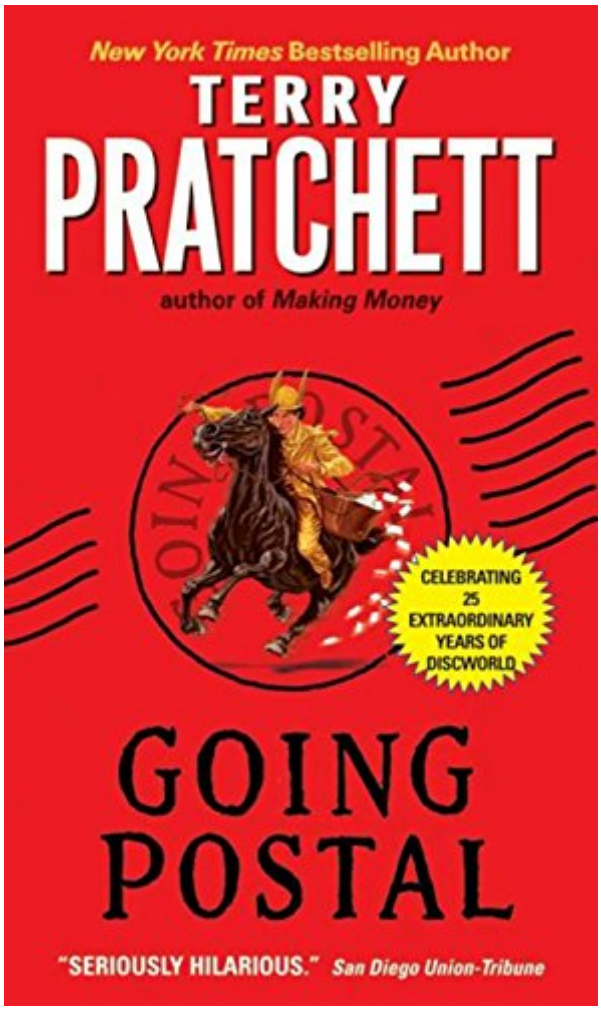
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Going Postal (Discworld Book 33)



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Synopsis

Suddenly, condemned arch-swindler Moist von Lipwig found himself with a noose around his neck and dropping through a trapdoor into ... a government job?By all rights, Moist should be meeting his maker rather than being offered a position as Postmaster by Lord Vetinari, supreme ruler of Ankh-Morpork. Getting the moribund Postal Service up and running again, however, may prove an impossible task, what with literally mountains of decades-old undelivered mail clogging every nook and cranny of the broken-down post office. Worse still, Moist could swear the mail is talking to him. Worst of all, it means taking on the gargantuan, greedy Grand Trunk clacks communication monopoly and its bloodthirsty piratical headman. But if the bold and undoable are what's called for, Moist's the man for the job -- to move the mail, continue breathing, get the girl, and specially deliver that invaluable commodity that every being, human or otherwise, requires: hope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Moist Von Lipwig is the name of the main character in this 33rd Novel of the Discworld series. That pretty much sets the stage for everything else. Grab hold of your hat and hang on for the ride.Moist is a talented and clever conman who has had a very successful criminal career on a sort of

"middling" level. That is to say, he’s a step up from pickpocket but a step down from the clowns running multinational corporations. He’s spent a vast majority of his life playing alter egos that suit his various (and less than altruistic) endeavors. So much so, that you realize a fair way through, that the man does not really know himself. He’s been so busy playing make-believe in order to earn a fast buck that he really hasn’t ever figured out who he really is or what he cares about. And in that, we see the true genius of Terry Prachett’s writing. The story of the protagonist is a redemptive tale that is wrapped up in the polka dotted humor and witticism of a very clever satirist. We manage to care very deeply for Moist and his struggles, which are both outward and inward.The story primarily centers around the city of Ankh-Morpork and its communications system. The book opens with the protagonist being saved from death, by a benevolent tyrant--the city patrician--Lord Vetinari. Although Vetinari is a dictator, he seems to be shrewd enough to care about the well-being of his citizens. Vetinari has identified a troubling problem with the mode of communication in the city; in which the majority of the story takes place. Swift communications between the citizenry are being conducted through a privately run utility known as the "Clacks," which is basically a system of visual telegraph towers (semaphores) that translate messages across distances using coding. Apparently, the Clacks system was "legally" taken over through a series of questionable financial maneuvers by a collective of investors known as "The Grand Trunk" who are headed by Reacher Gilt (a min of ill repute--and probably a pirate to boot!). Since the takeover, fees have gone up and service has gone down. Vetinari attempts to correct the situation by talking to The Grand Trunk and is rebuked for his efforts. The problem is that the Clacks are now the only game in town and everyone relies on them exclusively to get things done. Too big to fail....So Vetinari schemes to even the playing field by resurrecting the ancient, defunct postal system. To do this, he conscripts our protagonist. Moist agrees to go along with the plan for appearances, until he can bide his time and figure a way to escape and return to his old scamming ways. However, the endearing, odd ball cast of characters which Moist encounters while working in and around the post office slowly start to wear him down and he develops an interest in things beyond his own selfish needs.The cast of characters that Prachett dreams up are brilliant and memorable. Whether it’s the fire-eyed Golem parole officer who must keep tabs on the protagonist; the old-guard of anal-retentive postal workers; the slick zombie-faced lawyer; the mostly-sane former Clacks workers turned code-crackers and rabble rousers; the boisterous and bumbling stuffy-robed wizards of the Unseen University; the sulking and skulking Igor butler henchman; the disturbing pigeon-eating banshee; or the chain-smoking golem-rights activist/love interest--you fall in love with them all. Everyone comes alive. An unforgettable cast. Sometimes there are heartfelt moments of kind and generous acts, other times

you revel in the satire that floods through the streets of Ankh-Morpork. Everyone is a character and a caricature and always faintly familiar.Moist is quick-witted and all to willing to up the stakes. A bad habit from his scheming days, but it serves him well in his new career as postman as he finds himself pitted against the biggest conman of them all--the head of the Clacks--Reacher Gilt. This is where we see real character growth as Moist is both awed and repulsed by the story's chief antagonist. He is facing a distorted and much crueler mirror image of himself in dealing with Gilt. The more he learns, the more he is intrigued, and the more he is distressed. Upon meeting a truly great connoisseur of the trade (i.e. master conman) in Gilt, he sees that it is not so great a thing to aspire to. Then he questions himself and the life he has led and he wonders if there is much difference between him and Gilt. This is great character growth and the stuff of good story making.Another great thing in this book is the inherit magic of the post office (A decidedly untraditional magical reagent). But Pratchett's description of the place--even in its pigeon-dropping-covered-piles-of-old-letters--have all the intrigue and captivation of a haunted castle. A wonderfully original setting.Other commentators have pointed out how well Pratchett does with word-play (even the title of the book lends itself to this). They also point out how you don't get tired of it. It's true. This book has many levels of humor from word-puns to deep satire pointing out the absurdities that are abundant in a capitalistic society. The Clacks system and The Grand Trunk have innumerable alliterations to phone companies and investment banking. Indeed, this book was written before the recent financial crisis that raked the world's economies and is disturbingly prescient in many of its aphorisms. He makes you think as well as entertains you (as truly great authors do!).Prachett really hits the spot. He is refreshingly funny and a good storyteller. The world can be a very awful place sometimes, when you look at all the problems one can suffer through during a lifetime. Yet, it is books like this one that help to put all the grim things in their proper place of absurdity.Podcast: If you enjoy my review (or this topic) this book and the movie based on it were further discussed/debated in a lively discussion on my podcast: "No Deodorant In Outer Space". The podcast is available on iTunes or our website.

This is my favorite book, in my favorite series, by one of my favorite authors! Sir Terry Pratchett, may he rest in peace, was one of the best writers of science fiction/fantasy of his time. His writing is fun, witty, and full of British humor. His characters are strange, unique, hysterical and lovable. Going Postal is one of the best rogue to reluctant (fought it kicking and screaming more like) hero stories you'll ever read. Although I have not read every Discworld book (and that will be remedied), I have yet to be disappointed in one. Start with this one (or Mort) and get a taste for how great his writing

is. Then, start at the beginning, if you like. Most of the series does not HAVE to be read in order, but don't read Making Money or Rising Steam until you've read this one as those are continuations of the main character's story.

Pratchett never fails to amaze me with the breadth of his ability to create characters that live and breathe in their own way. After falling in love with the paradoxically humane and ethical character of Death, I immediately moved onto the street-smart, doggedly decent Sam Vimes of the City Watch, and was hooked. The hero of this book, Moist Von Lipwig, adds a brilliant and charming rogue to the cast, with the same depth of personality and fine touch for compassionate humanity that Pratchett delivers in all of his work. You can read this book on its own and be well satisfied, but reading the other Discworld books reveals a depth to the background that will reward you when you see that cameos of other characters - cigar-chomping Commander Vimes; the more or less benevolent tyrant of Ankh-Morpork, Havelock Vetinari; Angua Von Uberwald, the city watch's first female (and werewolf) constable, and all the rest,If I were to suggest the first book for someone dipping their toe into the Discworld, I would be hard pressed to find a better choice than Going Postal. Humor, drama, thrills, and insight - it's the whole package.

Sir Terry is always hilarious. Very enjoyable. I've read it several times, and it's nice to have it on my phone for a moment's amusement and enlightenment whenever I fancy it.

Funny! witty! I have always loved his (Sir Terry Pratchett) satirical writings. i thoroughly enjoy having this book narrated to me (in character) by Stephen Briggs. Mr. Briggs does a wonderful job being a golem, moist, Lord Vetinari and everyone in between. cannot wait to get some of the others!

It's hard to pick just one bit this may very well be my favorite in the entire series. Social commentary has never been so humorous and witty.

Probably one of my favorites so far, though it is really hard to choose among his works. Interesting for this election year. Though it was published 12 years ago, one of the main antagonists is a widely admired (by some) business leader who does not really hide his being a ruthless corporate pirate. Though he is blatant about his identity, he is amazed and bemused that people just keep lining up to be taken advantage of. His main office is called "Tump Tower." But that being set aside, "Going Postal" is a must-read with many creative perspectives, witty passages, and great characters.

If you are a Terry Pratchett fan, you will know that this book, like all his others, is worth reading. I don’t know if Mr. Pratchett just knows people really well or if he is inside my head, but his characters always think, do or say, what I would like to think, do or say! His humor is sometimes subtle and often politically incorrect but it always spot on with his insights. If you would like some light reading (unless you get sucked into the whole Discworld series like I did), this is a great book. He keeps the plot moving with interesting characters and plots. I love all of his books and have read and reread them so many times that I need to buy new copies because the old ones are so worn as to be unreadable!

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