



Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion . . So Far

Terry Pratchett , Stephen Briggs

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For every Pratchett fan, the must-have fully updated guidebook to Discworld!

The Discworld, as everyone knows, is a flat world balanced on the backs of four elephants which, in turn, stand on the shell of the giant star turtle, the Great A'Tuin, as it slowly swims through space.

It is also a global publishing phenomenon with sales of nearly 85 million books worldwide (and counting). With 39 books in the canon, not including the various guides, maps, diaries, and other tie-in volumes, there's a lot of Discworld to keep track of—more than most fans can manage without magic.

Turtle Recall is the ultimate authority on probably the most heavily populated—certainly the most hilarious—setting in fantasy literature and includes a guide to Discworld locales from Ankh-Morpork to Zemphis, as well as information to help you distinguish Achmed the Mad from Jack Zweiblum and the Agatean Empire from the Zoons. Plus much, much more.

Covering everything from *The Colour of Magic*, the first Discworld novel, through *Snuff!*, *Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion . . . So Far* is the most up-to-the-minute encyclopedia of Terry Pratchett's extraordinary universe available.

Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion . . So Far Details

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From Reader Review Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion . . So Far for online ebook

Hayley says

This book has taken me months to finish but that is only because of the nature of the book. As an encyclopedia of the discworld, I have just enjoyed picking it up every now and then and reading a few entries. What it has mainly done is made me want to re-read every single discworld book. Every entry reminded me of a character, event or just bizarre creation of Terry Pratchett. Even snippets of the books or condensed versions of plots or descriptions at times made me laugh out loud. To summarise this book made me realise how much a part of my growing up the disc world series has been. I read my first disc world book (Mort) aged 11 and have been hooked ever since. The majority of books I buy now are e books but discworld books are one of the few exceptions that are still bought in hard back to add to my collection. The discworld books have a very special place in my heart and as far as I'm concerned Terry Pratchett is a genius able to combine fantasy, comedy, parody and all round exceptional story telling in a way that few can match. Now just looking forward to getting my hands on the new discworld novel.

Margit says

I'm not what one would call a rabid Discworld fan. I've read several of Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels and have enjoyed them very much. I like picking one up now and then and visiting this universe. I'm in no hurry to read them all because, well, then what? He's not going to write more faster than I can read them.

The books I've read haven't necessarily been in order and frequently have been read quite far apart. So I'm quite likely to encounter a character or location and think "I've read about this before but where? And what happened?" "Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion . . . So Far" is just what I need - a dictionary of places, people, and . . . um . . . things in Discworld. It helps bridge the (usually fairly wide) gaps in my memory and provides the background I need to fully enjoy the story.

The book also has some rather random back of the book material. I was particularly fascinated by the article on the difficulties of translating such a language-intensive fantasy. Others might be interested in the more-or-less rules on playing Cripple Mr. Onion.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

Turtle Recall is the definitive encyclopedia of Pratchett's Discworld. It has an entry for what I must assume is anything and everything that has ever made an appearance in the books.

I have read all the novels and while it has been a while for some of them, still a fair portion of the entries look to be of people or events I honestly don't recall. The entries themselves are nice and detailed and the illustrations are excellent, though there could be a bit more of them.

My main gripe with this companion is that it is nothing more than an encyclopedia. I started off reading entries one by one, thinking that each one would be a mildly amusing in itself, rather like the footnotes

littered throughout the novels. Unfortunately rather many of the entries read extremely drily. Not all - some of them have excellent wit and humor, but all too few. Personally, I ended up just looking up my favorite characters, places and events and reading those.

For the true fan this is a wonderful addition to the collection. For others, the idea of is nicer than what it actually is. Reviewed from an ARC of the April 8th Edition.

Joey Woolfardis says

There's a pun right there in the title; I think that's sufficient reason to read this book.

Lynne says

Hilarious and informative. This hilarious compendium is the index and encyclopedia to Pratchett's long series of Discworld books. It gives a description of every major character, location, and event, and quite a few minor ones, with annotations for which books the item came from. Any fan of the Discworld will enjoy this. If you've ever read the Annotated Pratchett files online, this is an addition.

After the final encyclopedic listing ("Zweiblumen, Jack") is a reprint of an interview Sir Terry gave with the first edition of the companion, comments of his about fan mail, and the rules for the card game "Cripple Mr. Onion" as played by many characters in the various books. If you like complicated card games, this is for you.

I really enjoyed this book. I giggled all the way through, starting with the two puns in the title: Total Recall (also a Schwarzenegger movie), and "up to snuff/Snuff", which is the latest title in the Discworld series at the time the Companion was published.

Doug says

Marking this as "read" is a bit of a mis-shelving, since one does not simply read, cover to cover, a book like this. It is an encyclopedia of the Discworld and its residents, up through the events of *Snuff*. Unfortunately, it straddles an uncomfortable middle between being an in-world encyclopedia and being an authoritative source, and it ends up with some rough edges.

Some of the entries have detailed notes about which particular books a given person/event/etc appears in, in order. Others do not. Some entries go into lots of specific details, others read like a blurb on the back of the book [complete with jokes and teasers about what is inside]. There seems to be a bit of a lean towards the more recent books, with [say] Adora Bell Dearheart having a more specific entry than Susan Sto Helit despite the latter having (up through *Snuff*, anyhow) a more relatively prominent place in the Discworld canon. And some of the entries would be a bit of a bear to find, such as those dealing with the animals of the Disc.

Still, it's a fair read and not a bad way to refresh the memory about the various entities and namesakes of the Disc, you'll just have to work to get a complete picture.

Kaethe says

Like any encyclopedia, it's rather less useful to anyone who's good at googling, but let's ignore that. If you're the sort of person who likes to look things up in books and you're reading anything in the Discworld universe, this is a very handy tome to keep close. All the named characters, details of geography, names of operas, food, the educational history of the witches...there is a LOT of stuff here, culled from the books and with references to the texts if you want to see exactly which books someone appears in.

This would make an excellent gift for any Discworld fan, just in case you're wondering what to give someone during the upcoming holiday season. Hypothetically.

Library copy.

Chestpec says

I bought this after finishing all books in the Watch and Death Arc.

I've also read some of the stand-alones such as Small Gods and MOnstrous Regiment.

To be honest. I'm pretty disappointed in this book.

I was expecting it to contain a lot of trivia I didn't know about my favorite characters but the contents are basically a refresher course on the books. If you've read the books over and over there's nothing new to pick up in this Discworld Companion.

I'm giving it a 3 since I think it's useful for those who have holes in their Discworld collection. The illustrations aren't worth spending the money on. Buy the art books instead.

Widad Oteh says

Hey, to the people who are like, 'Who would read this cover to cover in one sitting?', let me tell you, I DID. It wasn't hard! These are characters as close to my heart as my family are here!

I'm just kidding. I was looking forward to learning new things about my old friends from the Disc in this book. Not much luck in that area. If you've read every Discworld book, this one is more like the cliff notes you read before you go into your literature exam. A bit disappointing, but it is certainly the Companion it proclaims itself to be. If you're one of those weirdos who read Discworld for the first time at a pace healthier than four books in a day, this would probably be useful in refreshing your memory as to who the characters are during your read-throughs.

As pointed out by other people though, this book does have some erroneous information in it. For example, it states that Drumnott 'has no discernible personality'. Anyone who has read half a line of dialogue from this memorable secretary will know that that is more of a fiction than Santa Claus is.

Just saying.

Tifa says

A fun read, as always, but very little new information. Still, it's nice to have a lot of Discworld's details in one place. There are a few entries with new or more detailed info, but most are very brief and cryptic, albeit very witty, as Mr. Pratchett always is. My biggest quibble with my edition is the terrible editing or possibly formatting problems with the Kindle version. It was very distracting to have random hyphens on every page and a surprising number of spelling or punctuation errors. I hope the print version didn't have those problems because none of my other Pratchett novels have.

Pieter Janse van Vuuren says

Even though it is a long read and without a story line to keep you captivated it is fun read for the Discworld enthusiast and adds some depth to the understanding and sometimes underlying jokes in Discworld.

Alan Reynolds says

A delightful Discworld reference book that I bought on 9 January 2014.

12/08/2018 I've been reading in this again today. Lovely. Wise man, Pratchett.

Molokov says

This is the fourth copy (and third edition) of the Discworld Companion that I own, and this latest update is somewhat of a disappointment. There is a whole raft of typography errors, missing references, a fair few instances where the text has repeated phrases in different paragraph - as if an earlier entry was updated with haste rather than completely rewritten - and some info that is inaccurate or just plain wrong (by quick comparison with the original novel referred to). This edition appears to have been a rush job by Briggs - I know he has a day job, but maybe this update could have been done by someone else?

Despite all this, there is a raft of new entries about the novels published since the last edition of the Companion, but there are still certainly some major missing pieces. I suspect that it would be better for all if the Discworld Wiki would be allowed to reproduce all the info from this book, and then allow users to update everything as required (under the guidance of a handful of editors, perhaps including Briggs or other superfans) (no not me)

The backmatter contains some material from the first edition, which is a great historical footnote, but something new (plus maybe a collection of /all/ the material from previous editions) would have been nicer.

Cover artwork (by Marc Simonetti) is brilliant, though.

Jacek Litka says

Encyklopedia dla każdego miłośnika świata Dysku. Briggs nie oszczędza w słowach, opracowane przez niego hasła wyczerpują temat najważniejszych postaci, organizacji, ras i wydarzeń świata Dysku. Nieprzeciętną zaletą książki jest to, że każde hasło opracowane jest zgodnie z duchem twórczości Pratchetta, dlatego ten skorowidz czyta się bardziej niż przyjemnie. Raczej jak interesującą książkę niż suchy zbiór faktów i liczb. Zresztą, jak można mówić o liczbach w przypadku uniwersum, które umyka wszelkim ludzkim, rzeczywistym metodom klasyfikacji? Pozycja obowiązkowa dla każdego fana twórczości Terry'ego Pratchetta. Przyznać jednak muszę, że nie jest to książka dla kogoś kto nie wkręci się jeszcze w historię dysku. Wiele haseł to gigantyczne źródło wszelkiej maści spoilerów, zdradzających a nawet z fabuły każdego woluminu z cyklu świata Dysku. Czytajcie z rozwagą!

Brendan says

I didn't read this. I'm sure someone out there did. I didn't. I read the beginning. I also read the end. I highly recommend both of those parts. Then put the book on the shelf to use as a reference tool the next time you pick up a Discworld novel and you feel like you should know more about a character than you do. From the entries I did read (picking it up several times over several weeks) this is a fun and informative reference book, but you would have to be real dedicated to read it straight through. A book worth owning for someone who really loves Discworld.
