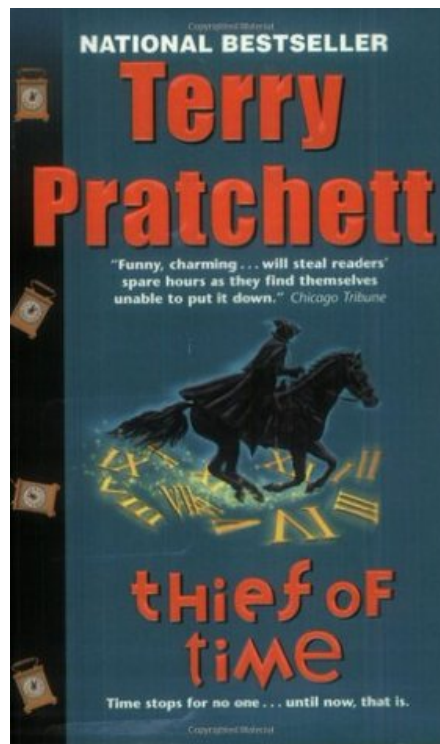




Thief of Time

Terry Pratchett

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Thief of Time

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Time is a resource. Everyone knows it has to be managed.

And on Discworld that is the job of the Monks of History, who store it and pump it from the places where it's wasted (like underwater -- how much time does a codfish need?) to places like cities, where there's never enough time.

But the construction of the world's first truly accurate clock starts a race against, well, time, for Lu Tze and his apprentice Lobsang Ludd. Because it will stop time. And that will only be the start of everyone's problems.

Thief of Time comes complete with a full supporting cast of heroes and villains, yetis, martial artists and Ronnie, the fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse (who left before they became famous).

Thief of Time Details

Date : Published 2008 by HarperTorch (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780061031328

Author : Terry Pratchett

Format : Paperback 378 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Humor

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From Reader Review Thief of Time for online ebook

YouKneeK says

Thief of Time is the fifth and final(!) book in the *Death* subseries of *Discworld*. I've always been a little iffy on this subseries, but I think this was my favorite of the five books. The general story is that an Auditor has commissioned a clockmaker, Jeremy, to make a special clock. What the Auditor doesn't tell Jeremy is that this clock will supposedly have the power to stop time, bringing an end, or at least a permanent pause, to the Discworld.

Death didn't actually get that much page time in this book. Maybe that's partly why I enjoyed it. I like Death in small doses, when he's being funny or clever or profound, but he starts to grate on my nerves in larger doses. This was especially true in the first three books where he essentially shirked his responsibilities and let other people take up the slack for him. Meanwhile, he went off and had what would be considered a mid-life crisis if he were a human. Happily, Death has seemed better-grounded in these last two books, so I've started enjoying his character more.

In this book, we finally get a chance to learn more about the Auditors. Unsurprisingly, Susan shows up again. I enjoyed most of her sections, especially the ones at the beginning. I also really liked the characters of Lu-Tze and Lobsang who take up a large portion of the story. They're mostly just your stereotypical well-respected and mysterious monk with his exceptionally clever but impatient apprentice, at least at first, but they were fun characters. The master/apprentice portrayal is a common plot device in fantasy, but it's one that I tend to enjoy.

I expected this book to earn 4 stars up until maybe the last 25% or so, at which point I started to lose interest in the story. Somehow the climatic events were the most boring parts to me, I think because it went too far into "random chaos" territory at times. In the end, I decided on a rating of 3.5 stars, rounded up to 4 on Goodreads.

Kaethe says

3/26/2004

6/27/2014

I don't know why I didn't review this one before. Death is featured, but once again, more play is given to granddaughter Susan, who, in the ongoing move to Discworld modernity, is now an elementary school teacher. There is an impending apocalypse caused by the Auditors again. We also get a few new characters: one a very talented clockmaker, another a novice under Lo Tze the time monk. Marvelous fun along the way as Pratchett explores what time means to humans. Such fun. There's a yeti.

I should note that reading the Death novels in order has really made me love them. At the moment Susan is my favorite character, although that could change as I read the other sequences.

7/20/2016

Veronica could not be swayed by my suggestion that she read Pratchett, but a reputable someone at Summer Ventures recommended one. Now she believes.

Library copy.

Matt says

The rules of the universe are once again being bent to endanger life, but this time it is really Time itself that is being used as the weapon of choice. The 26th installment of Terry Pratchett's Discworld series finds many characters quite literally being a *Thief of Time* from certain points of view, yet only one can truly change history.

The Auditors of Reality attempt once again to organize the universe by getting rid of life by literally stopping everything by having a clockmaker construct the perfect clock. Unfortunately for the Auditors, Death catches wind of their scheming and once again enlists his granddaughter Susan to track down someone who might be able to correct their actions. Meanwhile the Monks of Time catch wind of the construction of the perfect clock as warning sign pop up like they did the first time such a clock was constructed. While Death and Susan take their own paths towards battling the Auditors, the famous Lu-Tse and his apprentice race to stop the clockmaker. And while these heroes race to save Time, the Auditors of Reality begin to learn about what it means to be human and that sudden immersion probably wasn't the best way to do so.

Thief of Time follows a new pattern by Pratchett in which he focused more on plot and story structure, instead of jokes that string along the story. In fact while there is humor in this book it isn't paramount to anything connected with the plot, it's just that some funny things happen along the way towards the climax. This isn't to say that the book isn't good, in fact it continues Pratchett's string of great work but the early sophomoric humor or plain repetitiveness of some jokes are thing of the past in the series. However while the events in this book clear up various timeline anomalies created earlier in the series, it also marks the ending of the Death subseries (though he continues to make appearances) and the last appearance of Susan Sto Helit which for their fans is a major disappointment as the series would continue for 15 more books.

Yet while *Thief of Time* does turns out to represent the last appearance for some fan favorites, it continues Pratchett's string of great installments of the Discworld series. For anyone who is a fan of Pratchett you'll love this book and if you're new to the Discworld after reading this book you'll be interested about his earlier installments.

Marita Arvaniti says

This might just be the best pratchett book ever im calling it

Claudiu says

It's been perhaps a whole year since I've last read Terry Pratchett. After 20-something books, you need to take a short rest from a certain universe, if you want to get anything done with your reading schedule. It's easy to fall into the Discworld series and never surface again, especially as at this later part of the series there seems to exist a creative high that permeates every page and every line.

I've come to a point in reading this series in which it's hard to call favorites. I can call out the stinkers easy enough (Sourcery, Equal Rites, Soul Music, Reaper Man) but favorites are hard. This particular novel, however, comes pretty close to the very best of the series and I say that with full conviction.

You can find within all that you hold dear about Pratchett: his very self-assured characters, the continuous evolution of the Discworld - whoever doesn't read this chronologically is in possession of an ill-mind -, bits and observations on the nature of us, and the Death of Rats which remains my most cherished of all of Terry Pratchett's creations.

I loath to retell the events of a book because it seems like I may cheat someone out of enjoying it themselves, so I can only say that this is one of the most convoluted, and at the same time simplest, stories this author has yet to write up to this point. The nature of Discworld time becomes apparent and we are treated to a story that features some new elements of this ever surprising world, and some old, woven in there for good measurement.

One can always speak volumes about a bad book but it's hard to say why a book is good. This one is good for a plethora of reasons, from Death's continuous evolution as a character, to the new insights into the Discworld mythology, to the great pacing and the strong morals within. It's a novel that you can enjoy on any level, with or without any serious strain on the old noggin.

Carla Estruch says

La historia de amor más bonita jamás contada. Literalmente.

Reseña en Fábulas estelares.

Sara J. (kefuwa) says

What I thoroughly enjoyed:

1. Death
2. Susan
3. Scenes with the other Horsemen of Apoc
4. Chocolates
5. The last third or quarter of the book

My favourite bits are Susan as kindergarten teacher, any exchange among any of the Horsemen (hilarious) and the bits with chocolate. HAHA.

The above more than made up for the meandering first half-ish part of the book. And I couldn't (in the beginning) care less about the monks or Lu Tze until at least half way past the book (did a fair bit of dragging my eyes across the page :p).

Lyn says

Kwai Chang Caine and Master Kan sit meditating, sipping tea and discussing Terry Pratchett's 2001 Discworld novel Thief of Time.

Master Kan: Please tell me, young Caine, what was your favorite part of Sir Pratchett's book.

Caine: I liked it all, master, but I suppose I most liked the character Lobsang Ludd.

Master Kan: Why is that grasshopper?

Caine: Master, he was an apprentice to the great Lu-Tze, who was only a sweeper, and yet he was so much more, he traded his deserved greatness for a lowly position amongst the History Monks.

Master Kan: And why, young student, does this interest you?

Caine: His humility and cleverness stood in contrast to his Lobsang's talents. Lobsang was much more than he appeared as well.

Master Kan: Indeed, young one. And what of the recurring Discworld character of Death, what did you think of Pratchett's portrayal of death in this his 26th novel of the series?

Caine: He is a wise and powerful anthropomorphic personification of Death. He is also one of the four horsemen of the apocalypse – and Sir Terry introduced us to a fifth horseman!

Master Kan: Indeed he did. Did this presentation give you enjoyment?

Caine: Oh yes, master, I smiled frequently throughout my reading and laughed out loud several times.

Master Kan: Time, this is a major element of the book as well. Tell me, young Caine, how did you like this aspect of Pratchett's work.

Caine: I liked it, master. It was not as confusing as many time travel books, and it was not really like a time travel book, but more about time itself and how time affects the Discworld.

Master Kan: Well said young one, and what of Susan, Death's granddaughter?

Caine: Yes, master, she was in the book as well, and I think that I would like to read more Discworld books featuring her, she is a remarkable person.

Master Kan: We know that where there is no contention, there is neither defeat nor victory. The supple willow does not contend against the storm, yet it survives

Caine: Um ... master, I do not understand how this saying is connected with a discussion of Thief of Time or of Susan.

Master Kan: Master Kan: In one lifetime a man knows many pleasures: a mother's smile in waking hours, a young woman's intimate, searing touch, and the laughter of grandchildren in the twilight years. To deny these in ourselves is to deny that which makes us one with nature.

Caine: Oooo Kay. I'm just going to go find Master Po.

Master Kan: By knowing that when we truly love it is never lost. It is only after death that the depth of the bond is truly felt and our loved one becomes more a part of us than was possible in life.

Caine: Master Po! Master Kan is stuck again!

Tim says

What to say, except that Mr. Pratchett took on an original subject for a story: time and building the ultimate clock, one that couldn't be more precise. But the downside is that once it's activated, it stops time. This has to be avoided at all costs, even if it means playing with different times / events / eras / ...

As is custom, there must also be humour, although on a whole I found a little less dominant compared to previous Discworld novels I've read, not in the least Reaper Man, for example, or Hogfather.

The cast is quite varied, with the four, eh, five Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Auditors who learn to become human and what it takes to be "human", Nanny Ogg (one of the witches in the series), some Chinese philosopher (well, he's formally a sweeper, which is an undercover activity), a yeti, Death, Death's granddaughter Susan, and several more. This also makes the focus shift from one or more character(s) to the next one(s), each getting a few pages, after which several characters end up together in the same time-frame.

There's a lot of philosophical and some psychological influence throughout the story, I'd say several pinches more than the ones I've read so far. Add a common time-related expression now and then, and the picture's complete. This then also made me think of Terry Pratchett not as a storyteller, but a philosopher who uses stories (and humour) to convey his thoughts on man, the world, life, and so on. It's a two-ways kind of approach, the Discworld novels.

Did I mention the ending? Totally unexpected, but come to think of it, quite a nice twist. :-)

'Thief of Time' requires a bit more thinking, although you can read for entertainment purposes, too. Regardless of this, it's another recommended read when you want to spend some time (;-) on Discworld.

Tfitoby says

In many ways Thief of Time is the definitive work of the later Disc period, here is a book that blends pop culture, philosophy and the observation of society with humour, both dark and silly, to hold a mirror up to human behaviour, explaining why we do the things we do, pointing out how things can be done better and there's a stream of genuine goodness to counteract the inherent selfishness of the species that seems to provide cause for hope, at least in the mind of Pratchett, in the face of the dark things that seem to occur on repeat - war, intolerance, greed etc.

The mythical sweeper of time that has appeared in smaller roles in other Discworld novels gets his own story, one about how he is able to control The Matrix, to manipulate time to ensure the right events take place in the right moment. Naturally it is the dreaded Auditors and their OCD rational minds trying to destroy the mess of inexplicable decisions that is humanity that have set in motion the chain of events that will cause Time to stop, and Everything to cease to exist. They insert themselves in to human bodies and much like Agent Smith come to appreciate what it means to be an individual. Susan Death is called in to action once more by her Grandfather and the Death of Rats (plus Quoth the Raven) to put her selfish desire to be a normal school teacher aside and save the world once more, all of this combining to weave the kind of story he only wishes he could have told via the power of music in Soul Music.

It is funny, but not silly, there's a certain preoccupation with death, getting old, posterity and never having

enough time that is probably far more obvious when you read with the awareness that the author was probably already coming to terms with his mortality whilst creating this work. And it's still an enjoyable read, peopled with interesting, if slight, characters finding plot happening to them whether they like it or not.

Novac says

This was my first exposure to the work of Terry Pratchett. As a long-time Douglas Adams fan, I had heard Pratchett's name many times, but never took the time to actually read one of his books. I grabbed this one because the plot sounded interesting, and when I read the jacket at home, I noticed it was part of the "Discworld" series. Curious about how to properly start the series, a lump formed in my throat as I discovered that there are thirty-two Discworld novels, and that's not counting four young adult novels, several graphic novels, multiple short stories, and a few science novels! In fact, there's even a flowchart displaying the proper reading order for eight different sub-plots within the Discworld series! Though this book is near the end of a reading order, I noticed that it was only "loosely" connected to the other books, so I went ahead and started reading. I could tell that I'd be reading more Pratchett (and more Discworld) books in the future shortly after I started. The Discworld is a mythology very similar to what you find in Lord of the Rings and Chronicles of Narnia, but much more irreverent. A very fun read — so much so that I decided to start at the beginning of this sub-plot reading order ("Death Novels") and read more Pratchett.

Magrat Ajostiernos says

Desgraciadamente me aburrió HORRORES todo el tema de los monjes y la historia de Lu-Tze, que ocupa buena parte de la novela, pero es que todo lo demás me encantó. Especialmente los divertidísimos Auditores, la siempre genial Susan y su inimitable abuelo, y por supuesto la aparición estelar de una de mis brujas preferidas.

Así que no sé muy bien que pensar de este libro, cosas muy guays y otras no tanto.

Carolyn says

This is my first time reading this particular volume of Discworld. As usual it was a fun romp with some old friends and some inventive new characters and an innovative plot. However, I don't think it's going to be one of my favourites (there are so many to choose from) as it didn't seem as cohesive (if that is a world you can apply to a Discworld novel) as others in the series. It may not have helped that I read this slowly as my bedtime read. Maybe a re-read would help :)

Having said that, there is much to love in the quirky humour and the characters:

- * The History Monks who manage Time and keep it all in balance
- * Lobsang Ludd, the thief of time who is sent to the Monks when the Thieves Guild can't control him
- * Lu Tze, a humble sweeper who takes on Lobsang as his apprentice
- * Jeremy who is building a very special glass clock
- * Lady LeJean, an auditor in human form
- * Susan, grand-daughter of DEATH, who is always fantastic
- * DEATH himself of course, life is never dull when he makes an appearance on his horse Binky
- * The FIVE horsemen of the Apocalypse - DEATH, War, Famine, Pestilence and Ronnie
- * Mrs War, who has domesticated War

- * Igor - don't you just love an Igor?
 - * Chocolate used as a weapon of mass destruction
-

David Sarkies says

Tempus Fugit

15 November 2017

It's funny because I was planning on making this the last of the Pratchett books that I would read only to discover that I really enjoyed it, which means that I might consider reading a few more just to continue to add them to the list of books that I have read. Okay, maybe I am going to be a little disappointed when I get the the next couple of books, but a part of me does want to read Going Postal because, well, a book with the title 'Going Postal' does grab my attention (though I suspect it doesn't have anything to do with somebody actually 'going postal'.

Anyway, as you can probably guess from the title, this book is a story about time, and when you deal with time then things have the potential of really getting messed up. Honestly, for a dimension (if that is a proper term to use considering my Dad who happens to have studied Physics at university insists that time is not a dimension, and even goes against the physics community by maintaining that there are only three dimensions because otherwise the entire universe would collapse) in which we seem to be trapped in heading in one direction there are a lot of theories as to how it works. Anyway, I guess it is a dream of humanity to be able to travel in time one day and prove that Grandfather paradox to be wrong (or maybe correct resulting in the experimental physicist promptly vanishing in a puff of logic).

Anyway, like most Discworld novels, something bad is about to go down, and while Death knows about it, because he is Death he can't intervene, so he drafts his grand-daughter Susan to solve the problem. In another part of the Disc we have the history Monks, which are basically like Tibetan Monks, but they worship time and what not, and a non-descript individual known as the sweeper is going about his business sweeping floord. What we learn about the sweeper is that not only can he get into anywhere, but that he knows quite a lot as well, namely because nobody really pays attention to somebody sweeping the floor with a broom. It's like walking into a bank wearing a suit – nobody ever questions somebody wearing a suit because if you are wearing a suit then you must be a respectable person (which is why men in suits end up getting away with a lot of things that us plebs generally don't).

Into the monastery comes this thief from Anhk-Morpork named Lobsang (who is one character I just love), and he basically seeks out the sweeper to become his apprentice. This may sound odd, until you discover that the sweeper is actually a venerable, and incredibly powerful, monk. Like Susan, they also work out that something is afoot and decide to travel out into the world to put an end to it. During their travels they end up stealing a broom from a witch, and somehow get away with it.

Thief of Time involves the Auditors, an extra-dimensional race of creatures that basically want to bring order to everything. As they name implies, they are basically accountants, and there is a reason why accountants are said not to have a sense of humour: that is because accountants are focused on order, and making sure that everything ends up in the correct box, and jokes and laughter sort of reek of chaos, something that they simply cannot handle. Oh, and the books have to always balance. Sure numbers are really fun, especially when fiddling with calculus, but somehow accountants seem to drain all of life out of, well, everything.

I have to admit that the auditors are really cool, particularly since they have to take the form of human to be able to accomplish their goals. The problem is the law of 'function follows form', which basically means that

if you take the form of something, then suddenly you will become that something. As such the auditors are slowly discovering that they are becoming human, with all the attendant irrationality, emotion, and just plain craziness (such as randomly cutting off people's heads with an axe). As such the goal of bringing order to the universe, and wiping out humanity in the process, has basically reached a snag.

This is the interesting thing, that while law and order have the place, spontaneity is something that makes us human. What better way to add life to a bland workplace by asking a random person whether he (or she) is ever tempted to collude with the Russians to rig an election, and to determine who took the greater amount of drugs over their career – Ozzy Osbourne or Keith Richards (anybody know the answer to that one?). Maybe even going up to somebody who is twenty and asking them if they have ever heard of Freddie Mercury, and then looking at them with horror when they shrug their shoulders (or that they simply think that Ozzy Osbourne is a reality TV star). The thing is that this is life – spontaneity, laughter, joy, drinking a beer and jumping up and down on the dance floor, climbing a mountain for no particular reason other than that it has a pretty cool name.

Sure, Accountants, and even auditors, have their place, but like the Discworld, they have that really bad habit of sucking all of the joy out of life. Okay, Lawyers are just as bad, but the thing is that lawyers simply provide legal advice, whereas auditors point out that the resultant lawsuits will cost the company way too much money so their recommendation is that you can't put any more Christmas trees up in the hallway. Then there are these people that go to work, work for all hours of the night, and in their spare time either go to the gym and run nowhere on a treadmill, and then go home and go to sleep. Eat, work, gym, sleep, and then all over again – what is the point of living a healthy life when all our life happens to be is sitting behind a desk doing stuff to enrich somebody else, and simply spending the rest of your waking hours in a sterile room full of people that simply do not communicate with each other. I don't know about you, but that is my definition of hell.

So, if there is one thing I got from this book, and that is in the words of Mrs Cosmopolitie, that 'time waits for no-one' and 'I haven't got all day you know' so take a day off work (without telling the boss), tear up your gym membership, and just go out into the middle of the park, pour bubble bath into the fountain, and jump in (clothes and all).

Chris says

I could repeat what all the other reviews have said about this book, but I'm not.

You should read it for a total of five reasons.

1. Susan (one of the best characters ever)
 2. Pratchett's character of Death rules.
 3. The wonderful use of chocolate in the novel.
 4. Mrs. War
 5. One of the best descriptions of a school room ever.
-

Melki says

Well, I did not love Lu-Tze, or the History Monks, or the Glass Clock plot...BUT, this being a Pratchett book, it was easy to find plenty of other things to go gaga over.

- This exchange between Susan and her grandfather:

"They're going to do something to time? I thought they weren't allowed to do things like that."

NO. BUT HUMANS CAN. IT HAS BEEN DONE ONCE BEFORE.

"No one would be that stu---"

Susan stopped. Of course someone would be that stupid. Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying "End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH," the paint wouldn't even have time to dry.

- The monks' visit to Qu to see the "new toys" - exploding mandalas and prayer drum garottes.

- Death's hilarious attempts to rally the other Horsemen for the Apocalypse.

- Susan's unusual teaching techniques:

"What precisely was it you wanted, Madam?" she said. "It's only that I've left the class doing algebra, and they get restless when they've finished."

"Algebra?" said Madam Froot, perforce staring at her own bosom, which no one else had ever done. "But that's far too difficult for seven-year-olds!"

"Yes, but I didn't tell them that and so far they haven't found out," said Susan.

- There was a raven named Quoth.

That's one good thing about the Discworld series - even if you don't like the book as a whole, parts of it are sure to make you smile.

Katherine Furman says

A small disclaimer for this review: I read this book mostly while I had a fever, so I can't be held accountable for accuracy.

This is the second Pratchett book I've read and though I enjoy him, it's hard for me to shake the thought that I'm reading Douglas Adams light, set in a Dungeons and Dragons fantasy land instead of sci-fi outer space. That's not altogether a bad thing though b/c I Adams is one of my very favorite authors and he did not leave this world with too many books.

Thief of Time, appropriately, had some really interesting observations on the nature of time. How we spend it, waste it, kill it, etc. These observations made the book for me. It is generally funny, the characters enjoyable and quirky enough, but it's kind of run of the mill stuff you've seen before. But the peppering of genius dissections made it rise above. It was one of those books you just tear through, sucking down the story, but then out of nowhere you're struck by this quick, sentence-long kernel of knowledge that he nonchalantly threw in there and you're stopped dead in your tracks. You read it 5 times over, marveling at its ingenuity and simplicity. And that's what I liked best about this book and in general what I love most about reading. I live for those simple little observational nuggets. Those things that the author, for the first time ever, took to a new level or in a new direction, that no one has ever taken it before. Somewhere that makes

perfect, elegant sense. Written in a way that no one had ever been able to distill down it quite so purely before. You know, that kind of boiled down perfection that I'm not achieving in anyway in this review. Unfortunately towards the end of this book, Pratchett gets a little caught up in the mystical mood and forgets he's writing a comedy, but the fact that he can distill at all makes him worth reading. And it doesn't hurt that there's a grim reaper rat.

Cory says

Excellent book. It's up there in my top 5 Discworld books. Lu-Tze is my second favorite character, after Sam Vimes. I first encountered him in "Night Watch", and I wasn't so sure he wasn't just a stereotypical characterization of a crazyish monk.. I should've known better, having read several of Pratchett's books by then. It's a very interesting plot that makes you laugh, smirk, and think along the way. As usual, the pacing of the story is excellent. There's no real lag, and though there are several storylines going at once it is not difficult to keep up. As with most other Discworld stories, each character that's introduced plays an important role.. even if it's someone you would normally consider background noise. The more I read of this series (and I started with "Going Postal", which is (I think) book 27 or 28 and have bounced around since then.. It's not very serial, obviously), the more I come to love it and this book is a great example of why.

Melissa McShane says

This is one of my favorites because there's so much going on: Lobsang Ludd and Lu-Tze solving the mystery of the end of time; Susan Sto Helit being drawn back into her grandfather Death's world once more; the Auditors making another attempt to destroy humanity, but in so doing they come a little too close to being human themselves. There's even a romance, though Pratchett was frankly terrible at them, but this one is sweet--and happens entirely in the background.

A subtheme of this book is the idea of being The Best at something, so good you're bumping up against perfection. Lobsang is a natural at slicing time, Jeremy understands clocks so well he needs medication, Susan...is Susan, and there's even Ronnie Soak, dairyman extraordinaire. Characters like this are hard to write, because you run the risk of making them not just unrealistic, but annoyingly perfect. Here, each of these characters is flawed in a way that balances their gifts and, I think, gives them endearing imperfections without taking away the fact that they are extraordinary at what they do.

This isn't my favorite of the Death novels; that's a tie between Hogfather and Reaper Man. But it's a close third, thanks mainly to Lu-Tze and his Way of Mrs. Cosmopolite, which gets me laughing every time. Even so, this is one of the novels that's more serious than funny, and that's the other thing I love about it.

Beth says

...This actually worked for me. I mean, it has flaws: too much attention to niggling, irrelevant details; that overly aware tone to the narration; sections where style is prioritized over - well, everything, including story.

But I read this as a fairy tale, and it's a pretty compelling one. It's exciting, and a little weird, and doesn't have too much of the characters I consider gimmicks (though the Auditors, in a storyline entirely too drawn-out, definitely do their best to take Death's spot). The monastery is ridiculous, but except for the abbott, it's

not taken so far that it ceases to be funny.

And I think the time concept is poorly explained, but it's engaged with in a way that feels like a fairy tale, and so I'm fine with the phrasing and lack of clarity.

I don't know that I can say this is a good book - but at least it's one where I can faintly see why people appreciate Terry Pratchett.
