

night watch book terry pratchett

Night Watch Book Terry Pratchett: An In-Depth Exploration of a Discworld Classic

Night Watch Book Terry Pratchett is a captivating novel that stands out as one of the most beloved entries in Terry Pratchett's extensive Discworld series. Renowned for his wit, satirical style, and masterful storytelling, Pratchett created a universe that blends fantasy, humor, and social commentary. This article delves into the intricacies of the novel, its themes, characters, and why it continues to resonate with readers worldwide.

Introduction to Terry Pratchett and the Discworld Series

Terry Pratchett (1948–2015) was a British author celebrated for his prolific output of fantasy novels. His Discworld series, comprising over 40 books, is set in a flat, disc-shaped world supported by four elephants standing on the back of a giant turtle. The series is renowned for its clever satire, memorable characters, and imaginative universe.

Within the Discworld, the City Watch series is a prominent sub-series focusing on the law enforcement officers of Ankh-Morpork, a sprawling, vibrant city filled with eccentric characters and societal complexities. The Night Watch novel is a cornerstone of this sub-series, blending mystery, history, and social critique.

Overview of Night Watch by Terry Pratchett

Published in 2002, Night Watch is the 29th novel in the Discworld series. It follows the story of Commander Samuel Vimes, a gruff but morally upright officer of the Ankh-Morpork City Watch, as he is transported back in time to his own past during a turbulent period of political upheaval.

The novel masterfully combines elements of detective fiction, time travel, and political commentary, making it a standout in Pratchett's oeuvre. Its narrative weaves humor with profound reflections on justice, duty, and societal change.

Plot Summary and Key Themes

Plot Summary

Night Watch begins with Commander Vimes investigating a conspiracy that threatens the stability of Ankh-Morpork. During a confrontation, Vimes is unexpectedly transported back to the 20th century, specifically to the year 1960, where he finds himself amidst a revolutionary movement and a city on the brink of chaos.

As Vimes navigates the past, he encounters his own youthful self and fellow officers, uncovering the roots of the City Watch. The story explores his efforts to prevent a political catastrophe while grappling with his own sense of morality and duty.

After various adventures, Vimes learns valuable lessons about leadership and justice, ultimately returning to his own time with a deeper understanding of his role and the importance of societal change.

Major Themes

- Justice and Morality: The novel questions what true justice entails and examines the moral responsibilities of law enforcement.
- Time and Change: Through time travel, the story explores how societies evolve and the importance of learning from history.
- Political Corruption: Pratchett satirizes political machinations, corruption, and the abuse of power.
- Social Justice: The novel emphasizes the significance of standing up against oppression and inequality.
- Leadership: Vimes' growth as a leader underscores the qualities necessary to effect positive change.

Characters in Night Watch

The novel features a rich cast of characters, each adding depth and humor to the story:

- Sam Vimes: The protagonist, known for his integrity, cynicism, and leadership qualities.
- Carrot Ironfoundersson: A noble-hearted dwarf and loyal member of the Watch, who plays a pivotal role.
- Angua von Überwald: A werewolf with a sharp mind and strong sense of justice.
- Sir Samuel Vimes' Past Self: The young version of Vimes who is still naive about the world's injustices.
- Detritus: A troll member of the Watch, often comic relief but with a strong moral core.
- Captain John Keel: The ambitious and often conflicted officer who represents the political tensions of the era.

These characters contribute to the novel's humor, depth, and reflection on societal issues.

The Significance of Night Watch in the Discworld Series

Night Watch is often hailed as one of the most profound and thought-provoking books in the Discworld series. Its exploration of themes like justice, political corruption, and societal change elevates it beyond mere fantasy or humor.

The novel stands out for its:

- Historical Depth: Pratchett's vivid depiction of 1960s London-inspired city life offers readers a glimpse into a turbulent era.
- Philosophical Reflection: The story invites readers to consider the nature of justice and the importance of civic duty.
- Character Development: Vimes' evolution from a cynical officer to a leader committed to societal justice resonates deeply.

Its impact extends beyond entertainment, encouraging readers to reflect on real-world issues and the importance of standing up for what is right.

Why Night Watch Continues to Capture Readers' Imagination

Several factors contribute to the enduring popularity of Night Watch:

- Timeless Themes: Justice, morality, and societal change are relevant across eras.
- Relatable Characters: Vimes and his colleagues exemplify integrity, courage, and resilience.
- Humor and Satire: Pratchett's wit makes complex social issues accessible and engaging.
- Historical Parallels: The novel's portrayal of political unrest mirrors contemporary struggles against tyranny and corruption.
- Philosophical Depth: The book encourages introspection about personal and societal responsibilities.

These elements combine to make Night Watch not just a fantasy novel but a mirror to real-world issues, inspiring readers to consider their roles within society.

Reception and Critical Acclaim

Night Watch has received widespread acclaim from critics and fans alike. It is often cited as one of the best Discworld novels for its compelling storytelling and meaningful themes. Fans appreciate its blend of humor, action, and philosophical insight.

Many reviewers have praised Pratchett's skill in weaving timeless social commentary into a humorous fantasy narrative, making complex issues approachable and entertaining.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Night Watch by Terry Pratchett

Night Watch Book Terry Pratchett encapsulates the essence of Pratchett's genius—combining humor, social critique, and compelling storytelling. It challenges readers to reflect on justice, leadership, and societal progress while entertaining with its vibrant characters and imaginative setting.

As part of the larger Discworld universe, it continues to inspire new generations of readers, emphasizing the importance of standing up against injustice and understanding history's lessons. Whether you are a seasoned Discworld fan or new to Pratchett's work, *Night Watch* offers a profound and delightful journey into a universe where humor and wisdom collide.

Explore More About Night Watch and Terry Pratchett

- Read the novel to experience Vimes' incredible journey firsthand.
- Discover the other books in the Discworld series to see how *Night Watch* fits into the larger narrative.
- Engage with fan communities for discussions, interpretations, and insights.
- Explore adaptations, audiobooks, and related media to enjoy the story in different formats.

Embrace the wit, wisdom, and wonder of Terry Pratchett's *Night Watch*, a masterpiece that continues to resonate with readers seeking both entertainment and enlightenment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Night Watch' by Terry Pratchett?

The novel explores themes of justice, duty, change, and the nature of leadership through the story of Sam Vimes and his role in the Ankh-Morpork city watch during a revolutionary period.

How does 'Night Watch' fit into the Discworld series?

'Night Watch' is the 29th novel in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, and it is part of the City Watch sub-series, focusing on the police force and crime in Ankh-Morpork.

What time periods does 'Night Watch' involve?

The story shifts between the present-day Discworld and a flashback to the 20th century, involving time travel elements that connect Sam Vimes's current role to his past self.

Who are the main characters in 'Night Watch'?

The primary characters include Sam Vimes, Carrot Ironfoundersson, Detritus, Angua, and other

members of the City Watch, along with historical figures from the past.

What is the significance of the time travel element in 'Night Watch'?

Time travel allows Vimes to revisit his own past, providing insight into his development as a leader and exploring how history and personal choices shape the present.

Are there any notable quotes from 'Night Watch'?

Yes, one of the most famous quotes is: 'The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.'

How does 'Night Watch' address social and political issues?

The novel comments on revolution, corruption, and social justice, portraying how societal change can be both necessary and complex, with satire on authoritarianism and reform.

Is 'Night Watch' suitable for new readers of Terry Pratchett's works?

While it can be enjoyed as a standalone, it's best appreciated after reading earlier Discworld novels, especially those involving the City Watch, to fully understand the characters and context.

What awards or recognitions has 'Night Watch' received?

Though Terry Pratchett's works are highly acclaimed, 'Night Watch' specifically is praised by fans and critics for its depth, wit, and exploration of serious themes, contributing to Pratchett's reputation as a master storyteller.

Additional Resources

Night Watch by Terry Pratchett: A Deep Dive into the Masterpiece of Discworld

Introduction: A Landmark in the Discworld Series

Terry Pratchett's *Night Watch* stands out as one of the most compelling and thought-provoking entries in the expansive Discworld series. Published in 2002, this novel seamlessly blends humor, fantasy, social commentary, and intricate character development, epitomizing Pratchett's unique storytelling style. The book is set primarily in Ankh-Morpork's gritty, tumultuous past and offers readers a profound exploration of themes like justice, duty, revolution, and the nature of time and history.

This review seeks to dissect the many layers of Night Watch, examining its plot intricacies, characters, themes, and its significance within the broader Discworld universe.

Plot Overview and Setting

The Historical Context of Ankh-Morpork

One of the most compelling aspects of Night Watch is its dual setting: the present-day Ankh-Morpork and its tumultuous past. The story transports readers to the late 20th-century city and then plunges into the early 19th century, offering a vivid portrayal of the city's evolution. This duality allows Pratchett to explore how history shapes society and how the echoes of the past influence the present.

The Central Conflict

The narrative revolves around Commander Samuel Vimes, the steadfast leader of the City Watch. Vimes finds himself unexpectedly transported back in time to the early 1800s—a period marked by political unrest, social upheaval, and burgeoning revolutionary sentiments. His mission is to prevent a disastrous riot that could tip the city into chaos.

The core conflict involves Vimes navigating the dangerous political landscape of his own city's history, trying to uphold justice and order against the backdrop of revolutionary fervor. Meanwhile, his modern sensibilities clash with the brutal realities of the past, raising questions about morality, justice, and the nature of leadership.

Characters and Character Development

Samuel Vimes

Vimes remains the heart of the novel. His evolution from a hardened, somewhat cynical policeman to a leader who understands the nuances of justice is masterfully portrayed. His interactions with his past self and the revolutionary figures force him to confront his own beliefs about authority, duty, and morality.

Key traits include:

- Strong sense of justice

- Deep loyalty to his friends and colleagues
- A growing understanding of the complexities of societal change

Carrot Ironfoundersson

The ever-optimistic and idealistic Carrot plays a crucial role, providing moral clarity and unwavering support to Vimes. His innocence and straightforwardness serve as a foil to Vimes' more pragmatic approach.

The Revolutionary Figures

Pratchett introduces a range of historical characters, some fictionalized, who embody the revolutionary spirit. Their motivations, passions, and flaws add depth to the narrative, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of social upheaval.

The Supporting Cast

Other notable characters include:

- Lady Sybil Vimes: Continuing her role as a pillar of strength.
- The City Watch members: Detritus, Angua, Detritus, and others, each with their unique quirks.
- The villains and antagonists, whose motives range from political ambition to personal vendettas.

Thematic Depth and Symbolism

Justice and Morality

At its core, *Night Watch* examines what justice truly means. Vimes' journey questions whether justice is served through strict adherence to rules or through understanding the context of individual cases. The novel challenges readers to consider morality beyond black-and-white dichotomies.

Revolution and Change

Pratchett explores the tumult of revolutionary movements—how they arise, the chaos they bring, and their potential for positive transformation. The novel suggests that revolutions are complex, often fueled by genuine grievances but marred by violence and misunderstanding.

Time, History, and Memory

The novel's time travel element prompts reflection on how history is remembered and its influence on identity. Vimes' encounter with the city's past emphasizes that history is not fixed; it's a living, breathing entity that shapes the present.

Leadership and Responsibility

Vimes' leadership is put to the test in both his current and past contexts. The novel underscores that true leadership involves empathy, moral courage, and a willingness to make difficult decisions.

Humor as a Tool for Reflection

While the novel tackles serious themes, Pratchett's signature humor pervades the narrative. This humor serves to make complex ideas accessible and to highlight the absurdities inherent in societal structures and human nature.

Writing Style and Narrative Structure

Pratchett's Signature Voice

Pratchett's writing combines wit, satire, and lyricism. His ability to infuse humor into profound philosophical questions is unparalleled. The narrative voice is engaging, often breaking the fourth wall, and filled with clever asides that enrich the story.

Dual Narrative and Time Travel

The novel employs a dual narrative structure, shifting between Vimes' present-day perspective and his experiences in the past. This approach deepens the reader's understanding of character motivations and thematic resonance.

Use of Humor and Satire

Pratchett employs satire to critique social institutions, politics, and human folly. His humorous descriptions and character dialogues serve as a lens through which serious issues are examined without overwhelming the reader.

Language and Accessibility

The language is accessible yet layered with wit and subtle references. Pratchett's mastery ensures that both casual readers and those familiar with the series can appreciate the depth.

Themes and Messages

The Nature of Power and Authority

Night Watch explores how power is wielded and maintained. Vimes' encounters with corrupt officials and revolutionary leaders highlight the corrupting influence of authority but also the potential for genuine leadership rooted in integrity.

Social Justice and Equality

The novel critiques social inequalities and the systemic injustices faced by marginalized groups. It underscores that societal change requires both moral conviction and collective effort.

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery

Vimes' journey is also one of self-awareness. His experiences force him to reevaluate his beliefs and understand that justice is often more complex than it appears.

Historical Determinism vs. Agency

The book raises questions about how much history dictates individual actions versus personal agency, emphasizing that awareness of history can empower change.

Critical Reception and Impact

Night Watch has been widely praised for its complexity, depth, and humor. It's often regarded as one of the best Discworld novels, especially for its mature themes and character development. Fans appreciate how Pratchett manages to balance satire with serious social critique, making the novel both entertaining and thought-provoking.

Academics have highlighted *Night Watch* for its exploration of social and political themes, viewing it as a subtle critique of authority and revolution. The novel's portrayal of Vimes as a moral compass resonates with readers who admire integrity and resilience.

Conclusion: Why Night Watch Matters

Terry Pratchett's *Night Watch* is more than just a fantasy novel; it's a meditation on society, justice, and the human condition. Its rich tapestry of characters, layered themes, and masterful storytelling make it a standout in the Discworld series and in modern fantasy literature.

Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer, *Night Watch* offers valuable insights wrapped in humor and adventure. It challenges readers to think critically about the world around them while providing an engaging and memorable reading experience.

For those seeking a book that combines wit, wisdom, and a touch of revolution, *Night Watch* is an essential read—a testament to Terry Pratchett's genius and his enduring legacy in the realm of speculative fiction.

[Night Watch Book Terry Pratchett](#)

night watch book terry pratchett: Night Watch Terry Pratchett, 2014-02-14 A new stage adaptation of one of Pratchett's best-selling novels Set in Ankh-Morpork one of the most thoroughly imagined cities in fantasy, *Night Watch* is the story of Sam Vimes, running hero of the Guards sequence, who finds himself cast back in time to the Ankh-Morpork of his youth. With a psychopath from his own time rising in the vile ranks of the Cable Street Unmentionables complicating things, Vimes has to ensure that history takes its course so that he will have the right future to go back to, and to keep his younger self alive. One of the funniest English authors alive (Independent)

night watch book terry pratchett: Night Watch Terry Pratchett, 2009-12-01 'DON'T PUT YOUR TRUST IN REVOLUTIONS. THEY ALWAYS COME ROUND AGAIN. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED REVOLUTIONS. PEOPLE DIE, AND NOTHING CHANGES.' The twenty-fifth of May is an important, sombre day in Ankh-Morpork - the anniversary of one of the city's bloodiest rebellions. But crime stops for nothing, as Commander Sam Vimes of the City Watch knows. When a notorious serial killer emerges from hiding, the chase leads the Watch to the roofs of Unseen University where a magical storm is brewing. It's a case of wrong place, very wrong time. For Vimes finds himself back in his own rough, tough past with only a killer for company and a city on the brink of revolution to contend with. But he must survive, because he has a job to do: track down the murderer and change the outcome of the rebellion. And get back to the future before his wife gives birth, of course. All in a day's work ... 'The best Discworld book in the whole world ever. Until next time.' SFX *Night Watch* is the sixth book in the City Watch series, but you can read the Discworld novels in any order.

night watch book terry pratchett: Night Watch Terry Pratchett, 2017-11-28 Sixth book of the original and best CITY WATCH series, now reinterpreted in BBC's *The Watch* 'The best Discworld book in the whole world ever. Until next time.' SFX The Discworld is very much like our own - if our own were to consist of a flat planet balanced on the back of four elephants which stand

on the back of a giant turtle, that is . . . 'Don't put your trust in revolutions. They always come round again. That's why they're called revolutions. People die, and nothing changes.' For a policeman, there can be few things worse than a serial killer loose in your city. Except, perhaps, a serial killer who targets coppers, and a city on the brink of bloody revolution. For Commander Sam Vimes, it all feels horribly familiar. Caught on the roof of a very magical building during a storm, he's found himself back in his own rough, tough past without even the clothes he was standing up in when the lightning struck. Living in the past is hard, especially when your time travel companion is a serial killer who knows where you live. But he must survive, because he has a job to do: track down the murderer and change the outcome of the rebellion. The problem is: if he wins, he's got no wife, no child, no future...

night watch book terry pratchett: Night Watch Terry Pratchett, 2004-10-28 Commander Sam Vimes must travel to the past to track down a murderer, teach his young self to be a copper, and change the outcome of a bloody rebellion.

night watch book terry pratchett: Summary of Rob Wilkins's Terry Pratchett Everest Media,, 2022-10-22T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 As a child, Terry Lakin saw the world as a place of demons and angels. As an adult, he sees the demons and angels in the world around him, and tells the stories of them. #2 Terry Lakin, author, grew up in a small town in Buckinghamshire, England. His home had no running water or flushing toilet, but did have a village shop, a pub, and a sweet shop. #3 Terry Lakin, author, grew up in a small town in Buckinghamshire, England. His home had no running water or flushing toilet, but did have a village shop, a pub, and a sweet shop. #4 Terry Lakin, author, grew up in a small town in Buckinghamshire, England. His home had no running water or flushing toilet, but did have a village shop, a pub, and a sweet shop. His father was a genius with a busted car, and could bring a nearly scrapped car back to life.

night watch book terry pratchett: Power and Society in Terry Pratchett's Discworld Justine Breton, 2025-04-24 A critical deep-drive into conceptions of power and society in Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels, this book brings together experts in fantasy literature, political sciences, economics, philosophy, history, and journalism to consider the intricate social tapestry of one of the most intricate worlds in modern fantasy. Surveying the Discworld's institutionalised power structures from government and police to civil services, banks and societies, it explores ideas such as language, translation, humour, crowds, community, justice and coercion in the series' major works. Featuring analyses of novels such as Men at Arms, Equal Rites, Carpe Jugulum, Guards! Guards!, Jingo, Night Watch, Wyrd Sisters, Witches Abroad and many more, this collection illuminates how Pratchett juxtaposed his narratives with contemporary reflections on social constructs. Broken down into parts looking at social power dynamics, building and destroying worlds and the power of language, the book offers a much-needed corrective to the dearth of scholarship on one of fantasy literature's worldbuilding titans.

night watch book terry pratchett: Terry Pratchett: A Life With Footnotes Rob Wilkins, 2022-09-29 A deeply moving and personal portrait of the extraordinary life of Sir Terry Pratchett, written with unparalleled insight and filled with funny anecdotes, this is the only official biography of one of our finest authors. WINNER OF THE 2023 LOCUS AWARD FOR NON-FICTION WINNER OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR BEST NON-FICTION FINALIST FOR THE HUGO AWARD FOR BEST RELATED WORK SHORTLISTED FOR THE BRITISH FANTASY AWARD FOR BEST NON-FICTION 'Sometimes joyfully, sometimes painfully, intimate . . . it is wonderful to have this closeup picture of the writer's working life.' - Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Observer ----- At the time of his death in 2015, award-winning and bestselling author Sir Terry Pratchett was working on his finest story yet - his own. The creator of the phenomenally bestselling Discworld series, Terry Pratchett was known and loved around the world for his hugely popular books, his smart satirical humour and the humanity of his campaign work. But that's only part of the picture. Before his untimely death, Terry was writing a memoir: the story of a boy who aged six was told by his teacher that he would never amount to anything and spent the rest of his life proving him wrong.

For Terry lived a life full of astonishing achievements: becoming one of the UK's bestselling and most beloved writers, winning the prestigious Carnegie Medal and being awarded a knighthood. Now, the book Terry sadly couldn't finish has been written by Rob Wilkins, his former assistant, friend and now head of the Pratchett literary estate. Drawing on his own extensive memories, along with those of the author's family, friends and colleagues, Rob unveils the full picture of Terry's life - from childhood to his astonishing writing career, and how he met and coped with what he called the 'Embuggerance' of Alzheimer's disease. ----- Praise for Rob Wilkins: 'Spins magic from mundanity in precisely the way Pratchett himself did.' - Telegraph 'As frank, funny and unsentimental as anything its subject might have produced himself.' - Mail on Sunday 'No one, after Pratchett's wife, Lyn, and daughter, Rhianna, knew the author as well as Wilkins. I wept through the last 20 pages - beautifully done - charting Pratchett's decline in a way that is both sensitive and unsparing' The Times 'Always readable, illuminating and honest. It made me miss the real Terry' Neil Gaiman 'A wonderful and inspirational story ... Writers and readers alike will be enchanted and inspired by Pratchett's life' Reader review, ***** 'Absolutely wonderful ... engaging, moving, and at times (many times) laugh-out-loud funny' Reader review, ***** 'This stirring and unflinching portrait is painted with caring fondness and loving compassion' Reader review, *****

night watch book terry pratchett: The Magic of Terry Pratchett Marc Burrows, 2020-07-30 An in-depth look into the life and writings of the bestselling author of the Discworld novels, Good Omens, and Nation. The Magic of Terry Pratchett is the first full biography of Sir Terry Pratchett ever written. Sir Terry was Britain's bestselling living author*, and before his death in 2015 had sold more than 85 million copies of his books worldwide. Best known for the Discworld series, his work has been translated into thirty-seven languages, and performed as plays on every continent in the world, including Antarctica. Journalist, comedian and Pratchett fan Marc Burrows delves into the back story of one of UK's most enduring and beloved authors, from his childhood in the Chiltern Hills, to his time as a journalist, and the journey that would take him—via more than sixty best-selling books—to an OBE, a knighthood and national treasure status. The Magic Of Terry Pratchett is the result of painstaking archival research alongside interviews with friends and contemporaries who knew the real man under the famous black hat, helping to piece together the full story of one of British literature's most remarkable and beloved figures for the very first time. * Now disqualified on both counts. Praise for The Magic of Terry Pratchett In this encompassing biography of the prolific fantasy and science-fiction author, writer and comedian Burrows details both the writing accomplishments and the personal life of Sir Terry Pratchett. . . . Burrows spoke to friends and family, and this biography has moments of sadness, especially when discussing Pratchett's fight with Alzheimer's. But the book is also funny and conversational in tone, and an excellent tribute to a beloved author." —Booklist "Affable and consistently engaging . . . Burrow's buoyant, pun-peppered, and aptly footnote-flecked style . . . helpfully marries his subject matter, propelling us through decade after decade of a heavily writing-centric life while illuminating Pratchett's complexities and contradictions without any drag in the tempo." —Locus Magazine "An impressively comprehensive, engagingly written biography. *****"—SFX

night watch book terry pratchett: Terry Pratchett Could Save the World Rebecca Ann Bach, 2023-05-22 This monograph contends that attending to Pratchett's work could help to save our world. It draws attention to the astonishing capacity of Pratchett's novels to inspire and argues that Pratchett's fantasy novels directly address many of the most significant challenges people in the world face: the explosion of weapons technology; the myriad issues involved in the envelopment of human life by corporatized information technology; the destructive human inattention to, and interactions with, the Earth and its life forms; and the problem of devalued labor. Paradoxically, it is Pratchett's choice of fantasy that lets him address the reality of major issues that humanity and the rest of life confront now. Pratchett's novels show us how to better understand and confront the problems the world is contending with. The book will interest both scholars and fans.

night watch book terry pratchett: Terry Pratchett Craig Cabell, 2012-06-04 The extraordinary life story of one of the most beloved writers in the world, including his courageous battle with

Alzheimers With worldwide sales of more than 65 million copies in 37 languages, Terry Pratchett's novels are eagerly awaited by his legions of fans year after year. Featuring an in-depth look at the man and his work, as well as on-screen adaptations and a collector's guide, this is essential reading for any fan. His first Discworld novel, *The Colour of Magic*, was released in 1983 and ever since then the series, with its whimsical heroes and fiendish foes, has delighted both young and old alike. In 2007 Pratchett announced that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He has courageously faced the disease head-on, equaling the determination of his characters in his vivid and satirical novels. This book examines his extraordinary life, showcased against the backdrop of more than 40 years of irreverent artistic achievements. For devoted fans it features appendices of more than 60 pages listing Pratchett's works on screen and at the theatre, a complete UK bibliography and collector's guide, and a note about cats.

night watch book terry pratchett: *Maskerade* Terry Pratchett, 2009-10-13 A master storyteller. — A. S. Byatt The nineteenth installment in Sir Terry Pratchett's beloved Discworld series — which has sold more than 23 million copies worldwide. There's a kind of magic in masks. Masks conceal one face, but they reveal another. The one that only comes out in darkness . . . The Ghost in the bone-white mask who haunts the Ankh-Morpork Opera House was always considered a benign presence—some would even say lucky—until he started killing people. The sudden rash of bizarre backstage deaths now threatens to mar the operatic debut of country girl Perdita X. (nee Agnes) Nitt, she of the ample body and ampler voice. Perdita's expected to hide in the chorus and sing arias out loud while a more pettily presentable soprano mouths the notes. But at least it's an escape from scheming Nanny Ogg and old Granny Weatherwax back home, who want her to join their witchy ranks. Once Granny sets her mind on something, however, it's difficult—and often hazardous—to dissuade her. And no opera-prowling phantom fiend is going to keep a pair of determined hags down on the farm after they've seen Ankh-Morpork. The Discworld novels can be read in any order but *Maskerade* is the fifth book in the *Witches* series.

night watch book terry pratchett: *Jingo* Terry Pratchett, 2009-10-13 "Pratchett's writing is a constant delight. No one mixes the fantastical and the mundane to better comic effect or offers sharper insights into the absurdities of human endeavor." —Daily Mail Commander Sam Vimes, the Ankh-Morpork City Watch, and their compatriots must fight for their country (or something like that) when Discworld goes to war in this wickedly funny Discworld novel from New York Times bestselling author Terry Pratchett. No one would dream of starting a war without a perfectly good reason . . . such as a "strategic" piece of old rock in the middle of nowhere known as Leshp. It isn't much of an island that rises up one moonless night from the depths of the Circle Sea—just a few square miles of silt and some old ruins. Unfortunately, this historically disputed lump of earth is once again floating directly between two proud lands, Ankh-Morpork and the city of Al-Khali on the coast of Klatch. And that's enough to ignite the inglorious international pastime known as "war." It is, after all, every citizen's right to bear arms to defend their own. Even if it isn't technically their own. And even if they don't have much in the way of actual weaponry. Pressed into patriotic service, Commander Sam Vimes thinks he should be leading his loyal watchmen, female watchdwarf, and lady werewolf into battle against local malefactors rather than against Klatchians. But war is, after all, simply the greatest of all crimes—and it's Sir Samuel's sworn duty to seek out criminal masterminds wherever they may be hiding . . . and lock them away. As two armies march, Vimes faces unpleasant foes who are out to get him . . . and that's just the people on his side. The enemy might be even worse. The Discworld novels can be read in any order but *Jingo* is the 4th book in the *City Watch* collection and the 21st Discworld book. The *City Watch* series in order: *Guards! Guards!* *Men at Arms* *Feet of Clay* *Jingo* *The Fifth Elephant* *Night Watch* *Thud!* *Snuff*

night watch book terry pratchett: *Discworld and the Disciplines* Anne Hiebert Alton, William C. Spruiell, Donald E. Palumbo, 2014-04-22 This collection of new essays applies a wide range of critical frameworks to the analysis of prolific fantasy author Terry Pratchett's Discworld books. Essays focus on topics such as Pratchett's treatment of noise and silence and their political implications; art as an anodyne for racial conflict; humor and cognitive debugging; visual semiotics;

linguistic stylistics and readers' perspectives of word choice; and Derrida and the monstrous Regiment of Women. The volume also includes an annotated bibliography of critical sources. The essays provide fresh perspectives on Pratchett's work, which has stealthily redefined both fantasy and humor for modern audiences.

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