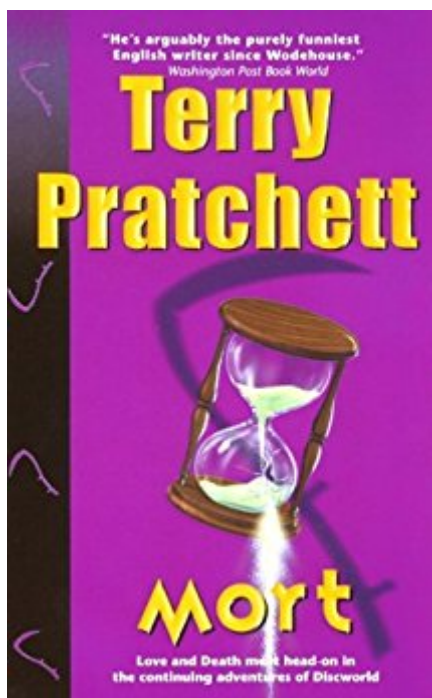


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Mort: A Novel Of Discworld



Synopsis

Terry Pratchett's profoundly irreverent novels are consistent number one bestseller in England, where they have catapulted him into the highest echelons of parody next to Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, Douglas Adams, and Carl Hiaasen. In this Discworld installment, Death comes to Mort with an offer he can't refuse -- especially since being, well, dead isn't compulsory. As Death's apprentice, he'll have free board and lodging, use of the company horse, and he won't need time off for family funerals. The position is everything Mort thought he'd ever wanted, until he discovers that this perfect job can be a killer on his love life.

Book Information

File Size: 1031 KB

Print Length: 309 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books; Reissue edition (October 13, 2009)

Publication Date: October 13, 2009

Language: English

ASIN: B000W967UQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #17,879 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #35

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Classics #53

in Kindle Store > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Humorous #393 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Sword & Sorcery

Customer Reviews

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 "Discworld" 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 "pallet 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 royally 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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