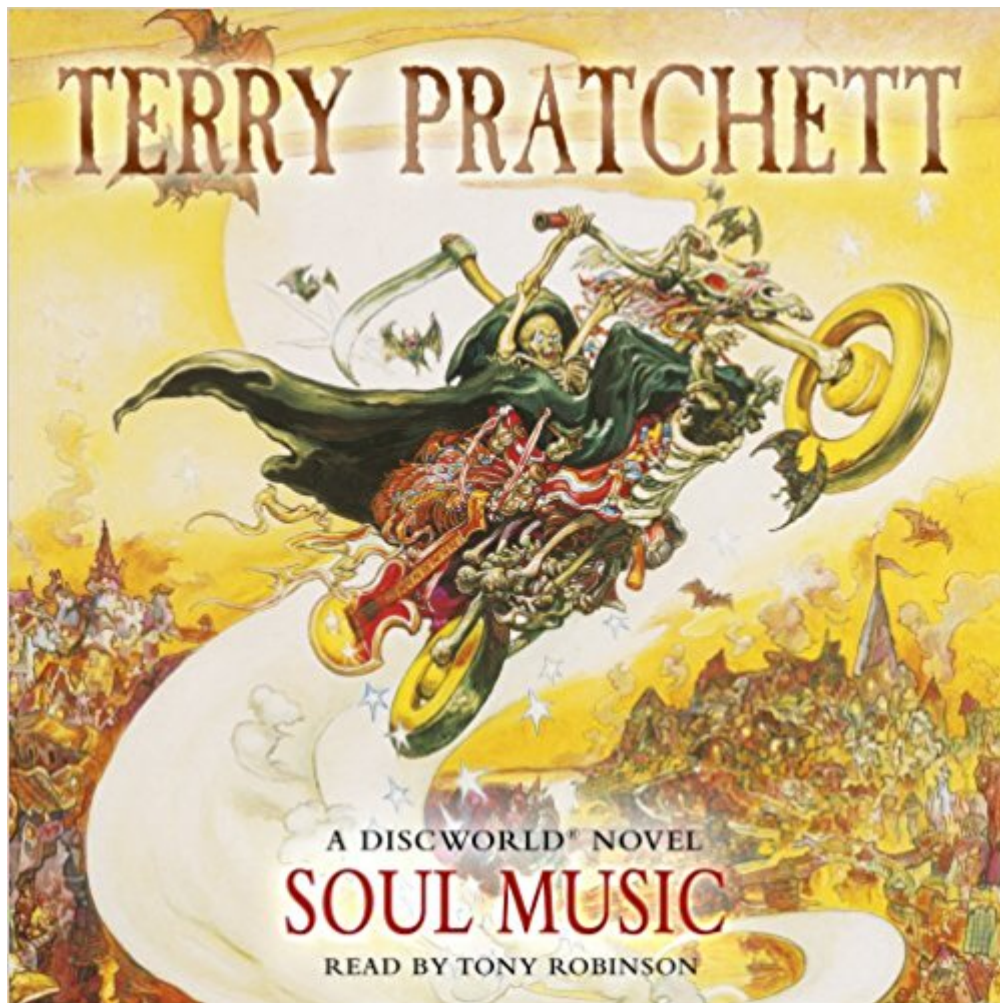


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Soul Music



Synopsis

It's hard to grow up normal when Grandfather rides a white horse and wields a scythe and especially when you have to face the new and addictive music that has entered Discworld. It's lawless. It changes people. It's called Music with Rocks In. It's alive. And it won't fade away.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Soul Music is the 16th book in the bestselling Discworld series, with close ties to the fourth book, *Mort*. Susan Sto Helit is rather bored at her boarding school in the city of Ankh-Morpork, which is just as well, since it seems that her family business--she is the granddaughter of Death--suddenly needs a new caretaker. --Blaise Selby --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nepotism is given an unusual spin in Pratchett's 14th Discworld novel, as Death's granddaughter picks up the scythe when the Grim Reaper takes a vacation. Trolls, dwarves, magicians and rock music?music played with rocks?figure in this amusing but overlong romp, which begins with the formation of a band by aspiring musician Imp y Celen (aka Buddy). Arriving in the city of Ankh-Morpork, Buddy finds a magical guitar which enables the group?a rock-playing troll, an ax-wielding dwarf and an Orangutan pianist?to drive crowds wild. But the instrument causes conflict between the motley crew and Susan, Death's granddaughter, who is just adjusting to her new post.

Many of the ensuing comic situations involve Death trying to get drunk, though Pratchett's liberal application of jokes scores as many misses as hits. Extraneous plot information slows the pace as the narrative rattles to a colossal, albeit uninspired, conclusion. Science Fiction Book Club main selection. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm rating this with 1-star just to draw attention to the horrible quality of the kindle format. I'm halfway through the book and I've stopped counting the number of typos, missing quotation marks, run-on paragraphs, unnecessary line breaks... C.M.O.T. Dribbler wouldn't even try to peddle this mess. I sincerely hope this is the only Discworld book that was edited by whatever poor sap was put in charge of this conversion.

Soul Music is the third book in the Death series of DiscWorld books and Pratchett continues his theme of Death giving up the afterlife to become lost in the living world. As usual this throws the balance of the universe into disarray and his grand daughter Susan is called into service. The book follows the story of "Buddy" a troubadour from the small country of Llamados ("Sod 'em all" spelled backwards). Through a few patented Pratchett plot points "Buddy" finds a mystical guitar and sparks a musical movement in Ankh-Morpork. Of the four books in the death series this is the weakest. The story is a bit uninteresting and the rock and roll references are a bit on the nose. At this point in Susan's story you might think she'd be beaten down by the world but the device of Pratchett's to have her memory continually becoming fuzzy where her family lineage is concerned kind of falls apart near the end, I guess because it was more important to keep the plot points rather than continue Susan's story line. If you like the other Death books or any of the offshoot books by Pratchett that flush out the Discworld there are plenty of things to enjoy here, including Ankh-Morpork's worst business man C.M.O.T. Dibbler, but it's not one of his best. To be honest, being in Ankh-Morpork makes me miss the Nights Watch more than I enjoyed the actual story.

The book itself is fantastic. However, there's serious formatting and typography problems. There's a whole section in the middle where the pages are out of order, and this book (and A LOT of other Kindle books) is FULL of typos apparently caused by no one checking the text recognition software when they scanned the book to digital. I bought this book years ago and I'm still waiting on a corrected update.

Have you ever thought about your typical fantasy world? Sure there are dwarves and dragons about, heroes swinging swords and wizards slinging spells. Often in these settings, though, there's no real progress-everything is the same for centuries on end, unless a plot requires something new. Discworld subverts everything you think you know and what you should expect. So, when you think of fantasy music, you imagine a bard with a lute or harp, maybe a flutist or a satyr playing the panpipes. But not on the Disc. Due to its bizarre, highly magical nature, ideas from a world that just might be ours have leaked over to this weird, flat world. An inspired druid with a mystically empowered lute brings a new kind of sound to the world. With a few other odd fellows, a troll and a dwarf, they bring "music with rocks in it", channeling the power of rock n' roll. Things do not go well. Things get weird as this new sound affects people, and even death gets involved. Well, Death himself, actually, and by accident his human granddaughter Susan (Long story, it's called "Mort"), as the music itself is a power trying to create something very new, very dangerous. This is one of my favorite books in the series, as Death (or DEATH if you prefer) takes an important role as things get a little bit Earthy, and a whole lot crazy.

Soul music is another discworld novel where Terry Pratchett explores and pokes fun at a broad theme. In this case it's rock music and let's face it rock music is a valid target. It tells the story of Impy Celyn who's a bard. He meets a troll and a dwarf and forms a band. They play "music with rocks in it" thanks to the help of a not entirely benign mythical guitar. On the way Death goes missing and his granddaughter Susan has to take over. What could possibly go wrong. Well if CMOT Dibbler is involved then you can bet that everything goes wrong with hilarious consequences. Half of the fun of this book is spotting obscure references to bands and songs. How about the felonious monk and the surreptitious fabric? Some of them are quite hard to spot. If you like Terry Pratchett then this is a great book anyway and since it's before he settled into principal character mode has a sense of fun and novelty that is missing in some of the more establishment Ankh-Morpork books. Rock music had it coming and Pratchett delivers again in spades of laughter and irony. A great read.

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