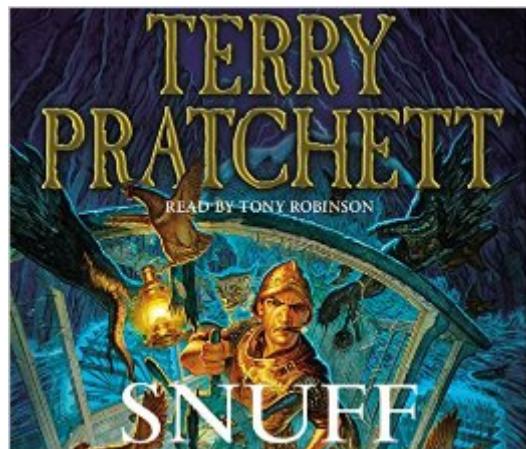


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Snuff (Discworld Novel)



Synopsis

The new Discworld novel from the master features the popular Sam Vimes, Commander of the City Watch. According to the writer of the best-selling crime novel ever to have been published in the city of Ankh-Morpork, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a policeman taking a holiday would barely have had time to open his suitcase before he finds his first corpse. And Commander Sam Vimes of the Ankh-Morpork City Watch is on holiday in the pleasant and innocent countryside, but not for him a mere body in the wardrobe. There are many, many bodies and an ancient crime more terrible than murder. He is out of his jurisdiction, out of his depth, out of bacon sandwiches, and occasionally snookered and out of his mind, but never out of guile. Where there is a crime there must be a finding, there must be a chase and there must be a punishment. They say that in the end all sins are forgiven. But not quite all.

Book Information

Series: Discworld Novel (Book 39)

Audio CD

Publisher: Corgi; Abridged edition edition (November 14, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 184657918X

ISBN-13: 978-1846579189

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.9 x 5.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (589 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,924,385 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (P) > Pratchett, Terry #1107 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #1257 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Humorous

Customer Reviews

But, as usual, brings his work with him. His Grace, Sir Samuel Vimes, Commander of the City Watch of Ankh Morpork, and Blackboard Monitor has given himself over to the will of a higher power, his wife, Lady Sybil Vimes, née Ramkin. She has determined that their son should see their country residence and where food comes from (hint: meat does not spontaneously appear in the butcher shop), so Sam finds himself in a new and unnerving place; the rolling hills outside his beloved (and often beloathed, but it is HIS city regardless) Ankh Morpork. But Sybil has arranged this sabbatical with Lord Vetinari (the tyrant of Ankh Morpork, and the most subtle and nuanced absolute ruler ever

portrayed), so it shouldn't surprise anyone that the quiet countryside is full of surprises for Sam Vimes. In this, the latest chronicle of Discworld, we learn more of the intricacies of marriage (and if you are not yet married, "Jesters do oft prove prophets"), the belief system of goblins is expounded upon, the qualifications of a gentleman's gentleman are illustrated, the difficulties of life for the nobility, the diverse and fascinating world of poo, the influence of Dwarf substitution (substitution: a thing that is true, but not generally believed), the intimidation and menace wielded by an accountant, and the budding romance of Nobby Nobbs (Corporal, Ankh Morpork City Watch, and alleged human). Police procedural, Victorian scientific inquiry, race relations, novelists, river boats, the expectations of the landed gentry, privilege, and smuggling are at the top of the list of things parodied, poked at, and presented in "Snuff". It was brilliant.

I don't want to zing the author for 's shoddy product. So, the book isn't Pratchett's strongest but even his slightly off efforts are miles better than many other authors' best. Plenty of reviewers have summarized the plot so I won't repeat it. Vimes is at the center of the book but he's not quite the character I remember so fondly, or expected him to become. For lack of a better way to put it, Vimes is now *too much*. Of everything. He's positively revered by the humble and powerful alike, and now endowed with a typically skewed Pratchettian superpower. It's been interesting watching gritty, down-to-earth Vimes learn to cope with being a nobleman. But he's somehow less nuanced and that's just a tiny bit disappointing. As a reviewer (or someone) once said of Dorothy Sayer that she made the mistake of falling in love with her main character. "Snuff" makes me wonder whether Terry Pratchett is verging on identifying too closely with Vimes. Actually this is a very minor quibble. Pratchett is still a giant, simply one of the best out there. "Snuff" is funny, thoughtful and of course gently satirical. Vintage Pratchett, in fact. As for advice to the buying public, beware of 's Kindle editions. This is the worst I've ever seen. It's riddled with formatting errors, so badly that reading it is difficult. There were sections I had to parse word by word to wring sense from the text. I've e-mailed to see if they will replace it with a readable version. I am becoming VERY disenchanted with Kindle books. "Snuff" isn't the first bad Kindle edition, just the most flagrant and the most recent. needs to drastically improve its reliability, and do it soon. Follow-up: 's response?

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