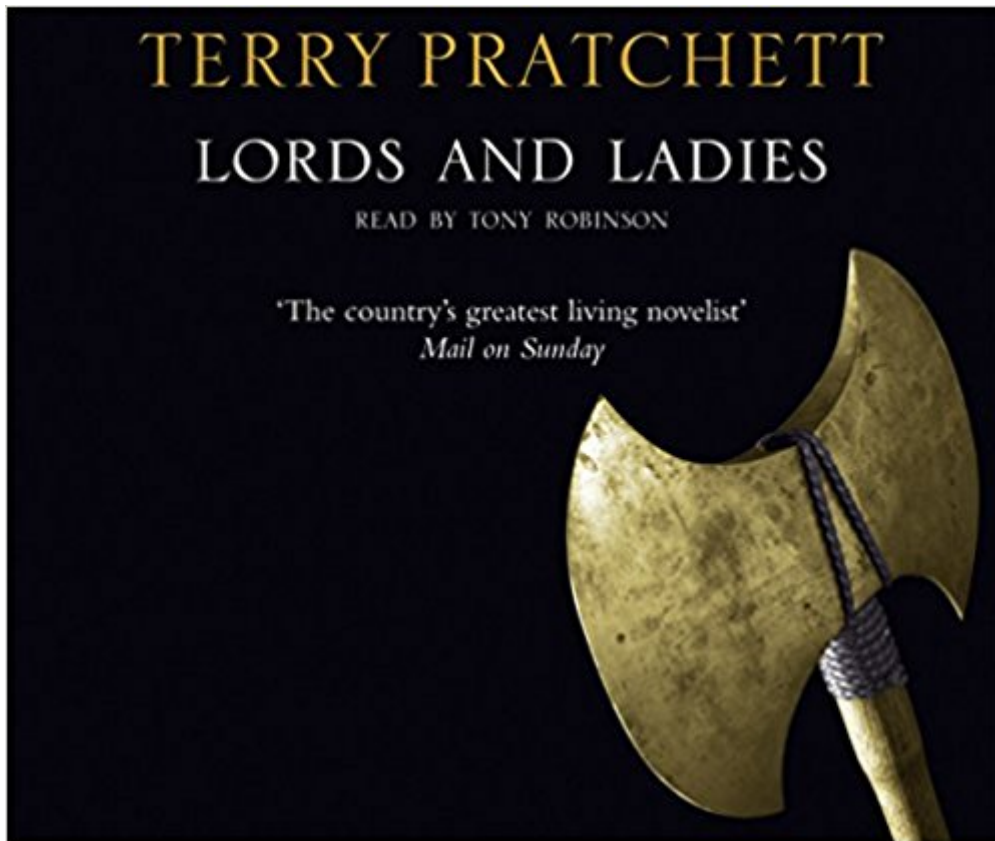


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Lords And Ladies



Synopsis

The fairies are back, but this time they don't just want your teeth . . . Granny Weatherwax and her tiny coven are up against real elves. There's a full supporting cast of dwarfs, wizards, trolls, Morris dancers and one orangutan. It's Midsummer Night's " no time for dreaming. And lots of hey-nonny-nonny and blood all over the place.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pratchett (Small Gods) has won an ardent following with his tales of Discworld and his particular brand of comedic fantasy. This latest installment, however, is unlikely to widen his readership. It's circle time on the Discworld; portentous round depressions are showing up everywhere, even in bowls of porridge. Worlds are weaving closer to one another, with unpredictable results. Only the three wacky witches, formidable Granny Weatherwax, crusty Nanny Ogg and scatterbrained Magrat Garlick, can ensure that the worst does not happen: the return of the elves. Trouble is, almost everyone else in the kingdom of Lancre is eager to welcome the "lords and ladies" back. They've forgotten that elves are nasty creatures who live only to torture their prey?humans especially. It's a tempting premise, but underdeveloped by Pratchett, who relies too heavily on his trademark humor, veering into the silly and sophomoric, to fuel the early portions of this fantasy. Only in the last third of the novel does he strike a successful balance among action, imagination and comedy. There is much fun to the tale once the smiling, sadistic elves actually appear, befuddling the townfolk with their beauty and illusion. An earlier arrival would have done much to strengthen this uneven novel.

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When an invasion of elves from another world threatens the Kingdom of Lancre, only the intervention of Granny Weatherwax and her sister witches can keep the human populace from succumbing to the enemy's fatal spell. This latest addition to the whimsical "Discworld" series features a tireless flow of tongue-in-cheek humor, lowly puns, and broad, comic vision. Pratchett (Soul Music, LJ 11/15/94) demonstrates why he may be one of the genre's liveliest and most inventive humorists. A good selection for libraries in possession of previous titles in the series. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The three witches of Lancre return home from *Witches Abroad* and find changes afoot. New, young, hip witches are going around and calling forth the 'Fairy Folk', the local actors guild are preparing for a wedding play, and Magrat decided to stop being a witch. Over all, one of the strongest Discworld series. I love Nanny Ogg and Granny, and this time wizards are coming to much things up too.

I am a dyed in the wool Terry Pratchett fan and in my opinion this is one of his best stories. At a philosophical level it is about power, the use and abuse of it. But the characters are so amazing, even those that don't play the central roles. Pratchett weaves a rich and colourful tapestry of people across whose lives the story plays out. The three witches Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick each shine in their own unique way. It's a rollicking magical rollercoaster ride in true Discworld style. Highly recommended!

I've fallen in love with Terry Pratchett a long time ago - I've read multiple times all his first couple dozen novels and I own several autographed copies, to be clear - and I think I'd probably give 5 stars to everything he ever wrote (with the possible exception of his output as a press agent for a British nuclear facility whose name currently escapes me). Still, there's 5 stars and then there's 5 stars, and *L&L* is one of the finest 5 stars of all. While it might not be as side-splittingly funny as, say, *Witches Abroad*, nor quite as surreptitiously profound as *Interesting Times* (both of which are paragons of Pratchettism, in my opinion), *L&L* is both funny and deep, and I think it wouldn't take much effort to see a lot of what's going on today somehow hinted at or implied in it. One last word: if you're new to Discworld, I don't think this should be the first novel you read. While it's true that the Discworld is not as chronologically strict as other series, and it's certainly true you can read the different "subseries" without reading the others (mostly), by doing so you'd miss the awesome, if

only partly deliberate, job Pratchett has done in letting his characters grow and change and evolve. You owe it to yourself to enjoy his work as much as possible, right?

Terry Pratchett is simply the master of the fantasy novel. His prose is very readable, while not being simplistic at all. The true genius of Pratchett lies in his masterful ability to parody modern socio-political environments and intertwine them with fairytale settings, all with his own unique twist and believable, relate able characters. While this book lands quite a ways along in his extensive saga or Discworld books, like all Pratchett novels, it can be read as a stand-alone with ease, due to the footnotes and the explanations in the book.

Pratchett was off his game with this one. While it had a number of quirky observations and some fun language play the make all of his novels so popular, the author introduced a number of potential major characters only to strand them in early chapters and didn't bother to tie up a lot of narrative threads he started. If this were one of his earlier novels, his career might have ended much more quickly. Pick another by Mr. Pratchett.

The gals have been gone a while, and lots of things can happen in eight month's time. Magrat is still planning to marry the new king (and former fool) of Lancre, and anyone who's everyone will be attending the Royal Wedding, including our favorite Librarian. (If only they can get him to put on some clothes...) But wait...strange things are happening. (Well, stranger things than the strange things that normally happen in Discworld.) Even the bees are worried. Granny Weatherwax is reunited with an old love. Nanny Ogg is being wooed by a dwarf who's also the world's second greatest lover. Magrat is discovering that being Queen is really...boring. And the "lords and ladies" have somehow found a way through, and here's a hint...they're NOT here for the Morris Dancing! Now, it's up to the witches to stop Magrat's fairy tale ending from being ruined by...fairies.

Another Terry Pratchett wonderfully creative escape from the serious world! If you are already a fan, it is especially enjoyable, featuring many of the regulars from previous novels. It could even be described as a romance novel-sort of. Then again....the librarian as best man for Magrat's wedding? To understand the last sentence, read at least a half dozen previous novels. You will be glad you did.

This is one of my favourite books by Sir Terry Pratchett, may her rest in peace. There is not one

second in which you're disappointed by the outcome of things. Granny Weatherwax is the greatest of any character in any media of all time. She's such a badass! The plotline follows so closely with the actual lore behind the *ahem* Lords and Ladies. Everyone and their mum is all "No, they're actually really nice and helpful and they always do good things!" and every one of them is full of it. I love this book. It says what my entire family line has been saying for centuries.

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