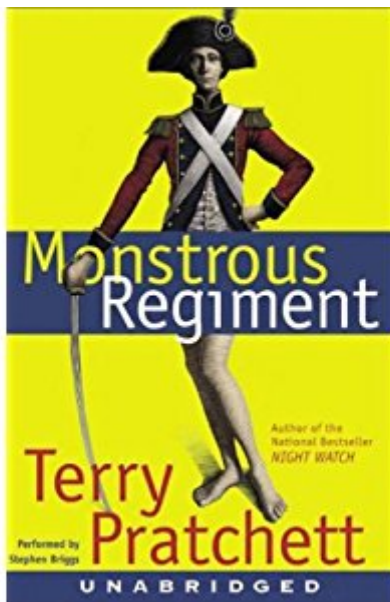


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Monstrous Regiment: Discworld #31



Synopsis

War has come to Discworld ... again. And, to no one's great surprise, the conflict centers around the small, arrogantly fundamentalist duchy of Borogravia, which has long prided itself on its unrelenting aggressiveness. A year ago, Polly Perks's brother marched off to battle, and Polly's willing to resort to drastic measures to find him. So she cuts off her hair, dons masculine garb, and -- aided by a well-placed pair of socks -- sets out to join this man's army. Since a nation in such dire need of cannon fodder can't afford to be too picky, Polly is eagerly welcomed into the fighting fold -- along with a vampire, a troll, an Igor, a religious fanatic, and two uncommonly close "friends." It would appear that Polly "Ozzer" Perks isn't the only grunt with a secret. But duty calls, the battlefield beckons. And now is the time for all good ... er ... "men" to come to the aid of their country. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SPOILER ALERT !!! Read no further if you wish to be surprised. You were warned. A satire on the military in which the only effective soldiers turn out to be women (an abomination in the country). Pratchett takes many of the cliches of military fiction and turns them in to a funny story. Sir Terry was never a fan of war or the army. That is quite clear in this and some of his other stories. The country fighting is one of random, persistent repression that has managed to declare war on all of its neighbors and some distant countries as well. The war is prompted by many statements from their god who hates everything from women in men's clothing to small stones. A delightful ending.

There isn't a single Sir Terry Pratchett novel I haven't enjoyed. MONSTROUS REGIMENT is the most melancholy of his works, however. The novel speaks to the futility and absurdity of War -- and just for a little something extra -- sexism. Regardless, it is a fine work and worthy of your reading.

Pratchett scores full marks on this one! Appreciates women without being strident or condescending...I loved the book, and encourage every fan of his writing to enjoy this masterful piece of his imagination.

Another "interesting read" from the late Terry Pratchett on military service, impoverished societies, war for the sake of war, and gender. I loved this Terry Pratchett tale.

Polly Perks, the tavernkeeper's daughter, disguises herself as a boy & runs off to join the army in search of her brother, who has gone missing in the war. Her little country (Borogravia), theoretically governed by a duchess whom no one has seen in decades & bound by a set of increasingly arbitrary Abominations forbidden by the god Nuggan (not just women in trousers, but also dwarfs, barking dogs, shirts with 6 buttons, cheese, chocolate and garlic, and the color blue) is fighting a losing battle with neighboring Zlobenia in a centuries-long border squabble (the river keeps moving its course so the boundaries keep changing). One by one, it turns out that her "fellow" enlistees are also young women - or, as is most often the case on Discworld, young females of various ethnic persuasions (trolls, for example). As always with Pratchett, courage & common sense carry the day, albeit only for the time being. (Pratchett loves a happy ending, but he's never foolish enough to let us think that there are truly "endings" among squabbling peoples.) Few writers satirize the idiocy of religion-based (or for that matter, any-other-based) wars as well as Pratchett. Unfortunately, the jokes about women in uniform, & women disguised as men disguised as women & vice versa, start to wear thin, & the surprise ending drags out & doesn't really play fair with the reader.

I think this book falls in the Light Fantasy genre. Though it does have some high fantasy elements. Well written. And though the book covers topics that aren't really as much of an issue any more it covers them well and doesn't feel outdated. Does have a little violence. Touches on sexual topics. Though there is no actual sex in the book. Gives me the sense that it is mostly a feel good read. Does contain messages of value and pertinent to current times. Very much worth reading. Especially if you like the Disc-World series of books.

Is there a statement being made here? There always seems to be, but it's not always totally clear. Or maybe there are two different messages with at heart a common thread... Somehow it feels incomplete... Which makes no sense because it has a last page... This is a good story and I'm glad I read it, but it's no Vimes or Weatherwax if your that way inclined.

Terry Pratchett is a master storyteller. In *Monstrous Regiment*, he tells the poignant story of a woman enlisting in the army to find her brother, who is missing in action. He manages to skewer prejudice, war, politics, bravery/cowardice in one fell swoop. The book contains many outright laughs but is touching in parts to bring tears to your eyes. Really one of the best Pratchett books I've read so far. (Alas, they fall like flies!) Not to be missed!

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