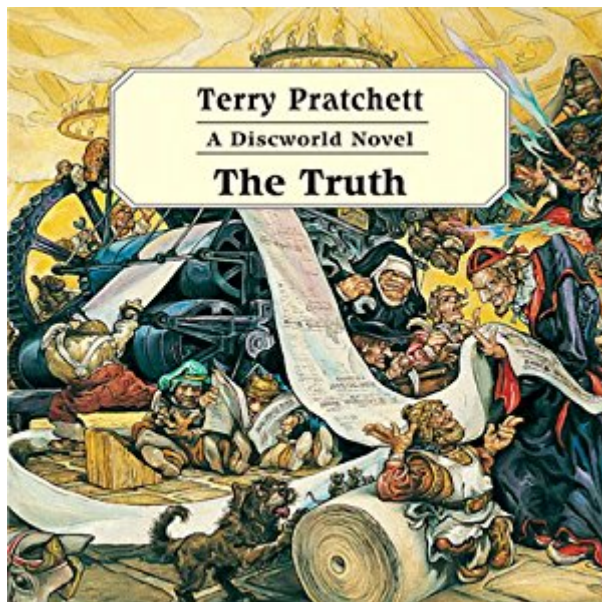


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The Truth: Discworld #25



Synopsis

A war of words and a battle for the truth in Terry Pratchett's bestselling Discworld® series. The denizens of Ankh-Morpork fancy they've seen just about everything. But then comes the Ankh-Morpork Times, struggling scribe William de Worde's upper-crust newsletter turned Discworld's first paper of record. An ethical journalist, de Worde has a proclivity for investigating stories – a nasty habit that soon creates powerful enemies eager to stop his presses. And what better way than to start the Inquirer, a titillating (well, what else would it be?) tabloid that conveniently interchanges what's real for what sells. But de Worde's got an inside line on the hot story concerning Ankh-Morpork's leading patrician, Lord Vetinari. The facts say Vetinari is guilty. But as William de Worde learns, facts don't always tell the whole story. There's that pesky little thing called . . . the truth. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a review, the reader tries to create a sense of the book; the task is to boil down the essence of the work and to summarize and give opinion about the quality of the object in a very subjective manner. I am making a project of finding that essence in the most constrained manner possible. Here, I present you with a haiku review. I hope you like the review and take under consideration a purchase of the work. Some write for glory. Others write for fame. The best write to seek the truth.

I recommend this as a starter for anyone interested in The Discworld books. Its a good stand alone that has many of the series main characters in side roles. It gives a good sense of the intelligence

and humor of Pratchett's work. Its not my favorite of the series but a good point to go anywhere from.

This is one of my favorites in the Discworld books. As someone who does a lot of writing I can so get into and enjoy the mind of William de Worde, but there are also so many fascinating characters either added or fleshed out in this book. Imagine a vampire photographer who uses flash photography! Pin and Tulip are -ing hilarious (you have to read the book to understand the -ing reference) and worth the time the book takes even if nothing more were to happen in the story. The Truth gives you time to visit with the Archchancellor of Unseen Univerity, the Bursar, Vetinari, CMOT Dibbler, Cheery Littlebottom, Vimes, Captain Carrot, Angua, Igor, and Mr. Slant so you aren't ignoring your favorite characters even while you learn about the life of a mild-mannered newsletter writer like William. Anyone who didn't grow up to be what their father planned for them to be will relate to William and find themselves cheering for him to succeed. I highly recommend this book. We took it along on a road trip and everyone who listened as it was read aloud has been demanding a chance to read the book for themselves, too.

Sir Terry Pratchett's entire Disc World series is worth a read. By the time he wrote "The Truth," the tone had been shifting from straight-up comic (often snort-out-loud) fantasy to include political and social commentary. I read through the entire series in order of publication and plan to start all over again some time soon.

If you love newspapers and you enjoy the writing of Terry Pratchett, you will take great glee in this book.

In "The Truth" Pratchett again gives us his remarkably deep insight into human nature by means of a fast-paced satire which is full of laugh-out-loud moments. The story of Ankh-Morpork's first newspaper makes fun of the Watergate scandal, Pulp Fiction, boarding-house life, vampires, "product warranties", suicide jumpers, the willingness of large numbers of people to believe anything if it's reported "officially" in the media, and even the practice of printing profanity as "_____!". Along the way we learn about the Discworld's only talking dog, how to evade werewolf pursuit, how Ankh-Morpork is like Seattle, and how dwarfs can turn lead into gold. The usual denizens of the city, from Nobby Nobbs and the Smell of Foul Ole Ron to Lord Vetinary, play their parts, and in William de Worde we meet yet another of Pratchett's unique characters, a man of inherited wealth and title

who rejects his familial role and tries to make his own way in the world, by telling "the truth".

Utterly fabulous. If you've never read Pratchett before, this is a great start of a new story arc where the Discworld's industrial age begins. Like most of Pratchett's works, I've read this book 6-7 times now and every time I re-read it (~2 years between each re-read), I find something new and delightful in the tale each time around. Interestingly, the industrialization series has an increased and welcome interplay with other Discworld story-arcs (esp. the Watch and the Wizards) which increases the relevance and depth of the stories over-all.

It's important to note that in the Discworld, newspapers have never existed. The engravers guild, in order to preserve their monopoly on printing, preventing anyone from using a mechanical press. That is until a group of dwarfs arrive from the mountains yearning to make money by printing. Along comes young William de Worde, a prodigal aristocrat whose broken from his wealthy father to make it on his own. When William visits the printing shop, he finds himself plunged into the new world of journalism. Together with a proper young lady named Sacharissa, they set out to create the Disc's first newspaper called the Times. As luck would have it, just as they're starting out, a huge story breaks. The metropolis of Ankh-Morpork's leader, The Patrician, is accused of stabbing his clerk with a knife and then trying to flee the city with embezzled funds. The City Watch is baffled by the case, but William soon finds a "man" on the inside, the mysterious Deep Bone. Aided by Sacharissa, the dwarfs, and a vampire photographer (on the wagon, meaning he only drinks animal blood) who turns to dust if he uses flash photography, William is determined to get to the bottom of things. But the truth isn't always so easy to set free, especially when hired goons are trying to kill you. This was a good addition to the series, but it could have been better. When I first read the description, I thought for sure there'd be some Citizen Kane references in there. I was expecting William to be one of those larger-than-life type characters like Charlie Kane and his real world counterpart William Randolph Hearst. That never materialized, which is disappointing. Instead William is an earnest young man in search of The Truth, which is OK too, but don't we all like more grandiose characters? There are some good insights into what makes the news, especially in the comparison between the Times and its rival The Inquirer--which despite its name is more based on Weekly World News. As the Deep Bone indicates there are references to Watergate and also the hired goons Mr. Pin and Mr. Tulip are based on the killers in Pulp Fiction, as evidenced by the line, "Do you know what they call a sausage-inna-bun in Klatch?" On a side note, this story probably was the template for the later Going Postal, the first in the series I read. That involved the

creation--resurrection really--of the post office in a similar fashion. Though the central character of that one, Moist von Lipwig, was more interesting. Conmen are just more exciting than conflicted aristocrats. And that's all the news fit to print.

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