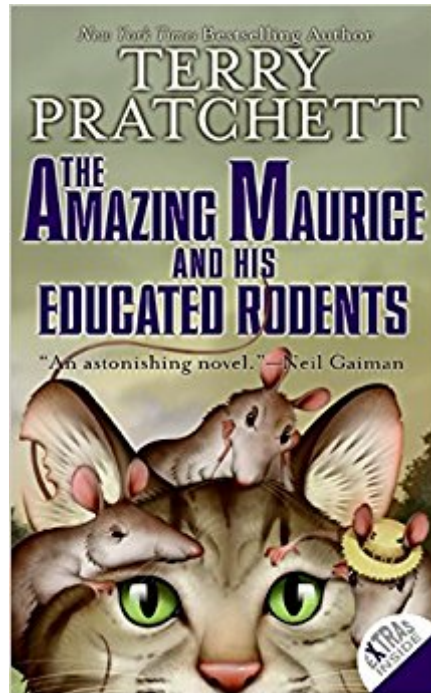




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The Amazing Maurice And His Educated Rodents (Discworld)



Synopsis

Carnegie Medal Winner • New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age • VOYA Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror • ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults • Book Sense Pick The Amazing Maurice runs the perfect Pied Piper scam. This streetwise alley cat knows the value of cold, hard cash and can talk his way into and out of anything. But when Maurice and his cohorts decide to con the town of Bad Blinitz, it will take more than fast talking to survive the danger that awaits. For this is a town where food is scarce and rats are hated, where cellars are lined with deadly traps, and where a terrifying evil lurks beneath the hunger-stricken streets.... Set in Terry Pratchett's beloved Discworld, this masterfully crafted, gripping read is both compelling and funny. When one of the world's most acclaimed fantasy writers turns a classic fairy tale on its head, no one will ever look at the Pied Piper or rats the same way again!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For this outrageously cheeky tale, British writer Pratchett pairs a dynamite plot with memorable characters a group of intelligent rats sporting such monikers as Hamnpork, Big Savings and Darktan (they've been foraging in the University of Wizards' garbage dump and come up with "the kind of name you gave yourself if you learned to read before you understood what all the words actually meant"), plus a "stupid-looking kid" with a flute and a criminal kitty mastermind named Maurice. The motley con artists' pied piper scam is highly successful until the rats develop a conscience. Reluctantly, they agree to one final heist, but in the town of Bad Blintz things go horribly, hilariously

wrong. First, they're twigged by Malicia Grim (granddaughter and grand-niece of the Sisters Grim), then they encounter a pair of conniving rat-catchers, a real piper and an evil something lurking in the town's cellars. They triumph, of course, and there's even a glimmer of redemption for the deliciously self-centered Maurice, who tackles the "Grim Squeaker" and bargains for the life of his rat comrade Dangerous Beans. In the end, while the others settle down, Maurice hits the road and is last seen approaching another "stupid-looking kid" with a money-making proposition. Could this mean more tales to come? Readers will eagerly hope so. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 7 Up-In this laugh-out-loud fantasy, his first "Discworld" novel for younger readers, Pratchett rethinks a classic story and comes up with a winner. His unforgettable characters include Maurice, a scheming and cranky but ultimately warmhearted cat; Keith, a young musician who isn't as dumb as he looks; and half a dozen intelligent rats with personalities all their own. Their plan is simple. The rats steal food, frighten ladies, "widdle" in the cream, and generally make nuisances of themselves. When the town advertises for a piper, Keith appears to lead the rats away, and they all meet up later to divide the loot. It works like a charm until the conspirators stumble into Bad Blintz, a village with not a single "regular" rat to be found. As Maurice's band of rodents poke around in the town sewers, Keith befriends the mayor's daughter, a ditzzy girl with a head full of stories. When the humans are captured by evil rat catchers, it's up to Maurice and his crew to save the day. Pratchett's trademark puns, allusions, and one-liners abound. The rats, who grew intelligent after eating magic-contaminated trash behind a university for wizards, now tackle major questions of morality, philosophy, and religion. Despite the humorous tone of the novel, there are some genuinely frightening moments, too, as the heroes confront a telepathic Rat King in the bowels of Bad Blintz. Readers who enjoyed Robert C. O'Brien's *Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of NIMH* (Atheneum, 1971) and Richard Adams's *Watership Down* (Macmillan, 1974) will love this story. A not-to-be-missed delight. Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The piper comes to a town in Uberwald, but finds that he's late to the show that features cats, rats, and stupid-looking kids talking to one another. The twenty-eighth and first young adult entry of Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* finds the residents—new and old, human and nonhuman—town of Bad Blintz figuring out the fine line between real life and a story.

The aim to bring the same Pratchett humor that adults love to a younger audience is on target. A mixed troupe of "rat piper" con-artists arrive just outside the town of Bad Blintz lead by a streetwise tomcat, who a clan of talking rats and a stupid-looking kid named Keith on the streets of Ankh-Morpork. But everyone is getting fed up with just going around and doing the same old thing, the rats want to find a home to build their society and the kid would like to play more music. Maurice is just interested in money and hiding the guilty for how he gained the ability to speak, but he found more than he's bargaining for in Bad Blintz because something weird is going on even his talkative rat associate find disturbing. Soon the troupe find out that they have stumbled into a long running conspiratorial plan hatched from a surprising source. As always, Pratchett connects his humor around a well-known fairy tale or story then completely turns it on its head when the same circumstances happen on Discworld even as the characters fight their own preconceptions when comparing "stories" to "real life". The fact that he ably brought his unique style to a young adult market without losing any of the punch from the jokes makes this a very good book. Although some of the sections of the book were somewhat familiar to a long-time Pratchett reader does take a little away from the book, it doesn't necessarily ruin the book for first time readers. Terry Pratchett's first Discworld foray into the young adult genre is classic Pratchett through targeted at a younger audience. I found it as funny as the rest of his series, but some of the plot points were simpler than his usual work for obvious reasons. However this minor fact doesn't ruin a very good book.

Terry Pratchett is a great author to introduce to thoughtful young people. There was a lame factor "pied piper" concept to get over. The book very quickly gets philosophically deep as it explores morality and death, leadership and bravery and what it means to be clever. The author is one of those people who is human in a good way. The story vibes with my own morals and values making the process of sharing them with my son entertaining and meaningful. The characters are amazing.

I found this one a bit tedious and predictable. The cat was really unlikable in the beginning, and the boy is boring and two-dimensional, which made it hard to get into the book. It doesn't involve any of the Discworld characters from any of the other books. The rat characters are well-developed, and I liked them. But I'm reading my way through the Discworld series, so I slogged through this one. The ending was pretty good, but not up to Pratchett's usual intense climax and the sort of epilogue that follows and ties up all the loose ends.

Amazing, funny, fun, insightful -- all the things I quickly have found make a Terry Pratchett book. I still have yet to read any of his books aimed at adults, but feel instinctively that nothing's missing here! In fact, I still have yet to read this book, as while looking at it here on , I clicked the sample "Listen" tab on the audio CD and was and am hooked. Cheers for Stephen Briggs' one-man ensemble cast! When I do read this book, which I can't wait to do, it will be his voices I hear in my head for each and every distinct character. This is my first ever audio CD purchase, but I certainly chose well, and am looking forward to sharing with my cousin on a visit this fall. We grew up on "The Rocky & Bullwinkle Show", with "Fractured Fairy Tales", which this reminds me of, with of course a mix of Monty Python thrown in for good measure!

I've been reading Pratchett for years and I still can't get enough. Since his death, I've been filling in my library's gaps with the few books of his that I had somehow missed. This story isn't great, but it is very good. I suppose you could call it a stand-alone story within the Discworld novels. There's the characteristic irreverence and humor, along with some adventure and misadventure, culminating in a satisfactory moral as everything ties up somewhat neatly in a bow. If you've never read a Pratchett book. This would be a good introduction. If you have, then it's a good read to add to your list.

I don't remember not giving one of the Discworld series books less than five stars. It's just such a wonderful world. But while it's clear that this book is part of that world, I found myself often disconnected from it. I didn't really feel like I was on the Discworld. I thought that maybe the writing style was different because of U.S. copy editors. The afterward, though, explained that this was Pratchett's first "children's book." Okay. Maybe that explains the different style. Overall, it was a very good story. There was just something deeply different about it that was nagging at my subconscious the whole time I was reading, though.

Sir Terry Pratchett deconstructing & reconstructing the Pied Piper as only he could. This is more of a young adult novel than an adult novel, but it is certainly well worth the time to sit down and consume it. You don't just read Prachett, you consume it.

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