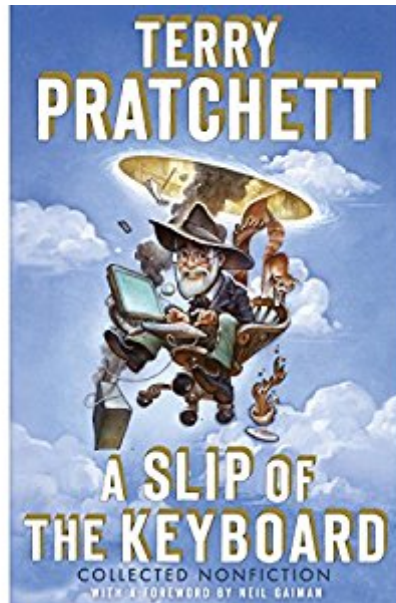


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A Slip Of The Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction



Synopsis

A collection of essays and other nonfiction from Terry Pratchett, spanning the whole of his writing career from his early years to the present day. Terry Pratchett has earned a place in the hearts of listeners the world over with his best-selling Discworld series - but in recent years he has become equally well-known and respected as an outspoken campaigner for causes including Alzheimer's research and animal rights. *A Slip of the Keyboard* brings together for the first time the finest examples of Pratchett's nonfiction writing, both serious and surreal: from musings on mushrooms to what it means to be a writer (and why banana daiquiris are so important); from memories of Granny Pratchett to speculation about Gandalf's love life, and passionate defences of the causes dear to him. With all the humour and humanity that have made his novels so enduringly popular, this collection brings Pratchett out from behind the scenes of the Discworld to speak for himself - man and boy, bibliophile and computer geek, champion of hats, orangutans and Dignity in Dying. *Snuff* was the best-selling adult hardcover novel of 2011. *A Blink of the Screen*, Terry's short fiction collection, was also one of the best-selling hardcovers of 2012.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Slip of the Keyboard is a collection of nonfiction by Terry Pratchett, the prolific and best-selling author of the *Discworld* novels. Included are essays, speeches, interviews, articles, and more - almost 60 pieces in total - written as early as 1963 (Pratchett was born in 1948) and as late as 2011 (the vast majority comes from the 90s and 00s). The book is

divided into three primary parts. The first and longest section focuses on themes relative to being a professional writer. The second part deals with Pratchett's early experiences and development. The third part consists of Pratchett's commentary on social issues (e.g., posterior cortical atrophy and Alzheimer's disease, socialized medicine, death with dignity and assistance, and even orangutans). There's a fourth part as well, but it has only one article. Following the more serious tone of the third part, it's a wry ending that's perfectly Pratchett. Those familiar with Pratchett's writing will find exactly what they expect in this volume: wit, intelligence, humor, and warmth. As the items included come from varying times and sources, there's considerable repetition. Anecdotes and examples are revisited throughout the book. This highlights one thing, Pratchett's message has been consistent. He's an ardent defender of fantasy as a genre and reading in general. He believes in the general goodness of humanity and is as shocked as anyone by his considerable success. An occasional political or religious comment may alienate a few (there's a barb or two that might be informed more by humor than charity) but he generally writes so compassionately and with such respect that most will appreciate his viewpoint even if they disagree.

If you have always thought how wonderful it would be to look over Sir Terry Pratchett's shoulder for a while, buy this book. It's the next best thing. It isn't a series of scholarly essays: it's the text of speeches and early and recent articles and forewords and miscellaneous wordcraft. It allowed me to find out about his first day of school (everyone else's second) and his grandmother (eerily similar to mine, down to the science fiction books). I started reading Terry Pratchett by accident, as in, I didn't return the book club post card in time, and *Reaper Man* showed up in my mailbox, and I was in love. I continued reading partly for the sheer enjoyment of it, but I excused my expenditures on so many books in tough times because, as a nurse once told me, I had a depressed immune system, and at that moment, I resolved to do what I could to cheer it up. Nothing does it better than a Terry Pratchett book, and so I am still teaching algebra and writing folk lyrics. At this point, I will take every bit, or byte, or pixel of Sir Terry's output, and I was as delighted by *A Slip of the Keyboard* as I could have hoped. I laughed, explosively like some jungle bird, then about the second or third Christmas article, without being able to stop myself. Then, when I reached the last section of the book, I sobbed so hard I kept my teeth clenched together, as if my heart would have flown out if I had let my jaws fall open. I've had cognitive issues for some years longer than Sir Terry, after the Chicago Worldcon where he treated me so kindly (the lady with the cane and the backpack with the story about Death). When I first heard his dreadful news, it was like hearing mine all over again. That

section brings it all back, including my own time of watching the movie Charly and weeping till I was sick.

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