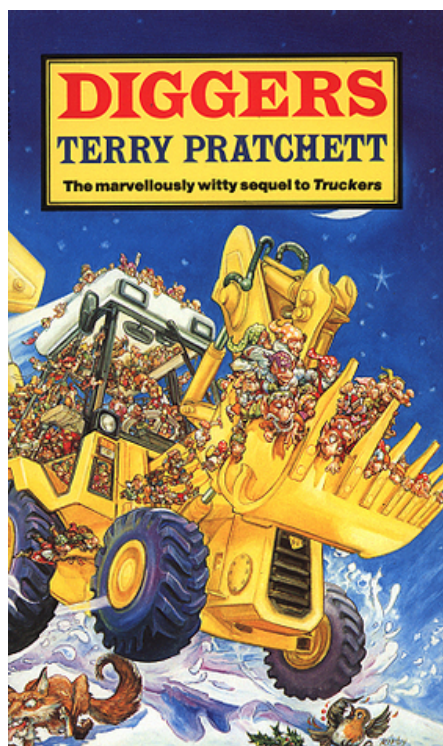




Diggers

Terry Pratchett

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'And Grimma said, We have two choices.
We can run, or we hide.
And they said, Which shall we do?
She said, We shall Fight.'

A Bright New Dawn is just around the corner for thousands of tiny nomes when they move into the ruined buildings of an abandoned quarry. Or is it?

Soon strange things start to happen. Like the tops of puddles growing hard and cold, and the water coming down from the sky in frozen bits. Then humans appear and they *really* mess everything up. The quarry is to be re-opened, and the nomes must fight to defend their new home. But how long will they be able to keep the humans at bay - even *with* the help of the monster Jekub?

Diggers is the second title in a hugely inventive and hilarious fantasy trilogy about the nomes, a race of little people in a world of humans.

Diggers Details

Date : Published October 1st 1991 by Corgi (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9780552525862

Author : Terry Pratchett

Format : Paperback 173 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Young Adult, Humor, Childrens

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Mario says

The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.

Second part of *The Nome Trilogy* is just as fun as the first one. I loved reading again about this character and this world Pratchett created. I also loved that *Diggers* focused more on Dorcas' character because he's currently my favorite character of the series. And the only reason I'm giving this 4 stars is because I feel like the overall story of the *Truckers* was a bit better than this one. But nonetheless I *love* this series and I cannot wait to read the last part to see how is it going to end.

Catherine says

Diggers is a clever, entertaining take on the trope of tiny people living in secret alongside humans (or under their floorboards). These little people, nomes, are aliens who are stranded on Earth and have made the best of it, living for generations under the floorboards of a department store until it was demolished at some point in the past and they were forced to venture out into the (very large) world and make a new home in a quarry. Mostly, they just try to stay out of the way of humans, which until lately has been easy, us big lugs being so blissfully unaware of our surroundings. But the humans have come to reopen the quarry, and the nomes realize they can't stay hidden any longer.

I like the differing personalities of the nomes and their hilarious misunderstandings about human language, activities, and customs. And the allusions to Gulliver and the Liliputians are apt.

This fun, lighthearted book turns out to be the second in a trilogy. I didn't realize that when I started reading without having read the first book. But it didn't matter. This works just fine as a standalone book.

Chris says

Enjoyed this one too. The Nomes find themselves living in an old, abandoned quarry but they realise it isn't going to stay abandoned much longer because the humans want the rocks to build new roads. Masklin, Gurder and a few others go off looking for Grandson (39) in Florida juice (you kind of need to read it to get the reference) but also because Masklin knows he will be flying on a plane and The Thing has told him they originally came from out space. The last we see of these fellows is heading off towards the airport...

(This story is then picked up in book 3.)

Meanwhile the other Nomes begin to listen to a rebellious none cammed Nisodemus (not Nicodemus LOL but the parallels are fairly obvious!) Unfortunately he is a bit crazy and this does not bode well for the welfare of the whole of Nomekind - so Grimmer and Dorcas (and a few younger nomes) choose to disobey

him with disastrous consequences.

Again the themes of resilience and reciprocity run through this book, but there is more freedom in this book, with Grimma giving other nomes a choice. When the nomes shout for something to happen, she suggests they do that if it is what they wish and the nomes begin to start thinking individually rather than as a collective. They start to understand the consequences of the choices they are making, rather than blindly following the person who shouts the loudest.

The ending is interesting because it makes you want to read the next book to find out exactly what did happen to Maskin and Co when they disappeared off to the airport...

Kira Nerys says

I could've done without the women-shouldn't-do-men's-jobs plotline, but at least contradicting it gave us a few excellent central female characters. That's mostly what kept me from loving it enough for 5 stars, although it looks like this was written in 1990, which was kinda the heyday of "anything you can do I can do better" in children's media. I'm too old for this book, I know, but the concept remains comedic and creative. I have no idea how to classify it. Pratchett is excellent, generally, in everything, and this book is no exception - aside from the fact that reading it simply makes me want to read Discworld. I have no idea what age range this was intended for, but I wish I'd read the whole trilogy at that age, because it easily could've become a childhood favorite.

Indah Threez Lestari says

800 - 2016

Qt says

A fitting sequel to the first book! I thought it was just as engaging and interesting.

Trish says

3.5 stars

Very enjoyable. I love how the nomes have a naive innocence about them. This instalment finds them trying to make a home in the quarry, only to find out they may have to move. After the store, some younger nomes have had families and are reluctant for change. Grimma is a feminist, Masklin wanders off with some others to search for Arnold Bros. grandson, a nome with power in his sights comes to the forefront, and a whole lot shenanigans happen.

Extremely enjoyable read. Easy and humorous.

Filemon Tursas says

Noin ekat kaksi kolmasosaa tästä oli vähän tylsäähköä (jos ilkeä olisin niin sanoisin että tuntui samalta kuin seuraisi maalin kuivumista), mutta loppuosa oli sitäkin kovempaa. Tykkäsin tässä varsinkin Terryille ominaisista syvällisistä keloista, tämä jotenkin osasi saada lukijansa symppaamaan milloin mitäkin zombeja, luurankoja, rottia ja tässä tapauksessa eräänlaisia tonttuja/mitälie mini-ihmisiä. Tykkään myös tän sarjan hieman odottamattomasta scifistisestä puolesta. Nämä ovat lasten kirjoja, mutta jotenkin tuntuu etten olisi osannut arvostaa näitä lapsena, niin kuin en osannut arvostaa Hobittiakaan ennen kuin vasta vanhempana.

Graham says

A good, fun follow-up to TRUCKERS. Essentially, this trilogy is the Terry Pratchett version of THE BORROWERS, told in his own inimitable style (and, of course, with plenty of humour along the way).

I'm not the ideal target market for this book - unlike the Discworld novels, it's clearly aimed at younger readers - but nevertheless it's a quirky and exceptionally fast-paced read. I had it polished off after only a couple of sessions.

The story picks directly up from DIGGERS and, as far as I can tell, the events of this sequel occur concurrently with the events from the third book in the trilogy, WINGS. Pratchett achieves this by splitting up his protagonists, sending half one way and the other half another.

Lots of winks and nods and wordplay, just as you'd expect from the author. The reference to GULLIVER'S TRAVELS with the security guard is well achieved, and the bits involving vehicles are thrilling. A great climax, too, which takes the story to another level.

E.P. says

"We don't know where we're going, she thought. The only important thing is to go. Masklin was right. This isn't our world.

"Perhaps we should have talked to the humans,' she said aloud.

"No, you were right,' said Dorcas. 'In this world everything belongs to the humans and we would belong to them, too. There wouldn't be any room for us to be us."

"Diggers" is the delightful continuation to the trilogy begun by "Truckers." As you would expect from a Pratchett book, there's plenty of zaniness action, with the final action sequence featuring a bunch of tiny gnomes trying to escape from human predation by making off in a JCB (a front-end loader) they've named Jekub. It's silly, it's over the top, and it's also a meditation on sapience, self-awareness, and, for lack of a better word, the human spirit. Maybe "perseverance" would be more appropriate. Anyway, it's about how the Nomes are aware of the humans, but the humans are not aware of the Nomes, and would destroy their habitat and enslave them if they could. In response, the Nomes have to fight back.

Pratchett always had an uneasy relationship with the non-human world, and the whole problem of Other consciousnesses. He often featured Other humans, non-humans with human-esque consciousnesses, and

machines that took on some of the features of consciousness or life, and was fascinated both with the creative possibilities such stories offered, and the moral/ethical issues they raised. Interestingly, if somewhat depressingly, he was in general more empathetic and interested in the non-human earlier in his career, and "Diggers" is one of the high points in his fascination with the Other that is still us.

But don't let that deter you from reading what is basically a middle grade fantasy book. "Diggers" is short, funny, and easy to follow, and the philosophy is easily disguised as just more action. Not the Discworld, but very worth reading even so.

Joey Woolfardis says

[Quick review from memory before I re-read and re-review at a later date]

(Little memory of the series let alone the book, though I recall them stealing a lorry of some sort and heading off for the promise lands (some greenery). A great series to be re-read.)

Geert Daelemans says

The in-between book

Now that Masklin and Torrit have left to explore the place where those big metal things take off into the air, Grimma has to fend for herself. That is, she has to take care of the nomes that have taken shelter at the quarry. But they are not alone. A very insistent human being is trying to invade their place. Grimma has to be creative to keep that pesky big annoyances away, but is afraid that they ultimately will have to flee to The Cottage. Luckily Dorcas, the techno geek of the nomes, has a secret weapon at hand: Big John.

Diggers is the second part of the Bromeliad trilogy, an adventurous fable about gnomes that want to return to their original homestead, intended for a younger audience. But the weak point of many trilogies also applies here: the second episode is a bit lost in between. The setting has been neatly composed in the first book and the finale has to wait until the next book. So, narratively it isn't a great novel, but it still is a good read. It's always nice to look at our world from the perspective of a little gnome. The best part is that it nicely introduces the final volume Wings, which as I type this is lying next to me. I can't wait to start reading.

Paul Wardman says

A good book that picks up from the first of the trilogy, Truckers, six months down the line.

Characters have developed, some are smarter and are teaching others how to read, others are less than happy at the shock of how the outside world works.

This had some good moments, the one that really stands out are that some of the nomes who came from the store still believing in Arnold Bros (est 1905) and that he will guide all nomes to a safer way of living. This was clearly Pratchett's way of portraying religious zealots and pointing out to them that maybe their way of thinking isn't always the best way. As I've said many a time before, Pratchett's YA books are that in name only, the only difference between them and his "adult" work is the inclusion of chapters.

The character moments were good, the message behind the story was well told but sadly this feels exactly how it is. The middle part of the story and not the most interesting part. Truckers set everything up, Wings

will give us the conclusion, Diggers sort of feels like filler and it suffers a little because of this. It's not a bad book but it's not one of Pratchett's best.

Dan says

The meat and heart of a truly great story

I've always had a fondness for middle books- it's where the author has gotten through the exposition (which, however skillfully handled - and Pratchett got mad skills - is hopefully not the most interesting thing about a book, or it's not a story but an almanac), and still has enough room to stretch their wings before the work of wrapping it all up begins.

This is therefore my favorite bit of The Bromeliad, which should be your favorite all-ages trilogy.

It's a story about those who stay behind - about those who guard the hearth and fight to keep their people safe when the heroes have gone adventuring. And it's a story about moving beyond the limits everyone accepts into the unknown at the same time. It's a powerful indictment of the reactionary impulse, and a criticism of the progressive tendency to impatiently ignore the real weight of tradition.

It's really good, folks. Read it.

Rachel says

Less exciting than the first, the Outside and Store nomes have now settled down in a semi-permanent home in a quarry. But all is not to be, as humans interfere with the nomes' plan, and their homes are placed in jeopardy. This is a continuation of the first book. Not as fun, but still a good read.

Mercy says

AY, Terry, te quiero ♥

Ondřej Puczok says

Stejně jako první díl je i tohle pokračování skvělé a zábavné... A zase snaha autora o přesah někam dál, stejně jako o super vtipné věci. Prostě Pratchett :)

Jill says

Another fun story about "little people." On to book 3 . . .

Rob says

Number two in the Bromeliad trilogy.

Another great read from the pen of Terry Pratchett.

By this time the Nome's have left the store and in so doing have left their God "Arnold Bros Est 1905" behind.

They have taken up residence in an abandoned quarry and seem to getting used to their new environment. All that is with the exception of Masklin, who is determined to find out just where the Nome's are from.

It's not long before the Nome's peace and tranquillity is destroyed when humans decide to reopen the quarry.

Dorcus comes to the rescue when he find and repairs a neglected JCB digger that Nome's call "jekub". All hell is about to breaks loose.

I love the way Terry Pratchett takes the ordinary and turns it into something very extraordinary. He makes you look at life from an entirely different prospective.

Along the way it's just one laugh after an other.

Recommended for kids of all ages.

Andrew says

Another great book in the series - what more can I really say that was not started with Truckers but I will say this - the story is a little more maturer this time - characters seem to have grown up as well as the storyline they inhabit. The tale is still enthralling to young and old and still has the sense of mischief that Pratchett is so famous for.
