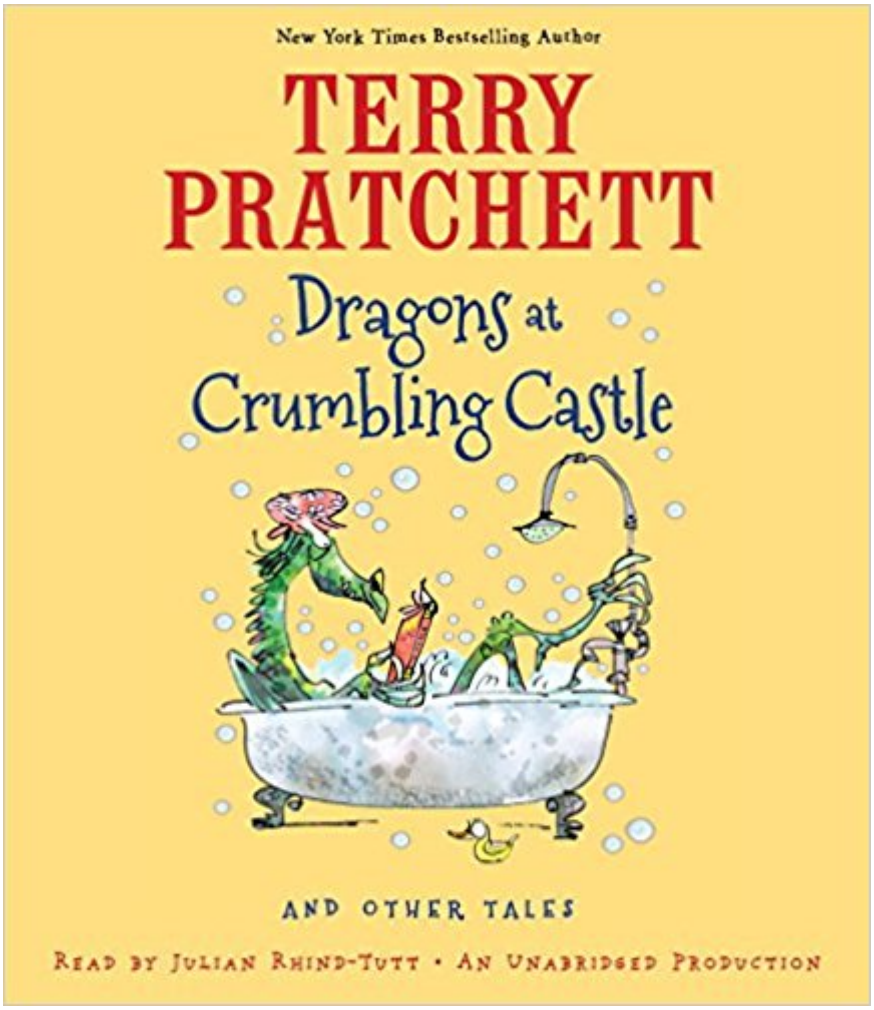
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Dragons At Crumbling Castle: And Other Tales



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Synopsis

AÃ Â wonderful collection of short stories by master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, featuring dragons, dinosaurs, cavemen and car races! Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Dragons have invaded Crumbling Castle, and all of King Arthur's knights are either on holiday or visiting their grannies. It's a disaster!Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Luckily, there's a spare suit of armour and a very small boy called Ralph who's willing to fill it. Together with Fortnight the Friday knight and Fossfiddle the wizard, Ralph sets out to defeat the fearsome fire-breathers. Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â But there's a teeny weeny surprise in store...Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Fourteen fantastically funny stories from master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, full of time travel and tortoises, monsters and mayhem!Story List:CD 1: Dragons at Crumbling Castle, The Great Speck, Hunt the Snorry, Tales of the Carpet People (beginning)CD 2: Tales of the Carpet People (concluded), Hercules the Tortoise, Dok the Caveman, The Big RaceCD 3: Another Tale of the Carpet People, The Great Egg--Ã¢â ¬Â•dancing Championship, Edwo the Boring KnightCD 4: The 59A Bus Goes Back in Time, The Abominable Snowman, The Blackbury Monster, Father Christmas Goes to Work at the Zoo

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,434,648 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (P) > Pratchett, Terry #388 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Fantasy #698 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4Ã¢â ¬â œ7Ã¢â ¬â •This collection of short stories is eerily reminiscent of Roald Dahl's tales of humor and irony, while the illustrations are remarkably similar to Quentin Blake's. In Pratchett's tales, dragons invade a castle, having lost their caves to a stopped-up river; itty bitty people live,

explore, and fight within the carpets; an odd caveman keeps inventing things that then cause disaster (a fire burning down the village); and a champion egg dancer catches a pair of thieves. The oddness of the stories makes them funny and unique. Many feature British terminology, which might confuse younger readers but adds to the flavor of the book. General themes include good overcoming evil, cheaters never prospering, and courage defeating danger. VERDICT Middle grade readers who enjoy Pratchett's other works or Dahl's tales are bound to enjoy this one.Ã¢â ¬â •Heidi Grange, Summit Elementary School, Smithfield, UT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢Ã Â "So funny I dropped my spoon laughing!" --King Arthur

If you're a fan of Sir Terry Pratchett, then this book will not disappoint! It is sad that such a wonderful writer's life was cut short due to Alzheimer's disease (he died March 12, 2015). He was 66 years old and still had so many more stories to tell. But thankfully, he left us with plenty to read as he was an avid writer during his life, with such a wonderful sense of humor. This book contains some of his first short stories - stories he wrote while still in his teens (touched up here and there by the older Pratchett, as he states in the opening). I believe this is the last book published of his works (so far)...the last book containing his earliest works, how fitting. I would definitely recommend!

I enjoyed this book very much although it wasn't up to the general Diskworld standards. I didn't expect it to be so there was no disappointment there. It was fun to see the beginnings of the author's career. The stories were entertaining and interesting though not, of course, as polished as the books that made Pratchett famous. This is a book for the fans of Terry Pratchett more than the fans of Pratchett's later literary works. The stories lack the later polish and well built characters but that is to be expected. Looking at it as the work of a teenager who becomes a star it is quite good.

Having read some of Terry Pratchett's other teenage books (books he wrote while a teenager), this promised to be amusing, and it is just that. The short stories lack the fun of his novels, but you can see where that wit came from. The stories have a number of interesting twists and plays-on-words that you expect to find in Pratchett works. As long as you don't think you're getting a prequel to one of the Discworld novels you will enjoy these stories. In the prelude to one of his teenage novels Pratchett wrote that he had gone back and cleaned up a few things and so it was a collaboration with a younger version of himself, but that he didn't have to share the royalties. I don't think that he did too much to these stories and so they offer a nice glimpse into the teenager's mind that

eventually produced the novels his fans love.

This is an absolutely adorable little book, and as a long time Terry Pratchett fan I really enjoyed reading it. The tales themselves are his very early work, some of them have not even been retouched all that much to polish them out. Each and every one is very enjoyable, and you are sure to find a favorite or two that you will share with your family. I wouldn’t recommend this for small readers, as some of the stories are longer than their attention spans might allow.

"Dragons at Crumbling Castle" is a great introduction for children to the internationally best-selling author Terry PratchettÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s inimitable brand of humorous fantasy. In this short story collection, readers will encounter an adventurous tortoise, people who are so small they live on specks of dust, a metro bus that doubles as a time-traveling machine, a tribe of abominable snowmen, and many more interesting characters and scenarios. My personal favorite is the titular piece, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Dragons at Crumbling Castle,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• in which a young boy from King ArthurÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s court goes on a quest to slay some dragons that have invaded a castleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|with completely unexpected results. I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t give away more than the cover illustration does, which is to say, yes, there be dragons in bathtubs here!Readers who enjoy Roald Dahl will likely find good company in these stories, as the quirky, light-hearted plots and oddball humor are cut from similar cloth. Speaking of Roald Dahl and illustrations, I kept wondering if the artist was Quentin Blake, who illustrated many of Roald DahlÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s books, but in fact the illustrator of this book is Mark Beech. His style is so uncannily similar to Quentin BlakeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s.This collection also gives Terry Pratchett fans a fascinating glimpse at some of the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s earliest known works of fiction. Although none of these stories take place in Discworld, I can recognize the beginnings of the razor-sharp humor and airtight plotting that would later take shape in the form of the much-beloved series about the flat planet with the funny people who are oddly a lot like you and me, even though some of them wear pointy hats and do magic.Pratchett dedicates this book in part ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“to my younger self, who thought these stories were pretty goodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|Oh, I could teach that lad a thing or two!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Oh, Terry Pratchett. For first attempts, these stories shine with the promise of genius no matter what you say! Although your legions of fans are sad to have lost such a gifted writer this year, we are also lucky you left behind a great big treasure trove of your work for us to delight in discoveringÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •and rediscovering.

Anything by Terry Pratchett, no matter what his age, is a delightful, wacky, funny, off-kilter look at life. Sometimes absurd, sometimes touching, his writing never takes even waking up seriously or for granted. Although this book and his other teenage era stories are perfect for children, this "senior citizen" loved these stories and is a proud owner and rereader of this and The Carpet People, also highly recommended. Sigh. I truly miss Terry P. and there is no one, unfortunately, who can fill his Disc-trekking boots.

These are very early pterry tales, written for kids.But- they are a lot of fun!The stories are short and often silly, with great illustrations and some creative typography. After reading it, I bought a second copy for a first-grader I know; I think he will enjoy it.Recommended for kids, and for Pratchett completists.

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