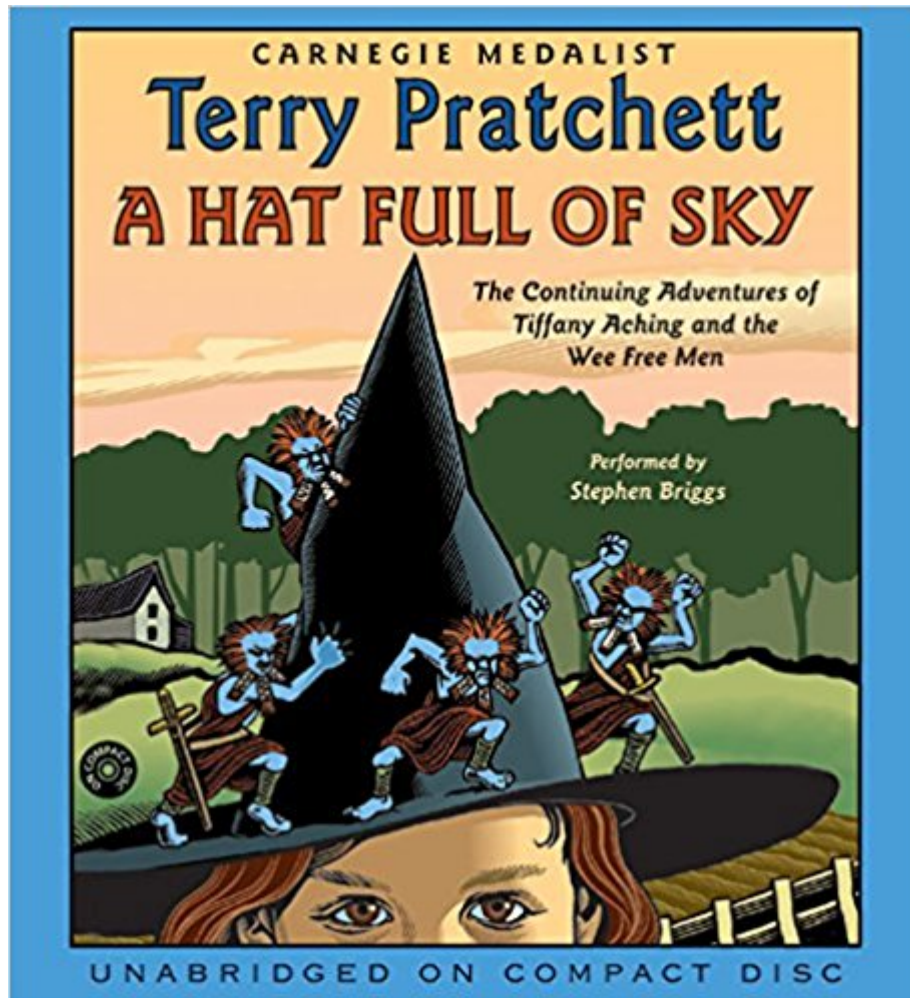




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# A Hat Full Of Sky



## Synopsis

Tiffany Aching -- the boldest heroine ever to swing a frying pan against the forces of evil -- is beginning her apprenticeship in magic. She expects to work hard, learn spells, and become a witch. She doesn't expect to find herself doing chores, caring for the careless, and trying to outthink an ill-tempered nanny goat. There must be more to witchcraft than this! But as Tiffany pursues her calling, an insidious, disembodied creature pursues Tiffany. When it strikes, neither Mistress Weatherwax (the greatest witch in the world) nor the six-inch-high Wee Free Men (the greatest thieves in the world) can save her ... Outrageous comedy blends with pulse-racing suspense in this compelling sequel to *The Wee Free Men*. Performed by Stephen Briggs

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr. 6-10. Incipient witch Tiffany Aching, who confronted danger in *The Wee Free Men* (2003), faces even greater peril in this equally quirky sequel. She is taken on as an apprentice witch by Miss Level, who is one person with two bodies--an oddity to say the least. Also, Tiffany is stalked and taken over by a hiver, an invisible, brainless entity that commands and distorts the mind of its host, which eventually dies. Luckily Tiffany is strong enough to hide a section of her mind within herself, but she is otherwise completely under the control of the hiver. It's the cantankerous *Wee Free Men* (or the *Nac Mac Feegle*) to the rescue, with the help of Miss Level and the wisest, most respected witch of all. The chase is part slapstick, part terror, and in the end, Tiffany herself sets things straight. Pratchett maintains the momentum of the first book, and fans will relish the further adventures of the "big wee hag," as Tiffany is known to the Feegles. Sally Estes Copyright ©

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• The great Terry Pratchett, whose wit is metaphysical, who creates an energetic and lively secondary world, who has a multifarious genius for strong parody as opposed to derivative manipulation of past motifs, who deals with death with startling originality. Who writes amazing sentences. • "A.S. Byatt in The New York Times" A passion for language, wordplay and puns bursts from the pages. • "Daily Telegraph" A great Pratchett strength is the sense that if the jokes were dropped there would still be a good, engaging fantasy thriller here." --The Independent "Fantastically inventive and humorous fantasy adventure. Fans will be sky high." --The Sunday Times "Pratchett's ear for dialogue is superb... His deep feeling for landscape, animals, kindness and courage make his adventures deeply satisfying as well as clever." --Amanda Craig, The Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I feel really stupid to only have encountered Terry Pratchett and his works after he died. I read a lot of genre fiction, but my emphasis until lately has been mysteries. Just lately I have run into some fabulous fantasy books, and when I saw a review of the last Tiffany Aching book I was ready to plunge in. These are undoubtedly classed as young adult fiction, but I have found the best of young adult is quite equal to the best adult. Mr. Pratchett has built a world that seems very familiar and yet full of astonishment. If you like fantasy or if you have children who are into fantasy, I think this is a very good series.

Everything The Wee Free Men did, A Hat Full of Sky does even better - and when you take into account how good Wee Free Men was, that's a heck of an accomplishment. Sky takes place not long after Men ends, with Tiffany coming to terms with who she is and starting an apprenticeship under the tutelage of a local witch. Of course, the Nac Mac Feegle are never far behind her to keep her safe, but neither is something else - something that seems to have malevolent intentions and an unnerving focus on Tiffany. It would be easy to focus on how much Sky made me laugh - and it made me laugh a lot, and really hard - but to do so would run the risk of giving away so many of the best lines and moments, even though pulling them out of Pratchett's beautiful prose would ruin some of the magic anyways. (That being said, the disguise implemented by the Feegle creates some of the funniest moments I can remember reading in a book - not just Pratchett, but any book, period.) But I also want to focus on the raw beauty and magic that Pratchett can create, most

notably in the book's climax, which stands much of what we've assumed on its heads, (literally) opens new doors into whole new worlds, and gives us a glimpse of a universe that's staggering in its complexity and surprising depth and humanity (so to speak). As I said about Men, Sky is technically a YA novel, but there's no difference between this and Pratchett's other work - it's just as complex, just as solid, just as funny, just as wonderful, without a hint of the patronizing tone that so often sneaks into YA books written by "adult" authors. I put off the Tiffany Aching books for a bit; now, I'm just glad to have more Pratchett to dive into all over again.

I am not sure whether Pratchett is capable of writing a bad book. If he is, I haven't read it yet. I picked up my first Pratchett book over 20 years ago and have been a fast fan ever since. Many an evening has been whiled away with one of his treasures and a glass of something refreshing. A Hat Full of Sky is the continuing saga of Tiffany Aching. Now I know this book is targeted for Young Adults, but I really believe anyone of any age will enjoy this book. Tiffany is now 11-years old and in many ways wise beyond her years. But she is still 11, and not always able to think things through as an adult would. So without being aware of it, she attracts the attention of a 'hiver' a formless being that is pursuing her. And this time she can't rely on Mistress Weatherwax (better known as Granny to the chosen few) or the Nac Mac Feegles. Although the last point is debatable. All well that ends well though. Terry Pratchett is the master at imparting wisdom and even advice, but done in such a way it is palatable. His unique sense of humour shines through every page, not just of this book, but all his books.

It's a delightful book!! It's the follow up to The Wee Free Men. I am new to Terry Pratchett's books and wondering why the heck I've never read any of his books before. He is a great story teller, and I really enjoy the plucky Tiffany Aching and the little Wee Free Men who help her out whether she wants them to or not :) (6 inches high or smaller). If you like really well-written fantasy literature, you should read his books. He passed away recently and I am kind of sad I didn't get to tell him how much his books tickle my funny bone... I could probably go on and on for a while, but I will end and just say if you like fantasy read his books :)

The eleven year old will be witch goes off her beloved Chalk to study with other witches and finds herself temporary in thrall to a hiver. Jeannie puts rob and the wee free men on the case to help and granny weatherwax is there to help as well. not just a children's book but if they love to read, I'd recommend it highly!

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