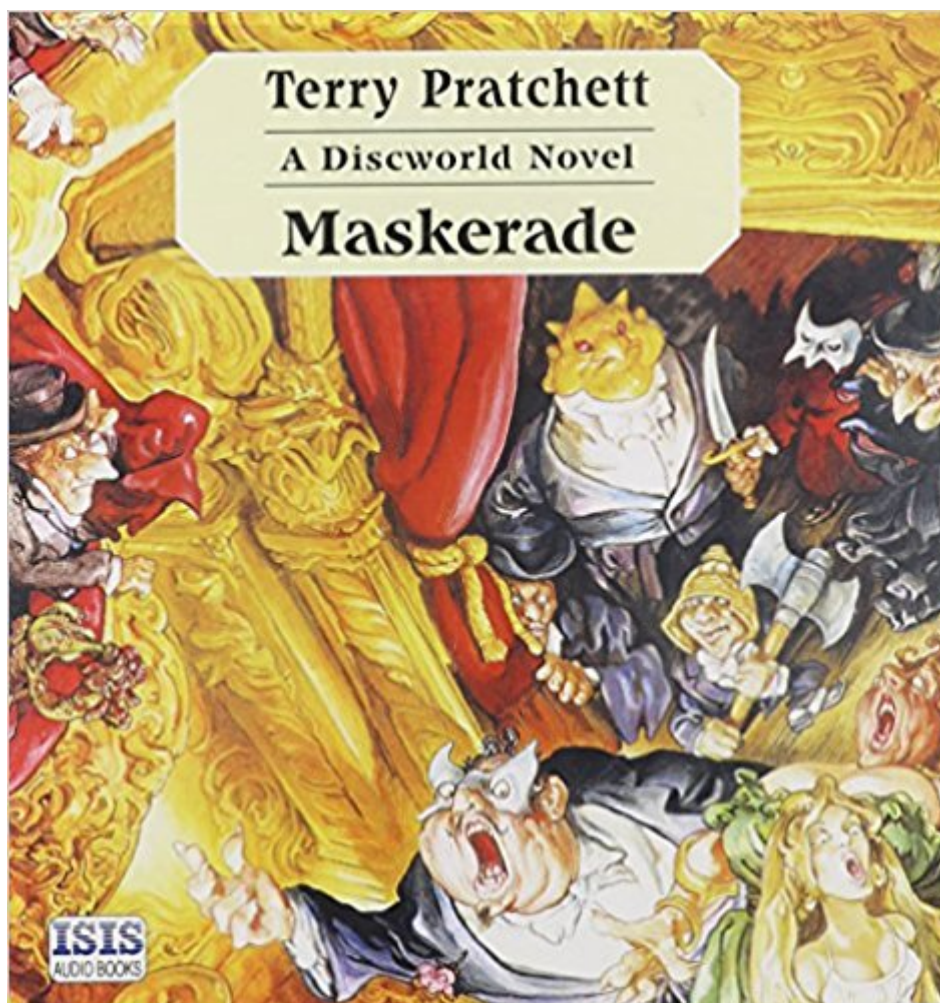


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# Maskerade



## Synopsis

The Opera House, Ankh-Morpork: a huge rambling building, where innocent young sopranos are lured to their destiny by a strangely familiar evil mastermind in a hideously deformed evening dress. But Granny Weatherwax is in the audience, and she doesn't hold with that sort of thing. So there's going to be trouble (but nevertheless a good evening's entertainment with murders you can really hum.) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are strange goings-on at the Opera House in Ankh-Morpork. A ghost in a white mask is murdering, well, quite a lot of people, and two witches (it really isn't wise to call them "meddling, interfering old baggages"), or perhaps three, take a hand in unraveling the mystery. Fans of the popular Discworld will be happy to see some old friends again in Maskerade, the 18th novel in the series. --Blaise Selby --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Pratchett is as funny as Wodehouse and as witty as Waugh."

--Independent "The great Terry Pratchett, whose wit is metaphysical, who creates an energetic and lively secondary world, who has a multifarious genius for strong parody... who deals with death with startling originality. Who writes amazing sentences." --New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's difficult to choose a favorite Discworld book because there are only fractions of points between

their ratings. I think *Witches Abroad* is still my number one favorite but *Maskerade* runs a very close second. They're in my top 40 for sure :-). The Joy of Snacks but had me laughing more than any of the other ones and that takes some doing because I love Terry Pratchett's humor more than any other author. Just read everything he wrote - his physical loss is a sad thing for literature but his voluminous contributions will live on till *The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch* are fulfilled.

I love Terry Pratchett's books and his Discworld universe. This book is based off the Phantom of the Opera/opera classics. It wasn't bad, and I just finished rereading it but it's not quite up to the standards of his other books

Admittedly this is not a heavyweight book. But then, I don't read Terry Pratchett's Discworld series to be challenged mentally, I read them because they are fun. And *Maskerade* is one of Pratchett's best in that area. The book is mainly about poking fun at *The Phantom of the Opera*, and many other Andrew Lloyd Webber creations, with a simple storyline (although it does appear to be raising a character from a previous book to a more prominent role). The allusions and parody in *Maskerade* are (moderately) subtle, so they don't interfere with the flow of the story (what there is of it). In fact, the book won't be anywhere near as enjoyable for someone who isn't familiar with the stage presentation of *Phantom*. So if you are looking for an easy and enjoyable read, and have already read earlier books in the "Witches" line of Discworld, go for it.

One of my favorite books in this favorite series. I love all of them and am very sad that I'm finally running out of books and Terry is no longer with us to write more. What a wonderful world he wrote!

In which Terry Pratchett takes on the world of opera with typically anarchic and yet thoughtful results. Pratchett's long been fascinated with the power of stories and their presentation (see, for instance, *A Moving Picture* and *A Wyrd Sisters*), and *Maskerade* is no different, as the power of opera proves to be surprisingly durable. To be fair, there's a lot more of the musical in here than the opera, especially given that the main plot is Pratchett's fractured version of *The Phantom of the Opera*; but really, unless you're a diehard purist, does it matter? This is a *Witches* book, and while they've never been my favorite story arc, there's no denying the fun Pratchett has with these ladies and their effects on the world, and when these effects include mutating cats, observations about how to determine the IQ of a mob (answer: determine the IQ of the lowest member and divide

by the number of mobsters), musings by Death as to the inadvisability of the dead intruding on murder investigations, and an appropriately operatic and over-the-top ending, how can you not have fun with this one? It may not be the equal of the series's highest points (Mort, Small Gods, Thud!), but it's still a blast.

Ah, my favorite city in the Discworld is back. This story takes us to Ankh-Morpork. Evidently one of the wannabe witches from Lords and Ladies actually has some power inside of her. She does not want to be a witch though and runs off to be a singer at the Ankh Morpork opera. There is only one problem ..... She sings like an angel, but looks like a ... well, it would be offensive to say. The Opera therefor needs to use her voice, but not her looks. Thus enters the world of Theatre and Drama. And thus ... "Phantom of the Opera" enters the Discworld.

What do Terry Pratchetts fan like best about his books? Probably a lot of different things. I like the play of words and the built in humour which is sometimes so subtle that you don't realise the wit until you have passed it. But if you don't happen to know Shakespeare and English literature, would you miss a lot of that? If the reader doesn't know the starting scenes of Macbeth, would the the openings scenes of the book have much meaning? Maskerade is the book which is a great Pratchett read and very enjoyable. But if you think opera is really great - don't read the book

Terry Pratchett!

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