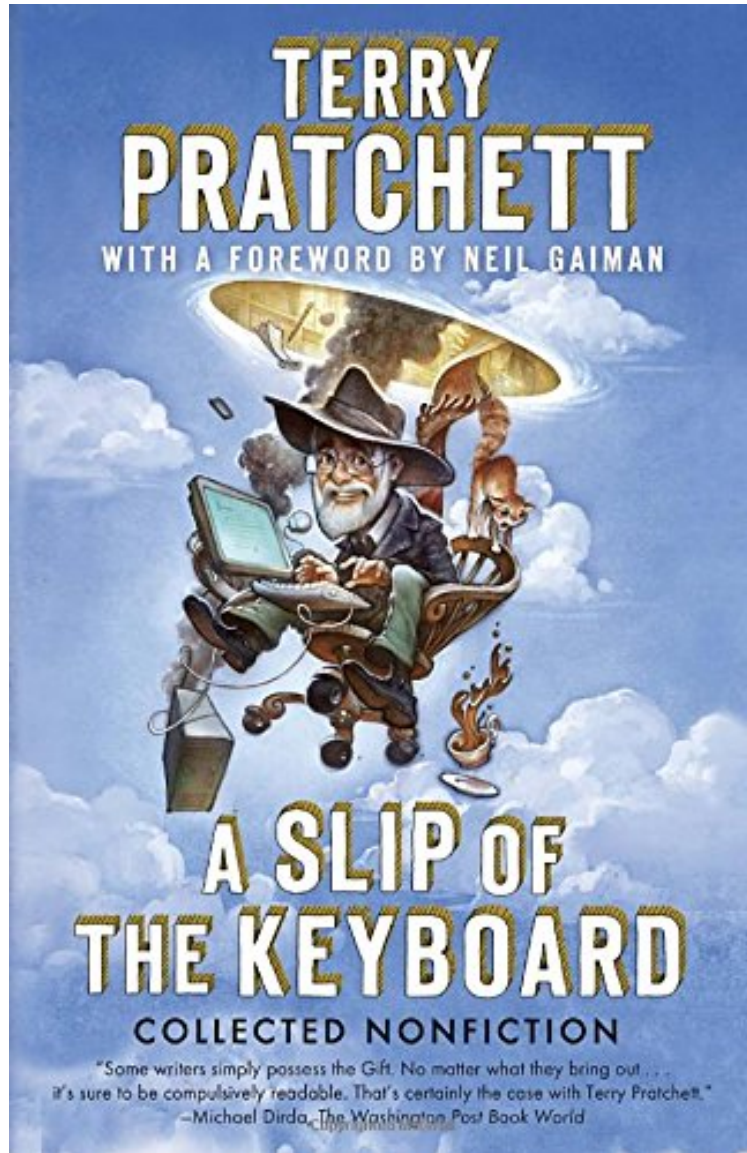


(Download free ebook) A Slip of the Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction

A Slip of the Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction

Terry Pratchett

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Terry Pratchett : A Slip of the Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Slip of the Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is a collection of non-fiction essays that Terry Pratchett ...By Kindle CustomerThis is a collection of non-fiction essays that Terry Pratchett has written over the length of his career. It is grouped together by general theme: essays on being a professional writer; essays on growing up, reading, and

other "off-duty" enjoyments; and essays on his causes. Overall, it is well-worth reading. If there is any flaw, it's in a certain repetitiveness. It's understandable: when you are writing personal essays and speeches, different venues will require telling similar anecdotes. Both the SF guest of honor speech and the Guardian article about becoming a fan will require telling about the local porn shop that also sold SF/F magazines. But PTerry doesn't crib from himself; each retelling is told fresh, with a different emphasis and different (but consistent) details. He is writing from memory afresh, not telling practiced lines. The one exception to this is the last section. Understandably, one of PTerry's major causes these days is the progression, treatment, and end-game of Alzheimer's, which he was diagnosed with in 2006. The last 9 essays (save the bookend essay) were written between 2008 and 2011, and all deal with his disease or with his support of "assisted dying". All are written for mainstream media (The Times, The Daily Mail, the BBC, etc), and all are writing with a purpose. It is very different than most of the prior essays in the book, and can be (emotionally) hard to get through, especially all at once. It is still worth reading.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for Terry Pratchett fans

By A. H. Wagner

If you've ever wondered what Discworld series author Terry Pratchett is really thinking underneath what people often mistake for a "jolly old elf" exterior, then "A Slip of the Keyboard," a nonfiction collection of essays and speeches spanning his entire career, is a must-read. As his friend and "Good Omens" co-author Neil Gaiman is quick to point out in the book's foreword, Pratchett is not jolly; he is, in fact, often seething with anger. But it is this anger that drives much of his best writing, whether funny or serious, fiction or nonfiction. In this collection, you'll find pieces of varying length covering a wide range of topics, from how Pratchett got his true education at the library, to the importance of a good hat, to guidelines for bookstores hosting author signings, to his experience handling public relations for a nuclear power plant (which, improbably, includes defusing rumors about a pixie haunting the grounds), to his more recent diagnosis of and fight against Alzheimer's disease. Some of the pieces are laugh-out-loud funny, some are deeply moving, most are a combination of funny and moving, and all are precious illuminations on this much-beloved but perhaps less understood writer. What I've always admired about Pratchett, besides his superb command of language and his masterfully incisive insights on human nature, is the perfect razor-edge on which he balances humor and gravity in the tightly wound plots of his novels. Only with a Terry Pratchett book do I find myself laughing riotously at a ridiculous quip one moment and, in the very next moment, hushing myself in awe at a profound statement about life—often within the same sentence. I'm delighted to discover that his nonfiction writing has the same effect. This book is chock-full of interesting insights about the author, but among its most telling is Pratchett's opinion on funny vs. serious: "The problem is that we think the opposite of funny is serious," he says. "It is not. In fact, as G. K. Chesterton pointed out, the opposite of funny is not funny, and the opposite of serious is not serious." As anyone who's read more than a few of Pratchett's books can attest, the Discworld author is dead serious about the importance of humor. "Humour has its uses," Pratchett says. "Laughter can get through the keyhole while seriousness is still hammering on the door. New ideas can ride in on the back of a joke; old ideas can be given an added edge." I'm sad and angry that Alzheimer's is forcing Pratchett to watch a bit of himself slip away every day, but all I can do is be thankful for the generous output of magical writing with which this author has already gifted us and hope for much more before the last good-bye. And, as Gaiman concludes, there's no better catharsis than to pick up one's pen and write.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Terry Pratchett reflecting on his trade, humanity and Death

By Montana Skyline

Terry Pratchett fans will need no encouragement to purchase this collection and will not be disappointed. Still, a brief "heads-up" about what to expect might be useful to some prospective readers. This is a collection of excerpts from speeches and interviews, plus published newspaper comments and media miscellany: A hodgepodge of many years. Most are devoted to Pratchett's trade-craft and experiences that have shaped his books, although concluding with personal reflections on dementia and on "assisted dying." Given the nature of the material, it is not surprising that there is a fair bit of repetition. This being said, Pratchett's sharp intelligence, wry wit and insight into human nature abound --- as always, his humor is irrepressible even at his most serious. Although this is not an autobiography, readers will learn a fair bit about Pratchett and how Discworld came about. And readers will be entirely unsurprised to find Pratchett's humanity permeating the whole. Is this Terry Pratchett writing at his original best? Probably not. But readers will be rewarded with fine anecdotes, gems of wit, insights into his writing (even if, as he insists, no "Holy Grail"), and a reminder of the fine writer and human fellow-traveler we have lost. In short, if you appreciate Terry Pratchett, you will appreciate and enjoy this book, as I did.

A collection of essays and other non fiction from Terry Pratchett, spanning the whole of his writing career from his early years to the present day. Terry Pratchett has earned a place in the hearts of readers the world over with his bestselling Discworld series -- but in recent years he has become equally well-known and respected as an outspoken campaigner for causes including Alzheimer's research and animal rights. A Slip of the Keyboard brings together for the first time the finest examples of Pratchett's non fiction writing, both serious and surreal: from musings on mushrooms to what it means to be a writer (and why banana daiquiris are so important); from memories of Granny Pratchett to speculation about Gandalf's love life, and passionate defences of the causes dear to him. With all the humour and humanity that have made his novels so enduringly popular, this collection brings Pratchett out from

behind the scenes of the Discworld to speak for himself -- man and boy, bibliophile and computer geek, champion of hats, orangutans and Dignity in Dying. Snuff was the bestselling adult hardcover novel of 2011. A Blink of the Screen, Terry's short fiction collection, was also one of the bestselling hardcovers of 2012.

Praise for Terry Pratchett "One of the world's most delightful writers." —Cory Doctorow, Boing Boing "Some writers simply possess the Gift. No matter what they bring out . . . it's sure to be compulsively readable. That's certainly the case with Terry Pratchett." —Michael Dirda, The Washington Post Book World "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. He writes amazing sentences." —A. S. Byatt, The New York Times "Clever . . . insightful. . . . [Pratchett's] wry wit is as good as gold." —Lylah M. Alphonse, The Boston Globe "One of the most consistently funny writers around; a master of the stealth simile, the time-delay pun, and the deflationary three-part list." —Ben Aaronovitch, The Guardian (London) "What Pratchett does is not just great, but unparalleled. In five hundred years, it won't be the Nobel laureates who are being studied. It's going to be this guy." —Brandon Sanderson, Tor.com

About the Author TERRY PRATCHETT is the acclaimed creator of the global bestselling Discworld series, the first of which, The Colour of Magic, was published in 1983. In all, he is the author of over fifty bestselling books. His novels have been widely adapted for stage and screen, and he is the winner of multiple prizes, including the Carnegie Medal, as well as being awarded a knighthood for services to literature. Worldwide sales of his books now stand at over 75 million, and they have been translated into thirty-seven languages.