying anti-commercialism theme (although whether the author is serious about this or it is just a comedic device, who knows?) There are places where the book drags a little, and not all the jokes work, but it is clever to the end, where a couple of twists make you wonder what you are reading after all. This may not be a book that 12-year-old Harry Potter devotees might appreciate, but for older fans and even non-fans of the series, it's an entertaining diversion while waiting for the fifth Potter book to hit the stores.

I will start off by declaring a few things. Yes, I have read the Harry Potter books. Yes, I do like them. Yes, I will read the rest of them. But no, I am not a fanatic fan who thinks Harry Potter is as good as it gets. You will find me in the middle of things. With that said, I will say I do not like this parody very much and I think I dislike it more whenever I think about it, and this is not caused by the fact that I am an obsessive Potter fan as I started off with saying. =) The book is very self-ironic which I think is a good thing (it often says things like "Nightmares can be extremely instructive (especially in cheesy books like this one)"). There are jokes in this book I found amusing, and there are several names I'm sure I would find more amusing if I knew what they were a parody of. I fear I haven't paid enough attention when I read HP. But Gerber seems to spend one hell of a time joking about sex and bodily sounds and smells. Which reminds me, this is NOT a children's book. There are things in this book I do not find suitable for younger readers, heck, I wouldn't even find them suitable for my parents. =) Anyway, some of these jokes can be entertaining, others I just shake my head at. There is another thing I can't quite figure out about this book. I don't know if it takes itself seriously or not. This IS a parody, obviously, so I wouldn't be surprised if it's written badly on purpose. It IS written badly, let me emphasise that, and it gets stupid in several places, but I don't know if Gerber intended to. Sometimes I get the feeling Gerber tried to write the book as a *real* book, but unfortunately he failed. It even drags on at times, and I absolutely loathe the ending; I find it utterly ridiculous. Far too mushy, especially for a parody, in my humble opinion anyway. I do not exactly recommend this book. You can lead a happy life without even knowing this book existed, but I won't tell you *not* to read it either. It's not completely bad, even though I only gave it 2 stars and say several times I don't like it. =) I will point out though, that if you're a fanatic HP fan, then don't get all upset. JK Rowling is treated very nicely in this book. She's actually pictured as a very kind, helpful, and generous person, and also Barry is still the hero, despite his somewhat shady personality. He does, in some ways, save the day. This is a parody, not a book written to be mean.

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