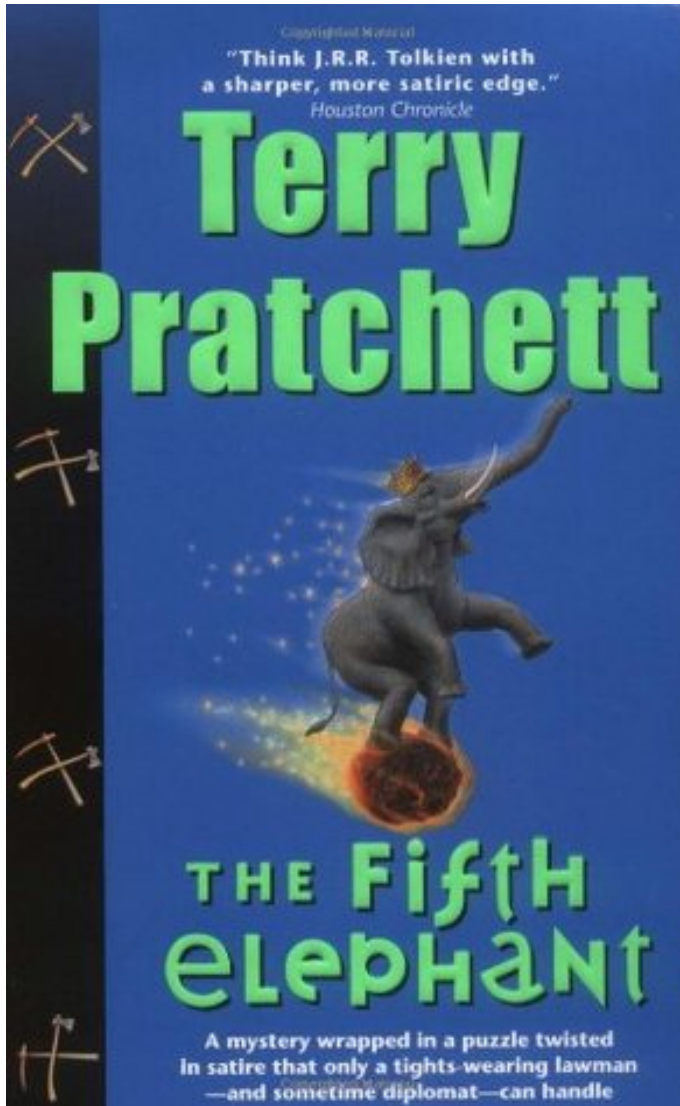

Terry Pratchett

The Fifth Elephant (Discworld #24)



Title: The Fifth Elephant (Discworld #24)

Author: Terry Pratchett

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Description

Everyone knows that the world is flat, and supported on the backs of four elephants. But weren't there supposed to be five? Indeed there were. So where is it?...

When duty calls. Commander Vimes of the Ankh-Morpork constabulary answers. Even when he doesn't want to. He's been "invited" to attend a royal function as both detective and diplomat. The one role he relishes; the other requires, well, ruby tights. Of course where cops (even those clad in tights) go, alas, crime follows. An attempted assassination and a theft soon lead to a desperate chase from the low halls of Discworld royalty to the legendary fat mines of Uberwald, where lard is found in underground seams along with tusks and teeth and other precious ivory artifacts. It's up to the dauntless Vimes -- bothered as usual by a familiar cast of Discworld inhabitants (you know, trolls, dwarfs, werewolves, vampires and such) -- to solve the puzzle of the missing pachyderm. Which of course he does. After all, solving mysteries *is* his job.

Insightful reviews

John: Terry Pratchett's Discworld series really caught me by surprise. I expected airy, humorous fantasies with a satirical edge to them (I picked up on this from the title of the first one I read: GOING POSTAL). But that description does not do these books justice. These are good stories, regardless of the fact that many of the characters are fantastic or supernatural creatures (including a talking dog).

The main character of this book (Sam Vimes - featured in many of the Discworld novels) is on a diplomatic mission to meet leaders from the werewolf, vampire, and dwarf communities. It's somewhat like 19th century's "the great game". He quickly becomes embroiled in a conspiracy concerning the dwarfish succession. The plot is part mystery and part action-adventure, and along the way touches on many subjects (for example, there's a romantic triangle between a male human, a male wolf, and a female werewolf).

This book, I think, would be a fine introduction to the whole series; there's enough backstory along the way to introduce the reader to the universe. Definitely recommended.

Maria: I'm glad I'm reading Discworld in chronological order...or trying to anyway. Carpe Jugulum and The Fifth Elephant are very different books but they go together very well.

Paul Cude: My favourite book in the whole world...and the one I'd have to have on a desert Island. The whole story is so compelling and I can picture all of it, in the very last detail in my head. Clearly the author had been caught speeding or some traffic offense of one sort or another around the time he wrote the book, because the opening sequence just shouts that out and is magnificent....Nobby Nobbs in a dress...what a thought! The twists and turns in the plot are just brilliant and the best bit of the whole book.....where Gaspode the dog is trying to tell Carrot the name of the wolf...you'll know it when you get to it and everytime I read it, it still makes me cry with laughter. If you own one bookin your lifetime.....IT SHOULD BE THIS ONE!!!!

Sally: to date i have learn 31 of the Discworld books, and The 5th Elephant is the fifth of the tales that includes Sam Vimes and town Watch. With analyzing many books by means of an identical writer comes a bent to claim one or one other used to be a favorite. This one used to be possibly a favourite for me, now not as a result of tale line, even though it was once nearly as good as are such a lot of them, yet simply because I stuck myself chuckling out loud a couple of times. I even needed to learn aloud little bits to my husband simply because he'd question me what i used to be guffawing at. Once again, Terry Pratchett is ready to placed many of the not-so-nice behaviors of humanity less than the magnifying glass after which carry them as much as ridicule with out making the reader suppose love it is a holier-than-thou harangue. labored into this tale are the tips of ethnic differences, changes among culture and progression, and the lengths to which a few humans (dwarfs, vampires, werewolves in addition to humans, in Discworld) are prepared to move as a result ardour and conviction that their rules are the one-and-only right. And, oddly, even Captain Carrot, who has continuously been a pretty-nearly-perfect character, unearths he could be topic to jealousy and rage. As an apart observation, since it happened to me after interpreting this book, i feel Captain Carrot could be perceived as an allegorical personality for Jesus, within the method that he lives his existence attempting to do reliable by way of influencing others' habit throughout the means he speaks and acts. I doubt a great deal that's what Pratchett has got down to do, yet nevertheless, i discovered the belief to be intriguing. Also, it has happened to me that during the Discworld books i've got learn so far, the are many characters who behave badly, even cruelly and with evil intent. there's no person who could make every thing all right, implement a transformation in habit (not even Lord Vetinari nor sort Captain Carrot) nor even designated a simply reward, even if there are those who try. possibly Pratchett is announcing that, yes, there are undesirable issues within the world, yet you eventually need to get besides them one way or the other whereas making your personal offerings in how one can behave, influencing others the place you can, and keeping off those who you cannot influence.

Deborah Ideiosepius: many years in view that I learn this one last, it was once the same as analyzing it for the 1st time. Part of town watch series, Sam Vimes is hijacked through Lord Vetinari and Sybil into being the ambassador for Anke Morpork in Uberwald the place a King of dwarves is to be crowned. (and i will not start to describe how a lot my spell checker hates that final statement). Once there after all crimes important of Commander Vimes crop up complex through the truth that he's not in Anke Morpork and isn't a commander of the watch here. While the above is the elemental plot, the attractive factor approximately this publication is its tackle the 'gothic' fictions, Uberwald is a contented mock up of each darkish and drear state of supernatural ever dreamed up on modern fiction. The Vampires all have lisps, the dwarves are very... dwarfish, the werewolves are below wolves and people both. All myths celebrate made from them with equanimity which nonetheless permitting PTerrys simple social equality subject matter to return via nicely. The 5th Elephant is, I believe, quantity 24 of the discworld series, i've been examining them out of series because it used to be town watch sequence i wished to pursue. leaping from quantity 19 to quantity 24 the more and more darkish tone of PTerry's writing turns into very obvious, i actually like it. a lot as I enjoyed the chaotic humour of the very early novels, I like, even larger the extra mature writing in those latter novels.

apple: Please enable me one speedy soul-searching moment. prior to i used to be brought to the awesomeness of Discworld...I was once simply an empty shell of a fan! haven't picked up Discworld booklet for particularly your time (last one I learn was once Jingo) so analyzing the 5th Elephant type of gave me the nice and cozy and fuzzy feeling of falling in love with Sir Terry Pratchett's paintings everywhere again. i feel this ebook is the main action-packed quantity in urban Watch sequence yet. think Bruce Willis all decked out in tights with British accessory and Ankh-Morpork humorousness (and um, no longer so coiffuredly-challenged) and there you were given Commander Vimes in all his glory. i need to have cracked a couple of ribs laughing. There's the motley group of the Watch and some new characters. The Igors quite thieve the show! (or sthll the thow, to be surgically precise) Also, Detritus and his Piecemaker isn't the troll to be trifled with. I won't cross on approximately Nobby simply because then I wouldn't have the ability to stop. The "hot pursuit" scene within the final bankruptcy is arms down the good chase in police procedural history. John McClane himself can't most sensible that! Yippee ki yay little doggy;)

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