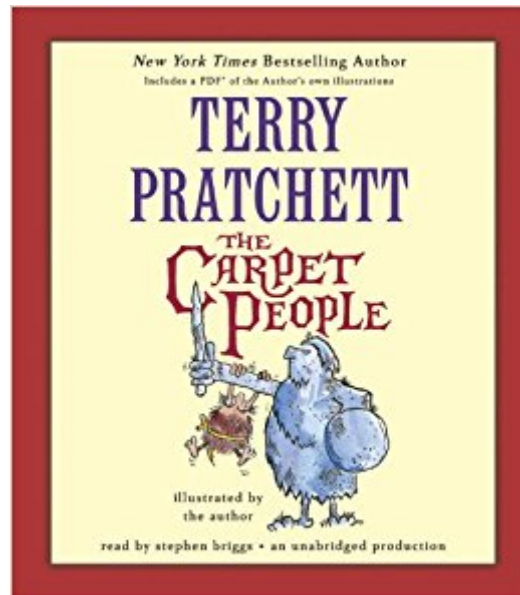




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The Carpet People



Synopsis

The Illustrated Edition of the hilarious fantasy, co-written by Terry Pratchett, at age seventeen, and Terry Pratchett, at age forty-three. In the beginning, there was nothing but endless flatness. Then came the Carpet. Now, the Carpet is home to many different tribes and peoples, and a new story: the story of Fray, sweeping a trail of destruction across the Carpet; the story of power-hungry mounds and of two Munrung brothers who set out on an adventure to end all adventures when their village is flattened. It's a story that will come to a terrible end if someone doesn't do something about it.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Sir Terry Pratchett (left): Sir Terry Pratchett's honors include the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, two Printz Honors, and ALA's Margaret A. Edwards Award. His books have sold more than eighty million copies. He lives in England. Cory Doctorow (right): Canadian-born Cory Doctorow has held policy positions with Creative Commons and the Electronic Frontier Foundation and been a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Southern California. He is a co-editor of the popular weblog BoingBoing (boingboing.net), which receives over three million visitors a month. His science fiction has won numerous awards, and his YA novel *Little Brother* spent seven weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Cory Doctorow Interview with Author Sir Terry Pratchett Cory Doctorow: *The Carpet People* was your first novel, and now the

fortieth book in your Discworld series is about to be published. Do you think you could have kept us in the Carpet for anything like forty books? Terry Pratchett: I was about to say, "No," but right now I wonder. . . . If the idea had taken, I don't know. I really don't. But how would it be? People in the Carpet are more or less tribal. What would happen if I . . .

You've got me thinking! CD: You took a bunch of runs at building a world where a million stories could unfold • The Carpet People, Truckers, and, finally, Discworld. Is

Discworld's near-total untethering from our world the secret of its staying power? TP: It isn't our world, but on the other hand it is very much like our world. Discworld takes something from this world all the time, shows you bits of the familiar world in new light by putting them into Discworld. CD: You write a lot of feudal scenarios, but you also seem like a fellow with a lot of sympathy for (and suspicion of!) majority rule. The Carpet People is shot through with themes of who should rule and why. Where does legitimate authority spring from? TP: The people! The only trouble is the people can be a bit stupid • I know that; I'm one of the people, and I'm quite stupid. CD: What should the writer's relationship with authority be? TP: My personal view is that you look askance at authority. Authority must be challenged at every step. You challenge authority to keep it on its toes. CD: The Carpet People concerns itself with many questions of infrastructure and public works. Now that we've arrived at a time of deep austerity, what do you think the future of infrastructure is? TP: To crack and fall away, I sometimes think. From what I see around me, it's people doing it for themselves. We know the government is there, but we know they have no real power to do anything but mess things up, so you do workarounds. CD: Ultimately, it comes down to the builders, the wreckers, and the free spirits. TP: Sometimes things need tearing down • and that might be, as it were, the gates of the city. But if we talk without metaphors, I would say that building is best. Because it is inherently useful. My dad was a mechanic; maybe it starts there. One thing I've always enjoyed about your books with feudal settings is that it seems you get something like the correct ratio of vassals to lords. So much of fantasy seems very top-heavy. Do you consciously think about political and economic considerations when you're devising a world? TP: I've never been at home with lords and ladies, kings, and rubbish like that, because it's not so much fun. Take a protagonist from the bottom of the heap and they've got it all to play for. Whereas people in high places, all they can do is, well . . . I don't know, actually: I've never been that high. If you have the underdog in front of you, that means you're going to have fun, because what the underdog is going to want to do is be the upper dog or be no dog at all. CD: Damon Knight once told me that he thought that no matter how good a writer you are, you probably

won't have anything much to say until you're about twenty-six (I was twenty at the time). You've written about collaborating with your younger self on the revised text of *The Carpet People*. Do you feel like seventeen-year-old Terry had much to say? TP: That's the best question you've asked all day! I think that he had a go at it, and it wasn't bad, but that when I was younger I didn't have the anger. It gives an outlook. And a place from which to stand. When you get out of the teens, well out of the teens, you begin to have some kind of understanding: you've met so many people, heard so many things, all the bits that growing up means. And out of that lot comes wisdom • it might not be very good wisdom to start with, but it will be a certain kind of wisdom. It leads to better books. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Gr 4 • Pratchett's first novel, published at age 17 and then reworked by the author two decades later, appears in its first full U.S. edition. As the title suggests, people and creatures are all microscopic and exist in an actual carpet, where cities are dot-sized and the rim of a penny is an unscalable cliff. Within this clever premise, the author has created an engaging fantasy world filled with a rich variety of characters and a compelling plot in which the amusing Munrung people attempt to thwart an evil scheme to enslave all of the kingdoms of the carpet. The brisk narrative mixes sly wit and occasional puns with lively battle scenes and mysterious revelations. There's also a lot of discussion about war, religion, government, and free will delivered through engaging dialogue and the internal musings of the main characters. Pratchett's black-and-white line drawings sprinkled throughout the tale and within two sections of full-color plates, depict numerous characters and settings with appropriately lighthearted verve. A 25-page addendum features the very first published appearance of the world of the Carpet, serialized for the teen author's local newspaper. It's interesting to contrast the bones of the story with the final version, which stands as a fully realized novel and an excellent entrée to Pratchett's work, especially for readers not quite ready for the "Discworld" (Corgi) series. • Steven Engelfried, Wilsonville Public Library, OR --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Since I got a used library copy, I was kind of hoping to get the original version instead of the re-written one, but it was the newer one. I have no idea what the difference is, but this was a really good book. My kids just love the idea of it, so it is shortly going to be our bedtime story, with a chapter a night. I love all of Pratchett's work that I have read, with the first Discworld novel being my least favorite. I highly recommend *The Carpet People* to all Pratchett fans and Fantasy/fiction

readers.

I enjoyed this cute story. I have often seen it in lists of work by Terry Pratchett, but was never able to find out anything about it. It's not as long or involved as a Disc World novel, but it has some ideas that are inventive and fun. It spoke about a character swearing, but didn't give us the details. I liked that. There's enough cursing and swearing in our world. Also, I didn't notice any sex at all. That's a relief. It's hard to find modern stories that don't have too much sex in them. I really enjoyed this story. And if you're a die hard Pratchett fan like me, you'll be glad to finally find out what this book listed about his work is finally. I totally recommend it to fantasy fans, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I will be reading this again and again. Enjoy!

I came upon this book purely by accident while perusing my favorite web-store, . The author's imagination is wonderful. Suits all ages. I love the quirkiness, zaniness and originality. I also loved the tongue-in-cheekiness and play on words. These characters are smaller than a dust mote! After I read the final chapter I thought it was too bad there wasn't another book or a series. I guess I shall have to re-read the Disc World series---it has been YEARS. Those will be a new read as I have picked up two other old books that I read over twenty years ago. I could not remember reading hardly any of it/them. Well, I am over 70 so I have an excuse. Whatever age you are, if you want a quick, fun and original read, download this book. And be careful where you step.

I had to read this because my boys are huge Terry Pratchett fans. My genre of choice doesn't line up with theirs. Bearing in mind that this was TP's first effort at writing it is inventive. I can see a teenage boy capturing his imaginative world in just this way. I can relate to the concept that our world is just a smaller segment of a similar world writ large. Cute, but not my cup of tea. I may have to read a later TP book to see if I really don't appreciate his writing.

I'm a longtime Pratchett fan, but never read any of his early work. The Carpet People just goes to show that I should have! This engaged me and drew me in right away, just as the Disc World tales do. I really cared about the characters and their adventures and their very determined quest for freedom. The problem is that now I want the story to continue. I'll definitely try more of his earlier work such as Digger. Now I just must tread softly and wonder how many Carpet People live in the vacuum sweeper!

This story was originally written by Sir Terry when he was very young and "tweaked" a bit by him before this edition was published. I never read the original which was written for a younger audience but this version is classic Terry Pratchett. A wonderful story with a lot of humorous situations set in an exotic place with a bunch of unique characters. Oh yes, Terry sneaks in a lesson on life too. There are several races of "people" living in an alien world (a carpet) and a bunch of good guys band together to defeat the bad guys and save civilization. It doesn't bother them a bit that they're very, very tiny (add a couple of more "tiny" to that). A bonus comes in the form of illustrations drawn by Terry sprinkled through the book.

I only rated this one as a four-star mostly because it's a revision of an earlier work. While revisions are not a bad thing, and this particular one is a vast improvement on the original, I'm not a fan of them. By the same token, it is still an engaging tale and I was only mildly surprised at how early Sir Terry began writing and at the near unbelievable imagination he displayed at such an early age. As an author myself, I am constantly amazed at Sir Terry's creativity in naming his characters. Unfortunately, I have yet to develop that skill. I would recommend this book to any fan of Sir Terry. As always, I am waiting yet again, for the next book.

I admit I am biased because I love British humour but you can't go wrong with Terry Pratchett. Unique and a joyous read as just like all of his books. Life is worth living if you have a Terry Pratchett to look forward to reading!

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