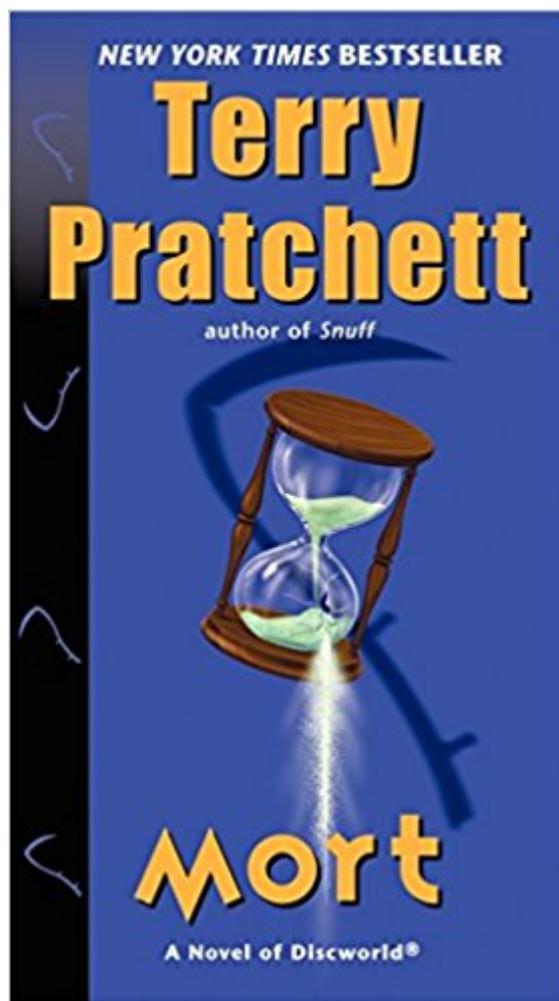


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Mort (Discworld)



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Sir Terry Pratchett makes Death a central character in Mort, his fourth sojourn to Discworld, the fantasy cosmos where even the angel of darkness needs some assistance. When inept, but well-intentioned Mort gets only one offer for an apprenticeship "with Death" he can't exactly turn it down. But Mort finds that being Death's right-hand man isn't as bad as it seems until he falls back to his old, bumbling ways. With more than 80 million books sold worldwide, Pratchett has solidified his place next to Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, and Douglas Adams as one of the top satirists of all time. Mort offers readers an unlikely set of heroes and a comical, yet poignant look at life through the lens of its antithesis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Consistently, inventively mad...wild and wonderful!" -- "Issac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine" Discworld takes the classic fantasy universe through its logical, and comic evolution." -- "Cleveland Plain Dealer" Unadulterated fun...Witty, frequently hilarious." -- "San Francisco Chronicle" The first seven Discworld titles are being reissued with stunning new covers, publication coincides with 21 years of Discworld anniversary and the hardback publication of "The Celebrated Discworld Almanak" and "Going Postal". - "Like Jonathan Swift, Pratchett uses his other world to hold up a distorting mirror to our own, and like Swift he is a satirist of enormous talent... incredibly funny... compulsively readable." -- "The Times" - "His spectacular inventiveness makes the Discworld series one of the perennial joys of modern fiction." -- "Mail on Sunday" - "The great Terry Pratchett, whose

wit is metaphysical, who creates an energetic and lively secondary world, who has a multifarious genius for strong parody... who deals with death with startling originality. Who writes amazing sentences." --A.S. Byatt, "New York Times"

Death comes to everyone eventually on Discworld. And now he's come to Mort with an offer the young man can't refuse. (No, literally, can't refuse since being dead isn't exactly compulsory.) Actually, it's a pretty good deal. As Death's apprentice, Mort will have free board and lodging. He'll get use of the company horse. And he won't have to take any time off for family funerals. But despite the obvious perks, young Mort is about to discover that there is a serious downside to working for the Reaper Man . . . because this perfect job can be a killer on one's love life.

Mort is an awkward young man. He's not really good at anything. His dad isn't even sure what to do with him. So he takes young Mort to a job fair in town with the hopes of passing him off to someone else. No one seems interested in choosing Mort as an apprentice until just before midnight. Someone on a white horse and wearing a black cape comes up and offers Mort a job. Mort's father believes the position is for an undertaker; but in reality the anthropomorphic personification of Death himself offers young Mort a position as his apprentice. Thus begins a pretty darn funny adventure as Mort does his best (and continually fails) to learn to be Death. I believe this is book four in Terry Pratchett's *Diskworld* series. It was recommended to me by a friend and he assured me that I didn't need to read the previous three books to be able to read this one. He was right. While it's my understanding that Death makes appearances in some of the other books, I was perfectly able to follow along in this one without any prior introduction to the series. The book is silly, downright ridiculous at times, but is genuinely funny. There are almost laugh out loud moments in the book and Pratchett does a good job of painting a Mort character that all of us can relate to at different points in our lives. The humor and style of the book is not something that I would probably choose to read all of the time, but served as a great palate cleanser between more serious novels. I certainly did enjoy the story and wouldn't hesitate to read Pratchett again when I'm in the mood for a good laugh. Well done.

I tend to prefer Discworld novels that feature the Nightwatch or the witches, but if you want to branch out, this might be the best one to go with. Death is as perfect (always a great character and

even better when he's trying to be human,) Rincewind has a cameo (which is great - prefer him in small doses), and I quite like the human characters introduced here. As with all good Pratchett books, there are many laugh-out-loud passages and also plenty of food for thought. Give it a read!

Pratchett is one of the greatest writers of our time, maybe all time. Discworld is one of the most amazing, vibrant, and spellbinding fantasy worlds ever conceived. Each book adds another piece to the rich fabric of this imaginary landscape, yet they can be enjoyed in any order. I find my favorite characters to be the ones occupying whatever Pratchett book I'm reading at the moment. There is humor and purpose dripping from every line of text that graces a Pratchett novel. Not a single word is wasted, nor abused. His spirit lives on in each fantastic journey through the Discworld. May he rest in peace. There is no need to review this book alone. If you're looking for a cookie cutter fantasy novel, Terry Pratchett is not for you. If, however, you seek a more profound experience from your literature than no single book by Terry Pratchett will ever be enough. I have read these books many times over.

Starting at the beginning of the Discworld series was worth it to watch Pratchett's writing grow. But if you'd rather, this is a good place to start the series. Death is one of my favorite characters, so I knew I would enjoy this book and I was not disappointed. Though, like all of his work so far, Mort is a very fast read. Possibly shorter than its predecessors. The story revolves almost exclusively around Mort, a young man who becomes Death's apprentice so Death can have a vacation. It does not take long for things to go awry... You will not regret giving this novel a read it three...

Originally posted at Fantasy Literature. Mort is the fourth of Terry Pratchett's DISCWORLD novels. It stands alone, meaning that you don't need to read the previous novels to enjoy Mort. It's better than the previous novels, too, so it might be a good place for new readers to start. Mortimer is a naive but pensive " and therefore slightly odd " young man who doesn't fit in with his farming community. It looks like he's going to be jobless until Death arrives and chooses him as an apprentice. Why does Death need an apprentice? He has become bored with his immortal life and wants to travel to Ankh-Morpork so he can experience some humanity. After only a little bit of training, Mort is left in charge. His job is to collect the souls of people who are about to depart the mortal world. When Mort becomes infatuated with a princess who's about to die, he can't stop himself from interfering with her death and he manages to accidentally screw things up. With the help of Death's adopted

daughter Ysabell, Mort must figure out how to put the princess and the world back right again, all without neglecting to do his job. Unlike the three previous DISCWORLD novels, Pratchett has almost everything right in Mort. The characters are quirky and vibrant, especially Death. (Almost all of the characters are new to this story, though Rincewind the bumbling wizard makes a cameo appearance.) The plot of Mort is exciting and fast-moving, and the humor is truly funny. Especially entertaining is Death's search for happiness. He tries many of the things he sees humans doing for fun (e.g., getting drunk, gambling, doing the Conga at a party) and can't figure out why they're so appealing. He keeps telling himself he's having FUN, but he can't quite convince himself. Pratchett is really making FUN of us, of course, and most readers will probably find themselves wondering, along with Death, what exactly FUN is. There's a completely unbelievable romance in Mort, but that's unlikely to bother most readers we're not reading Terry Pratchett for romance, are we? In fact, the more ridiculous, the better in a DISCWORLD novel, and Mort is definitely ridiculous. There are several allusions to our own world in Mort, making us wonder just what the relationship is between our world and the Discworld. I think some readers will be intrigued by these allusions while others will find that they momentarily throw the reader out of the story. I listened to the audio version of Mort which was produced by Isis Audio Books and narrated by Nigel Planer who does a wonderful job, as usual.

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