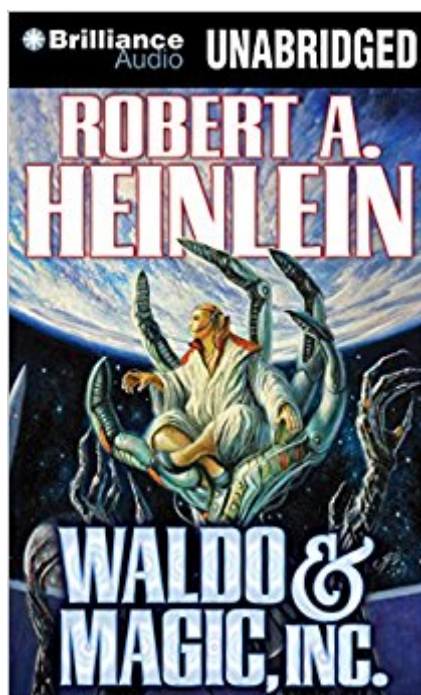


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# Waldo & Magic, Inc.



## Synopsis

Don't count out the underdog... Two classic short novels by Robert A. Heinlein, science fiction's Grand Master. Waldo North Power Air is in trouble. Their aircraft are crashing at an alarming rate and no one can figure out the cause. Desperate for an answer, they turn to Waldo, a crippled misanthropic genius who lives in a home in orbit around Earth, where the absence of gravity means that his feeble muscle strength does not confine him helplessly in a wheelchair. But Waldo has little reason to want to help the rest of humanity until he learns that the solution to Earth's problems also holds the key to his own. Magic, Inc. In a world where almost everything is done by magic spells, Magic, Inc., under the guise of an agency for magicians, is systematically squeezing the small independent magicians out of business. Then one businessman stood firm. And with the help of an Oxford-educated African shaman and a little old lady adept at black magic, he was willing to take on all the demons of Hell to resolve the problem once and for all.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (April 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1480523046

ISBN-13: 978-1480523043

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,134,070 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > [Authors, A-Z](#) > (H) > Heinlein, Robert A. #1895 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) > [Science Fiction](#) #2237 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

Robert A Heinlein is considered one of the Big Three of classic science fiction (along with Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke). Heinlein is a seven-time Hugo Award recipient and was given the first Grand Master Nebula Award for lifetime achievement. Heinlein's juveniles alone have influenced generations of scientists, engineers and creators the world over (for instance, it was once estimated that everyone in the Apollo 11 mission control room had read and loved at least one

Heinlein novel). His worldwide bestsellers include *Have Space Suit – Will Travel*, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, *Starship Troopers*, *Time Enough for Love*, and *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*.

Robert Heinlein wrote science fiction for about fifty years - most of his adult life. While he's probably best known for *Starship Troopers*, the last of his "juvenile novels," which was turned into a terrible movie that was sequelized into even more terrible movies, in my opinion, Heinlein's best work was done between 1938 and 1958. Contemporary Sci-Fi writers such as Fredrick Pohl and James Blish were big fans. Issac Asimov said of Heinlein, "...From the time of his first story, it was accepted that Heinlein was the best science fiction writer in existence." (Wikipedia) I became aware of him in the late 1950's when much of his work was still serialized in magazines like *Amazing Stories*. Both *Waldo & Magic, Inc.*, are highly imaginative stories and crisply written - almost like screenplays.

"*Magic, Inc.*" was the second Heinlein book I had read (the first was "*Methuselah's Children*"). It blended politics, magic, and an interesting story. While set in the future, the old-fashioned premise of mob-involvement, an older mentor, and the belief that good will triumph over evil provides a quick, entertaining read, from the opening line of "Whose spells are you using, buddy?" to the satisfactory ending. "*Magic, Inc.*" has become my favorite Heinlein story. The original paperback had the two stories back to back - "*Waldo*" at the front and, if you turned the book over, "*Magic, Inc.*" in the back. Suspend reality and come enter a world where witches and magic are a fact of life, politics is just as messed up as they are in the real world, and good guys and bad guys sometimes switch hats to keep the reader on his/her toes.

I grew up hearing about Heinlein's work, but for some reason I didn't start reading him until the last few years. I mostly regret that decision, but I also am mature enough now to appreciate how different his perspective was on aspects that we take for granted. So much science fiction has been written since this was originally published, but only authors like Phillip K. Dick could match Heinlein for sheer creativity. These works inspire me to take a fresh look at my preconceived notions.

It is written by Robert Heinlein - no need to say more. Both stories are well put together and very easy to read. The only slight little problem is that the world has moved a fair amount in the last half century and there are a few things that seem "off" since the assumptions we automatically make now are somewhat different than they were.

Waldo is really pure science fiction addressing a problem with the broadcast power grid and the delightful character who finds the solution to the problem and to his own life too Magic Inc is almost pure fantasy but with Heinlein's hard headed down to earth style. Funny and fun with great adventure too.

Ok. I'll admit I'm a fan. I've been reading Heinlein's work since I was a kid. But rereading this book, I'm struck by the depth of his social commentary disguised as science fiction

I read this in my youth and bought this copy to give to a student who is interested in the topic. I know he'll love it, as I did. Who can go wrong with Heinlein, after all? Great story!

One of the Master's whimsical works. I rate Robert A. Heinlein among the best all-time science fiction authors. I bought this to read and reread from time to time when I need.

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