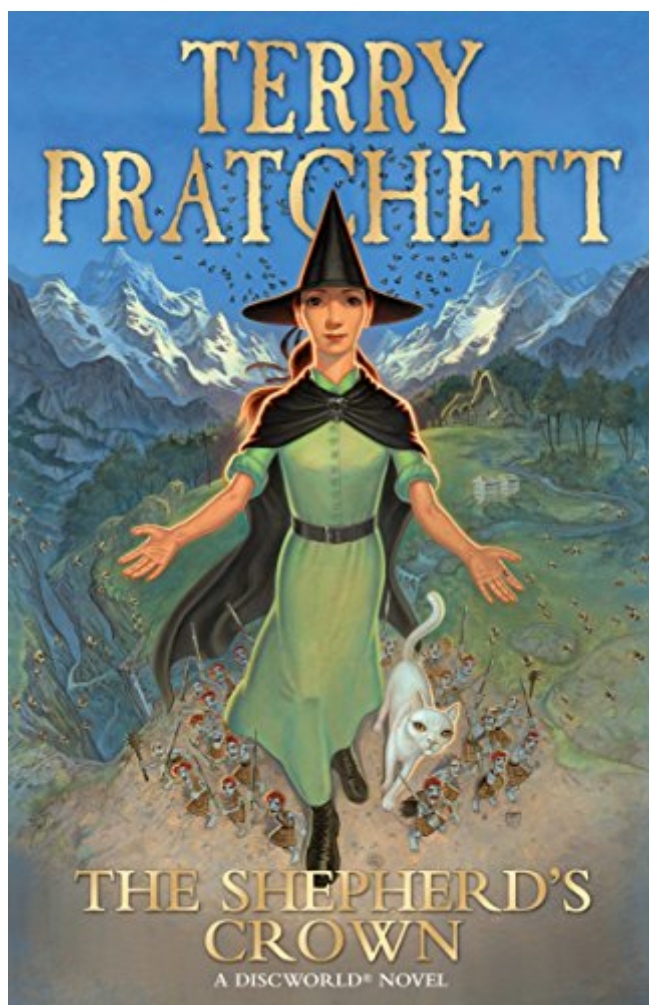


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The Shepherd's Crown (Discworld Novels)



Synopsis

This ebook edition includes an exclusive commentary on the Witches of Discworld, written by Jacqueline Simpson, co-author of The Folklore of Discworld. A SHIVERING OF WORLDS Deep in the Chalk, something is stirring. The owls and the foxes can sense it, and Tiffany Aching feels it in her boots. An old enemy is gathering strength. This is a time of endings and beginnings, old friends and new, a blurring of edges and a shifting of power. Now Tiffany stands between the light and the dark, the good and the bad. As the fairy horde prepares for invasion, Tiffany must summon all the witches to stand with her. To protect the land. Her land. There will be a reckoning . . . THE FINAL DISCWORLD NOVEL

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Customer Reviews

Definitely not Sir Terry Pratchett's best work, but in a way it is a fitting requiem to such a great author. Left unfinished when he died, and so shorter than all of his more recent work, The Shepherd's Crown is also less humorous, with few jokes and laugh out loud parts, although I did have a few chuckles at the bits of satire woven into it (including even a Monty Python reference) and

the amusing footnotes. More pensive and reflective than his earlier books, *The Shepherd's Crown* deals with moving on and dealing with life, and doing what's right, and looks at things with a sense of optimism, which I suppose the literary world will need after losing such a monumental talent as Sir Terry. Like the earlier Tiffany Aching books, this one is aimed at a slightly younger audience than the rest of his Discworld books. I can't help but view this book through the lens of a sense of mourning, and I wish he had stayed to finish it properly, as the end of it felt very rushed. Throughout the book it builds up the threat that the elves bring to the world, and how dangerous they are even to a large group of witches, yet the ending happened so quickly that the elves never felt like they posed any danger at all. I also think that Geoffrey needed a lot more character development, and I would have loved a slower, richer build-up of Mephistopheles the goat. Ultimately, I have to conclude that this is the weakest of the Tiffany Aching books, and one of the weakest Discworld books, although this is almost certainly due to Sir Terry's tragic death before its completion. It was with a sense of nostalgic mourning that I read the afterword, listing a few of the ideas that Sir Terry was working. Personally, I would have given a kidney for a sequel to *The Amazing Maurice* and his *Educated Rodents*. It is a shame to end such a magnificent career on a somewhat low note, as this is the last Discworld book that I shall ever read for the first time. I said that this is a fitting requiem to Sir Terry Pratchett, and it is, as it deals with coping with loss, and as an aspiring author Terry Pratchett was (and is) one of my greatest literary role models, but I can't help but compare this to *Unseen Academicals*, which I believe would have made the finest tribute to his mark on the literary world.

Have the tissues ready! A friend of mine warned me that she had cried while reading the book, and I could see why just a couple of chapters in. Perhaps those who aren't acquainted with the Discworld characters won't be so affected (and if this is you, WHY haven't you read more Pratchett!?) and familiarity with the various witches (including Tiffany Aching) will certainly enhance your reading. This work is a fitting finale to Terry's work. In it he brings the Chalk to Bad Ass (Nac Mac Feegles included) one last time. There are echoes of *Equal Rites*, but in reverse, with a new character. For me this brings a nice roundness and connectedness (is that a word?) to the Discworld Witch novels. He brings several threads from other novels in the Discworld series together but, as in 'the real world', only some are resolved. Between *Endings and Beginnings* are where a true witch stands, after all. One gets the feeling that there were other stories yet to be told in Terry Pratchett's unique universe. Alas, what they were and where they would lead we will never know. GNU Granny. GNU Terry. GNU Discworld.

As other reviewers have remarked, I was so sad that this will be the last Pratchett novel I can savour reading for the very first time. Tiffany Aching is one of my favourite characters and I was glad this novel brought her together with so many other favourites. I so wish Terry Pratchett had had the time to polish this novel to the same level as his other works (as I wish so much more that he had had the time to write all the other things he wanted to). The early events of the book feel like his goodbye to us and so reading this novel felt like my goodbye to him. So I'm completely unable to be objective about this work. However I do know I'll return to it as I return to so many of his stories. Vale Sir Terry! Thanks for everything. I wish I could be confident there are writers coming up who could continue the humour, the satire and the utter good sense.

I recollect an interview with TP where he said there would be only four Tiffany Aching books - and here's a fifth. What it does is dovetail Tiffany's series with the broader Discworld. This is achieved by a big event at the start of the book (no spoilers, but you could read the dedication just this once). The one slight drawback is that the ramifications of the event rattle round the Disc and if you have only read the Tiffany books you may wonder who some of the people affected might be. As a result, I'd class this as not really in the YA stream, but an effective successor to *Steam*. It remains only to offer, however inadequately, thanks to Sir Terry for all the reading pleasure over the years. There are writers and composers and artists you are glad to have been co-existent with, and their loss is always hardest.

I love Terry Pratchett. But this wasn't true Pratchett writing. This story seem to meander without Terry's normal narrative thrust. I understand that Terry Pratchett is not the person he used to be. And it shows. But for a true Pratchett Fan it is worth reading. Knowing you are seeing the last of a great writer. But if you are new to Terry Pratchett, don't use this book to kick off your Terry Pratchett career.

Very sad to know there will be no more, the end of the line as it were, but a fitting wrap up in the end. Mr. Pratchett has afforded me many hours of delight & amusement & I shall always be grateful for that, as I continue to read & re read his works. I am looking forward to reading them to my grandchildren when they are a little older. So many good messages in them, rare enough in books these days, and such a great understanding of people's behavior, I hope they will grow with them & be better prepared for this crazy world we have.

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