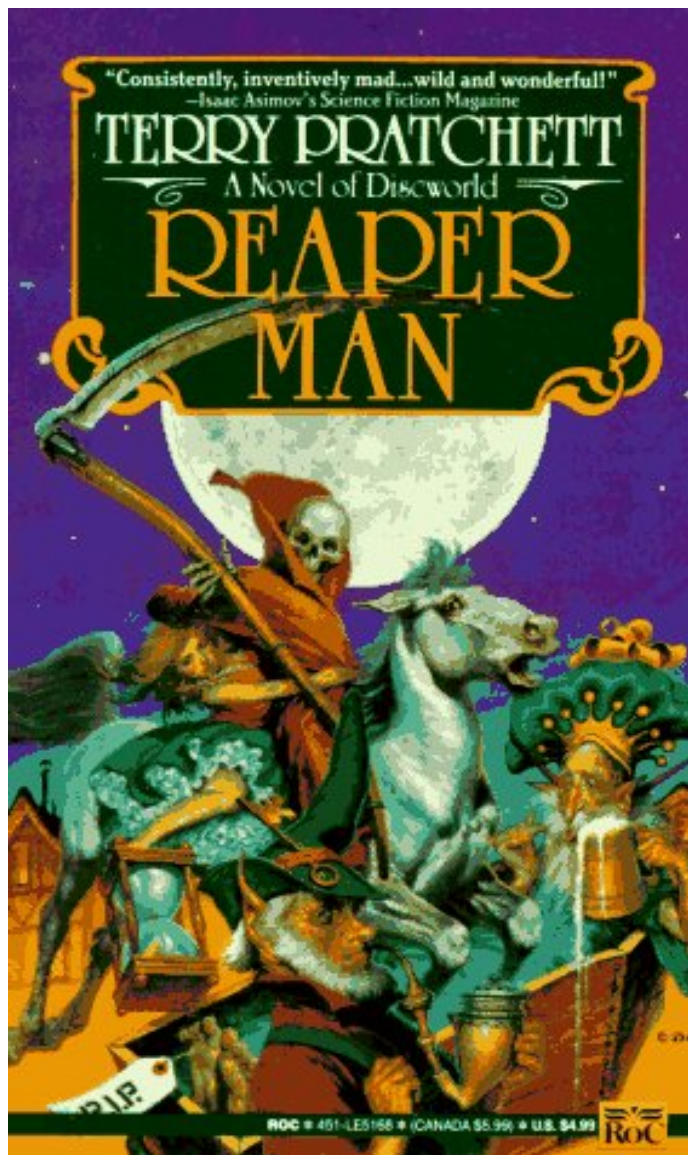


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# Terry Pratchett

## Reaper Man (Discworld #11)



Title: Reaper Man (Discworld #11)

Author: Terry Pratchett

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## Description

*They say there are only two things you can count on ...*

But that was before DEATH started pondering the existential. Of course, the last thing anyone needs is a squeamish Grim Reaper and soon his Discworld bosses have sent him off with best wishes and a well-earned gold watch. Now DEATH is having the time of his life, finding greener pastures where he can put his scythe to a whole new use.

But like every cutback in an important public service, DEATH's demise soon leads to chaos and unrest -- literally, for those whose time was supposed to be up, like Windle Poons. The oldest geezer in the entire faculty of Unseen University -- home of magic, wizardry, and big dinners -- Windle was looking forward to a wonderful afterlife, not this boring been-there-done-that routine. To get the fresh start he deserves, Windle and the rest of Ankh-Morpork's undead and underemployed set off to find DEATH and save the world for the living (and everybody else, of course).

## Insightful reviews

? Irena ?: 4.5

### 'Inside Every Living Person is a Dead Person Waiting to Get Out...'

Death is one of my favourite Discworld characters and *Reaper Man* is the second book in the *Death* novels. I prefer reading in general Discworld reading order though. Still, whether you read these books like I do, or you choose to read them as separate novels about Rincewind, or Death, or witches and so on, you will have lots of fun.

Death gets fired. Or something like that anyway. Instead of mopping around feeling sorry for himself (according to the ones who got him fired he shouldn't have taken the *he* part), he starts living, making friends, being a hero, learning things he only observed before and understanding them, and so on.

Meanwhile in Ankh-Morpork, life force is growing, weird little globes are popping up all over the place and *things* act. Windle Poons, a hundred and thirty old wizard, dies but nobody comes to collect him. Death is not employed anymore. His colleagues try everything they can think of (including burying him in the crossroads), but nothing helps. Windle Poons is still there. He finds his way to a group of *life-challenged* individuals and there the adventure of his *unlife* starts.

The troubles in Ankh-Morpork and Death's new experiences are the two threads we follow in *Reaper Man*, both funny and entertaining. Pratchett's greatest strength lies in those one liners he smartly sneaks in in every single story.

I would have liked more Death though.

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Rachel: "What can the harvest hope for, if not for the care of the reaper man?" This is, easily, my current favorite line from Terry Pratchett.

I don't know that this is my favorite Discworld book, but it's miles and miles better than *Mort*, the other Death-centric book I've experienced, and it's... it's this amazing combination of poignant, funny, beautiful, heartbreakingly sad, and chock full of that same dry Terry Pratchett social commentary and wit I've come to expect through these books.

The two major plots of the book, while certainly related to each other, mostly felt quite disparate. Sometimes this worked, sometimes it didn't, but the Death half was so strong it more than made up for when the Wizard/Fresh Start half was a bit weaker. There was a lot that was just confusing and weird, but ultimately all came together well. I get the distinct feeling this book will benefit from re-reads (and faster reads) tremendously.

Despite some of those feelings, I'm ultimately left with such a great feeling about this book I can't give it anything less than 5 stars, truly. <3

And I'm greatly looking forward to starting *Witches Abroad* next week!

Lee Broderick: Re-read 3/5/13: A lot of people seem to think that this is a book about what happens when Death takes a holiday. To a certain extent it is. The premise is simple: if you believe in a psychopomp then what would happen if they were no longer there? That though, is just the opening gambit - the framework within which to explore something more fundamental - time.

At the heart of this book is a tale of two people (or personalities, as [Terry Pratchett](#) would no doubt refer to them). One person has too much time; the other too little. When an ageing wizard fails to die properly, he suddenly realises he never truly lived: feeling somewhat detached from the humdrum lives of those around him he seeks meaning and purpose; principally through initially purposeless action. At the same time, an ancient being suddenly finds that he only has a finite amount of his existence left: he retires to a quiet life of agricultural labour in order to experience the kind of life he has never had. This last point is used as a counterfoil to the lives of the many in the city.

The city's inhabitants are running from one fad to another, always looking to the future and wishing for something else; never enjoying where they are and what they have. Death's assertion that human beings could never cope with knowing how much time they have left to live seems pertinent - how would you spend it and would you truly be any happier? The happiest lives of all (here) are lived out away from the rat-race, where treasure and gold is meaningless when compared with a good harvest, whilst concerns within the city are often to do with perception rather than reality - keeping up with the Joneses (here having the right accent or access to things that you don't need but want because others have them).

This is arguably the first of the 'Big Theme' Discworld novels (an argument could also be made

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for [Moving Pictures](#) to have that title), where the author uses his now established fictional world to satirise features of our own (a style hinted at in earlier books but never explored fully). Its success here is no doubt responsible for the longevity of the recipe.

Callista : i could not really settle for the recommendations of snowglobes hatching into purchasing carts (trolleys--I want we known as them trolleys in America), which then are by some means a part of the natural improvement of a predatory buying mall. yet seeing the wizards and buddies song and conflict the carts was once fun, and that i cherished the remainder of the booklet adequate to offer it four stars.It's as though Terry Pratchett have been psychic, simply because such a lot of of his books from approximately twenty years in the past are in music with present trends. or perhaps such a lot of writers have learn him, they have imitated his themes? Anyway, this one has zombies and vampires. even though none of them are rather dangerous.In this story, dying has been fired and lives as a mortal for a while, engaged on a farm for the lonely leave out Flitworth. He learns what it truly is wish to have a restricted period of time and springs to appreciate and sympathise with mortals greater than he did before. i have visible dying in different Pratchett novels, and he remains to be one of these nice character. a few of his dealings with individuals are hilarious, and his courting with leave out Flitworth is good in addition to funny. What he does for her on the finish is especially touching.Meanwhile, nobody and not anything can stream past the mortal undeniable while he/she/it dies, and an way over lifestyles strength builds up in very unusual ways. The spirit of Windle Poons, the oldest wizard at Unseen University, returns to his body, rendering him a strong, clear-minded zombie. he is an lovely outdated guy, that means no damage to anyone. His personal and his friends' makes an attempt to ship him on his means do not work, in humorous ways. He joins a aid crew for the not-quite-mortal which incorporates a zombie who is pushing for undead rights, a bogeyman with self belief issues, a banshee so shy he can provide his wailing cry in writing, a couple of newly-made vampires trying to be upwardly cellular (at least the spouse is rationale on it, and she's dragging her terrible husband besides her), and a werewolf who has his cycle backwards (perhaps extra thoroughly termed a wolfman). besides a medium who is turn into the phobia of each faith at the Discworld and her werewolf daughter, Windle and the crowd got down to attempt to set issues right, whereas the wizards strategy from the opposite direction. One wizard begins appearing uncharacteristically like a film motion hero, stressful every person together with his consistent shouts of "Yo!" there has been even an Indiana Jones reference--unrelated to the action-fan wizard.I'd been a little baffled through the Auditors in Hogfather, they usually look during this book, as well--now creating a bit extra feel to me. they are awful, little bureaucrats.The characters during this have been simply delightful, and that i loved gazing them navigate the situations. It used to be a really enjoyable learn overall.

Cora Tea Party Princess: he is performed it again.My favorite of the entire Discworld novels.Death is an interesting character, and seeing his pressure of humanity simply makes him all of the extra so.Reaper guy is HILARIOUS. dying is so awkward, so uncertain of himself within the realm of the living. And whilst a while is working out, you need to adventure every thing existence has to offer. And whilst you've got by no means lived, probably the fundamentals ARE crucial components of life.

Roviragrao: (Relectura Mundodisco #11)Una de las novelas más brillantes de Terry Pratchett, un perfecto ejemplo de su filosofía de vida: serio no es lo contrario de divertido. Hay muchas

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citas memorables que salen de esta novela, voy a terminar con una que por motivos evidentes me ha llegado al alma en esta relectura: "Nadie ha muerto del todo hasta que mueren las ondulaciones que ha provocado en este mundo: hasta que se para el reloj al que dio cuerda, hasta que fermenta el vino que preparó, hasta que se recoge l. a. cosecha que plantó."

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