



The Truth: A Novel of Discworld

By Terry Pratchett

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A war of words and a battle for the truth in Terry Pratchett's bestselling Discworld® series

The denizens of Ankh-Morpork fancy they've seen just about everything. But then comes the *Ankh-Morpork Times*, struggling scribe William de Worde's upper-crust newsletter turned Discworld's first paper of record.

An ethical journalist, de Worde has a proclivity for investigating stories—a nasty habit that soon creates powerful enemies eager to stop his presses. And what better way than to start the *Inquirer*, a titillating (well, what else would it be?) tabloid that conveniently interchanges what's real for what sells.

But de Worde's got an inside line on the hot story concerning Ankh-Morpork's leading patrician, Lord Vetinari. The facts say Vetinari is guilty. But as William de Worde learns, facts don't always tell the whole story. There's that pesky little thing called . . . *the truth*.

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The Truth: A Novel of Discworld By Terry Pratchett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Truth, Pratchett's 25th Discworld novel, skewers the newspaper business. When printing comes to Ankh-Morpork, it "drag(s) the city kicking and screaming into the Century of the Fruitbat." Well, actually, out of the Century of the Fruitbat. As the Bursar remarks, if the era's almost over, it's high time they embraced its challenges.

William de Worde, well-meaning younger son of reactionary nobility, has been providing a monthly newsletter to the elite using engraving. Then he is struck (and seriously bruised) by the power of the press. The dwarves responsible convince William to expand his letter and the *Ankh-Morpork Times* is born. Soon William has a staff, including Sacharissa Cripslock, a genteel young lady with a knack for headline writing, and photographer Otto Chriek. Otto's vampirism causes difficulties: flash pictures cause him to crumble to dust and need reconstitution, and he must battle his desire for blood, particularly Sacharissa's. When Lord Vetinari is accused of attempted murder, the City Watch investigates the peculiar circumstances, but William wants to know what *really* happened. The odds for his survival drop as his questions multiply.

The Truth is satirical, British, and full of sly jokes. Although this cake doesn't rise quite as high as it did in previous volumes, even ordinary Pratchett is pretty darn good, and those who haven't read a Discworld novel before can start here and go on to that incredible backlist. --*Nona Vero*

From Publishers Weekly

The 25th book (after *The Fifth Elephant*) in the Discworld series returns to the thriving city of Ankh-Morpork, where humans, dwarfs and trolls share the streets with zombies, vampires, werewolves and the occasional talking dog. Young William de Worde makes a modest living running a scribing business, including a newsletter of current events for a select subscription list. Then he meets dwarf wordsmith Gunilla Goodmountain, inventor of the printing press, who helps transform de Worde's newsletter into a daily called *The Ankh-Morpork Times* (subhead: *The Truth Shall Make Ye Free*). While the city's civil, religious and business leaders are up in arms over *The Times*, Lord Vetinari, the Patrician of Ankh-Morpork, encourages the advance--as long as it remains a "simple entertainment that is not going to end up causing tentacled monsters and dread apparitions to talk the streets eating people." In the meantime, as de Worde's staff grows and a type turns the subhead to "*The Truth Shall Make Ye Fret*", two shadowy characters are hired to remove the Patrician--permanently. Pratchett's witty reach is even longer than usual here, from *Pulp Fiction* to *His Girl Friday*. Readers who've never visited Discworld before may find themselves laughing out loud, even as they cheer on the good guys, while longtime fans are sure to call this Pratchett's best one yet.

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From [Booklist](#)

"The dwarfs can turn lead into gold." So says the rumor in the medieval-cum-Victorian city of Ankh-Morpork, and like many other improbable things in Pratchett's twenty-fifth Discworld yarn, it turns out to be true. For a crew of dwarf printers has smuggled a press into the city, in defiance of city ruler Lord Vetinari's edict against such machines, and found a canny newsman-editor in young William de Worde, rebellious second son of a rich, powerful, scheming nobleman. William and the dwarfs' subsequent success is helped immeasurably by the arrival, simultaneously with that of the press, of Mr. Pin and Mr. Tulip, professional thugs, to aid a secretive cabal plotting to replace Vetinari with a more pliant, corruptible successor. In the end, Pin, Tulip, and cabal are foiled, thanks to crusading journalism. Pratchett keeps the thin-gruel plot palatable with his usual array of seasonings--cartoonish characters, screwball dialogue, slapstick action, silly

names (some of the dwarf printers' monickers are variants of type-style names), and pop-cultural allusions (horror-movie mavens who look sharp will have a field day). Two of the most amusing Discworldians this time are the chemical-ingesting (anything to get a rush), art-savvy hitman Tulip, and the iconographer (i.e., photographer) Otto Chriek, a vampire who has taken the pledge (no more, uh, you know--the b-word), and whose flash technique occasionally reduces him to ashes. Light-hearted, Monty Pythonish stuff that fans of, say, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, shouldn't miss. *Ray Olson*

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