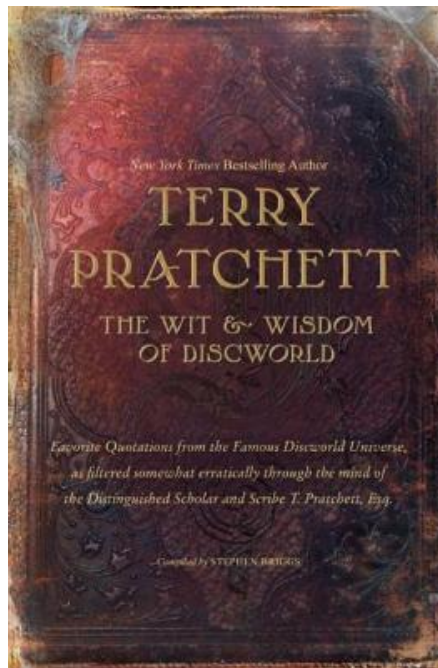




The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld

Terry Pratchett , Stephen Briggs (Compiler)

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For more than two decades, Terry Pratchett has been regaling readers with tales of Discworld—a flat world balanced on the backs of four elephants, which are standing on the back of a giant turtle, flying through space. It is a world populated by ineffectual wizards and sharp-as-tacks witches, by tired policemen and devious dictators, by reformed thieves and vampires who have sworn to drink no blood. It is a world that is vastly different from our own . . . except when it isn't.

Now, in *The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld*, various nuggets of Pratchett's witty commentary and sagacious observations have been compiled by Pratchett expert Stephen Briggs, a man who, they say, knows even more about Discworld than Terry Pratchett.

Within these pages, you'll find musings on:

Interior decorating: "It's a fact known throughout the universes that no matter how carefully the colors are chosen, institutional decor ends up as either vomit green, unmentionable brown, nicotine yellow, or surgical appliance pink. By some little-understood process of sympathetic resonance, corridors painted in those colors always smell slightly of boiled cabbage—even if no cabbage is ever cooked in the vicinity." (*Equal Rites*)

Travel: "Any seasoned traveler soon learns to avoid anything wished on them as a 'regional speciality,' because all the term means is that the dish is so unpleasant the people living everywhere else will bite off their own legs rather than eat it. But hosts still press it upon distant guests anyway: 'Go on, have the dog's head stuffed with macerated cabbage and pork noses—it's a regional speciality.'" (*The Last Continent*)

Young men: "And then there was the young male walk. At least women swung only their hips. Young men swung everything, from the shoulders down. You have to try to occupy a lot of space. It makes you look bigger, like a tomcat fluffing his tail. The boys tried to walk big in self-defense against all those other big boys out there. I'm bad, I'm fierce, I'm cool, I'd like a pint of shandy and me mam wants me home by nine." (*Monstrous Regiment*)

Class: "'Old money' meant that it had been made so long ago that the black deeds that had originally filled the coffers were now historically irrelevant. Funny, that; a brigand for a father was something you kept quiet about, but a slave-taking pirate for a great-great-great-grandfather was something to boast of over the port. Time turned the evil bastards into rogues, and rogue was a word with a twinkle in its eye and nothing to be ashamed of." (*Making Money*)

. . . and more! Culled from all the Discworld novels, *The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld* confirms Pratchett's place in the pantheon of great satirists and proves why the *Chicago Tribune* has praised his Discworld as "entertaining and gloriously funny . . . an accomplishment nothing short of magical."

The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld Details

Date : Published September 25th 2007 by Harper (first published September 24th 2007)

ISBN : 9780061370502

Author : Terry Pratchett , Stephen Briggs (Compiler)

Format : Hardcover 360 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Humor, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld for online ebook

Sandie says

I don't know if it was a good thing or a bad thing that I have read most of the books included in this tome. On one hand, I was happy to review so many good friends which has made me want to go back and reread some of my favorites. On the other, many of the quotes were not what I would have expected from some of the stories.

Mr. Briggs has included many funny and anecdotal quotes from Terry Pratchett's books (I assume that he had a difficult time choosing only so many selections from the books. Personally, I would have expected a volume at least twice as thick as it was!) It is a shame that some of the cleverest wit may not have made the cut only because of space.

Tanya says

I'm a fairly new fan of Terry Pratchett's Discworld, but I got really into it after listening to *Monstrous Regiment* read by Stephen Briggs. So I got this book from Amazon a little while ago and overall I really like it. It is a way for me to (sort of) know what some stories are about without having to read them. I have found that I just don't like the stories in which Discworld Wizards are central characters. Even secondary characters, come to think of it. I find them boring at best. But stuff happens in those stories that are mentioned in other stories and I'm tempted to read them to find out. Trouble is I never get very far before I find something more interesting to read, or do.... Like laundry.

I didn't give this collection of quotes full marks because there are quotes in books I have read that I really like but are not included in this collection under those titles. There are a number of phrases Pratchett uses repeatedly that I really like that may be presented, in this book, under the title of a story I've not read. This book lends itself to browsing & I haven't finished *The Wit and Wisdom* yet. I may add quotes though. There is plenty of white space in which to do so.

Now if only Stephen Briggs would narrate more audiobooks... ^_^

Deborah says

I promised myself I would re-read the entire Discworld series in 2016, once I had bought the last one in paperback. I've now finally bought it, and have lots of reading time thanks to current medical circumstances. But I'm still holding back.

Or at least I was holding back, and then I read this, cover to cover, today. And it reminded me of everything I've always loved about Discworld, and it made me laugh, which I need right now. So I think I'm ready for the big re-read at last.

If you have never read a Discworld book, you could do worse than start with this one, but I'm not sure you'll understand why I've given it five stars. My advice would always be, start with *Mort*, don't get too hung up about reading them in the right order, and then come to this book when you're halfway through or finished.

If you're someone who tried *The Colour of Magic* and didn't much like it, my advice would be the same as

for newcomers.

And if you're a massive Discworld fan, obvs you should read this, either so you can sigh in happy reminiscence, or so you can join in the doubtless thousands of online debates about what's in it and not in it. Personally I might well have made a different selection; but I won't know until I've read them all again, will I? And anyway I'm not going to argue with Stephen Briggs.

Adelina says

For fans of Discworld, The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld is a must read, must buy and must keep for in this gem of a book are the wittiest and wisest phrases that have been uttered on the Disc from Ankh-Morpok to the Agatean Empire.

In fact, I really wanted to give the book a solid five stars if not for one niggling thought that kept crossing my mind while savoring the words on the pages. Taken out of context, many of the wit and wisdom compiled here just aren't as funny or poignant. While I really appreciate having most of my favorite bits in one single volume and reading the book felt very much like visiting an old friend, the humor and sheer genius of many of the Disc's best lines are best enjoyed when they're grounded in the socio-political context of each individual book in the series. Likewise, some favorite phrases and moments did not make the final cut.

Nevertheless, The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld nicely complements any Discworld collection and it could potentially be a good starting point for introducing new travelers to the Disc.

Serge Boucher says

If you've ever read a Discworld book, you know why this book of quotations is awesome. If not, what are you waiting for ?

Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says

Am I a terrible person for wondering why this exists? Probably. It's not bad or terrible, really, it's just that its usefulness is so niche. If you have read all the Discworld books and want to carry around something that you can stop reading at any time, then this is probably for you. Or if you are heavily involved in Discworld fandom and want to be able to look up certain quotes without having to deal with more than one book? I don't know, man.

I grabbed this from the library when I was getting something else by Pratchett, and I was expecting something else. An ancillary book along the lines of Where's My Cow? or something. But this is almost the print equivalent of a clip show.

Anna says

Brilliant! All the best and funniest bits in one compendium.

Christoffer says

The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld is a compilation of good and funny quotes and passages from all the books in the series (up till Making Money) put together by Stephen Briggs. It does not require much from the reader and can act both as a gateway for future fans and a refresher for longtime fans.

My only complaint is that some of the passages tend to become a little too long, which steals some of the humor out of it since it really does itself most justice when in context. Other than that this is a must in the bookshelf of a true fan.

Paul Knighton says

Wonderful collection of excerpts from all the Discworld books. So many clever lines written by the much missed Sir Terry Pratchett. I'm tempted now to re-read some of those well loved books.

Dan Schwent says

The Wit and Wisdom of Discworld is like a clip show for a successful sitcom or the greatest hits cd of your favorite band. It allows you to relive the best bits without all the stuff in between. Each page is like a trip down memory lane. I'd forgotten how funny some of the earlier Discworld books were.

The selections range from witty one-liners to long philosophical paragraphs. While I wouldn't recommend it to Pratchett neophytes, it's definitely worth a grab for someone who wants to relive the early Pratchett novels without completely re-reading them.

Olivia says

Most of my favorite parts of all the Discworld books can be found in this book. The instant I saw it in Barnes & Noble I bought, without ever having read it before. I promptly went home and read the whole thing. I love this book. If you haven't read the actual books that this culmination of quotes comes from, I suggest you go do so before reading this book, however. That way you won't be confused.

Jen3n says

I almost feel like adding a "dissappointing" shelf just for this book.

I was hoping this book was a collection of the mavelous things Terry Pratchett writes in his novels. You know, those small sections in every Discworld book where he writes about what gods really are, or what it means to be alive, or the nature of time, or what magic really is? They tend to be short-ish sections without dialog. They're all beautifully written and feel absolutely True (with a capital T, even.)

That's not what this is.

It just seemed to be a random and sort-of chronological collection of funny little jokes from each of the books. Like where Vetinari says they aren't allowed to fight in a council of war (which, of course, is just an homage to the line from the movie Dr. Strangelove.)

I love the Discworld books. I highly esteem Terry Pratchett and think he has a genius for humor and for truth. I even really like Stephen Briggs, usually ... though I like him best as an illustrator. I just really don't like this book. I gave it three stars for Discworld and for Terry, but I really would NOT recommend it.

i feel sad now

Margaret says

A book of quotes from Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels from "The Colour of Magic" up to "Making Money".

Books of quotes are always an interesting read, in the the person selecting them may not have selected your personal favourites, and you are sometimes left wondering why a particular quote was chosen.

Still, I garnered a number of delightful entries for my personal Common Place book, which is a good thing.

Most Terry Pratchett fans will be familiar with the quotes, but I'm recommending it, not to them, but to people who enjoy seeing the English language stretched, folded, and turned into something truly memorable.

Davidg says

Although I have read and enjoyed all the Discworld books, I have generally found them amusing rather than laugh out loud funny. I have particularly enjoyed the satire that became stronger as the series progressed. So, this collection of one line jokes, paragraphs and short passages served as a reminder of the humour they contain. It also encourages you to go back to the full books again.

Great for dipping into.

MadameMelli says

Ganz schöne Sammlung von Zitaten aus den Scheibenweltromanen. Ich fand sie nicht immer bezeichnend für Pratchetts Humor, aber ich konnte in einigen Erinnerungen schwelgen :)

Caroline says

A very nice collection of witty quotes from the Discworld series. Obviously, it would be impossible for Stephen Briggs to have collected all of my personal favorite quotes, what with him not being me... I used to

obsessively collect my favorite quotes from all the books I've read but stopped five years ago, so I only collected quotes from about half of the Discworld series. I was overall happy with this collection, and it saved me a lot of legwork since I doubt I'll ever get back to my collecting again!

I definitely found this to be worth the purchase, since now I'll have something to easily turn to and get some quick giggles out of. Pratchett is always good for some smiles, and it's nice to have some of the best moments easily accessible for those times when I need them. That and I imagine this could be really useful in trying to convert more friends to the series--just whip this out and easily find some great wit to share with them. I always love spreading Terry Pratchett love around.

Raquel says

Citações do meu escritor preferido do universo Discworld.
O meu livro de conforto em horas difíceis.

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

Well, it's pretty much what it says on the tin - a compilation of the wit and wisdom scattered throughout the Discworld from the inestimable Sir Pterry...

But, as it says in the forward/intro/thingie, it's as selected by Stephen Briggs - so there are some bits that I agreed with, some which didn't wow me, and some which I felt were missing. (The entry on Small Gods was depressingly small.)

Not a bad romp through the Discworld for someone who's already been and might just want a refresher of some of the best bits, but I'm not sure I'd recommend it for a novice because some bits just aren't as funny out of context. (In fairness, Briggs tried to give as much context as necessary, but I don't think he always hit the mark.)

Melena says

Ganz klar für Fans der Scheibenwelt. Dieses Buch beinhaltet gesammelte Werke an Textstellen / Zitaten aus diversen Scheibenwelt-Büchern.

Florin Pitea says

Nice reading, but only makes you realize how much you miss a proper Discworld novel. Ach, crivens!
Review available here: <http://tesatorul.blogspot.ro/2017/08/...>
