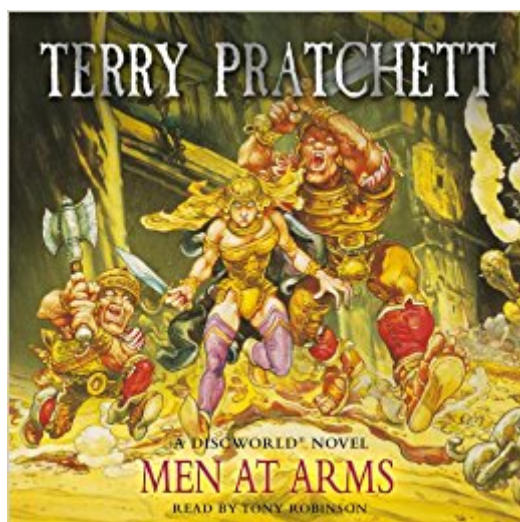


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Men At Arms



Synopsis

“Be a MAN in the City Watch! The City Watch needs MEN! And they need all the help they can get, because they only have twenty-four hours to clean up the town and this is Ankh-Morpork we’re talking about . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Funny, wise and mock heroic with a tongue-in-cheek Technicolour certainty” Sunday Express

“Like Jonathan Swift, Pratchett uses his other world to hold up a distorting mirror to our own, and like Swift he is a satirist of enormous talent ... incredibly funny ... compulsively readable” The Times

“His spectacular inventiveness makes the Discworld series one of the perennial joys of modern fiction” Mail on Sunday

“The great Terry Pratchett, whose wit is metaphysical, who creates an energetic and lively secondary world, who has a multifarious genius for strong parody ... who deals with death with startling originality. Who writes amazing sentences” New York Times

TERRY PRATCHETT is one of the most popular authors writing today. He lives behind a keyboard in Wiltshire and says he ‘doesn’t want to get a life, because it feels as though he’s trying to lead three already’. He was appointed OBE in 1998. He is the author of the phenomenally successful Discworld series and his trilogy for young readers, The Bromeliad, is scheduled to be adapted into a spectacular animated movie. His first Discworld novel for children, The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents, was awarded the 2001 Carnegie Medal.

I just finished re-reading this novel, which remains high in my esteem. My review will contain some spoilers, so avoid it if you don't like those. Its main theme is the final success of integrating city minorities, starting with a dwarf, a troll and a woman, into the all-human-male Watch. Dwarfs and trolls are ancient enemies from the mountains, now moving in droves into Discworld's biggest city, Ankh-Morpork. Putting two of them together as a police team seems insoluble, and would be but for Corporal Carrot. The new watchwoman is also a werewolf (actually werewolfhound), and her kind of minority is shunned by just about everyone--except Carrot--but Angua no longer bites people and is trying to be a vegetarian! There are numerous subplots, skilfully woven into the main story--the insanity of extreme royalist snobbery; the growing affection between Sam Vimes and Sibyl Ramkin, his temporary backslide into alcoholism, Sibyl's steadfastness and (at the end of the book) a happy beginning; the reluctantly heroic talking mutt, Gaspode, who reminds me of Huckleberry Finn (he refuses to be "sivilized"). Most relevant to our own problems is the world's only "gonne" (the earliest English spelling of "gun") invented by Leonard of Quirm. Supposedly it was destroyed, but instead was put away in a private museum and stolen. Like our own guns, it has a murderous personality of its own that infects its users, but Discworld is luckier than our world. At the story's end the gonne is destroyed by Carrot--and there are no others in existence.

"Vimes smiled. Someone was trying to kill him, and that made him feel more alive than he had done in days. And they were also slightly less intelligent than he was. This is a quality you should always pray for in your would-be murderer." Murders are rare in Ankh-Morpork. Suicides and assassinations...well, they're a dime a dozen, but genuine murders are pretty darned rare. But DEATH has been busier than usual lately, and it's up to Carrot and Vimes of the Night Watch to figure out what the heck is going on. This is a most excellent entry in the Discworld series. In addition to the thrilling mystery, we get to: * Meet an adorable gargoyle. * Dine at a dwarf deli, where it seems impossible to order anything that doesn't come with Spam, oops! I mean rat. * Attend the funniest clown funeral since Chuckles bit the dust on 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show.' There's all this...PLUS, the Librarian gets to attend yet another wedding! Oook! Oook! Did I enjoy this book? Does a dragon explode in the woods?

Much of this book is so clever that it begs to be read aloud. Even the moralistic metaphors are brilliant!

One of the best Commander Vimes novels by Terry Pratchett, and they are ALL very good.

I love the Discworld books in general, but this stands out as one of my favorites. Not just within the series, but of all fantasy books, PERIOD.

One of my favorite "Guards" books by Terry Pratchett.

Corporal Carrot is more than he seems. . . or is he??? This loveable six foot tall dwarf is a part of the Watchmen in Discworld, along with a troll, a werewolf and many other characters. There is also the possibility that he is royalty. This is the quest of Edward Eath, a member of the Assassins' Guild, to discover the truth. In the true Terry Pratchett manner though, there is so much more to the story. This magician with phrases and words weaves many story lines into one story so they totally make sense. This is a wonderful part of the Discworld series.

This novel follows on from Guards! Guards! and confirms Captain (later Commander) Vimes as a beloved Pratchett character. The novel also has some appealing romantic interest (and not just from Vimes!), a human touch to Vetinari and lots of humour from the likes of dwarves, trolls and Nobby Nobbs (undecided). A favourite.

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