

THE BODECIA BOOK CLUB BOOK REVIEW



Equal Rites by Terry Pratchett

With the recent passing of the very talented Terry Pratchett it was amazing to find out that not that many of our book club members had read any of his work. We had a multitude of books to choose from and we were recommended Equal Rites, a comedy fantasy novel and a juicy look at equality and injustice for women! On the first page Pratchett explains, "this is also a story about sex, although probably not in the athletic, tumbling, count- the- legs- and- divide- by- two sense" - intriguing! what a great choice for the first Pratchett book to read!

This book is a briskly funny and spot on satire of gender roles and in the fractured fairy tale universe of Terry Pratchett's Discworld series. Discworld is a flat planet, supported on the backs of four elephants, who in turn stand on the back of the great turtle A'Tuin as it swims majestically through space. And it is quite possibly the funniest place in all of creation. What a great imagination!

Equal Rites starts with the wizard Drum Billet, he knows that he will soon die and travels to a place where an eighth son of an eighth son is about to be born. This signifies that the child is destined to become a wizard, Billet wants to pass his wizard's staff on to his successor.

However, the newborn child is actually a girl, Esk (full name Eskarina Smith). Since Billet notices his mistake too late, the staff passes on to her. As Esk grows up, it becomes apparent that she has uncontrollable powers, and the local witch Granny Weatherwax decides to travel with her to the Unseen University in Ankh-Morpork to help her gain the knowledge required to properly manage her powers.

This is a story of a young girl asking why women can't be wizards explores some modern day tribulations of women being treated fairly in some certain male focused jobs. We felt that the use of a fantasy world to explore such topical issues worked well in ways that other genres can't.

There are some laugh out loud parts of the book, the Dwarfs that sucked through their teeth when telling Granny Weatherwax that they had to rebuild her broomstick "I don't want it rebuilt, I just want it to work properly" says Granny Weatherwax! Different world same old mechanics trying to rip you off! When talking about an area of Ankh-Morpork, The Shades "... no one enquired about one another's business because curiosity not only killed the cat but threw it in the river with weights tied to its feet". Fantastic writing, funny observations and qwerky one liners, this is definitely the book to get you wanting to read more Pratchett novels.

We gave Equal Rites by Terry Pratchett an **OK**

We are now reading **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**