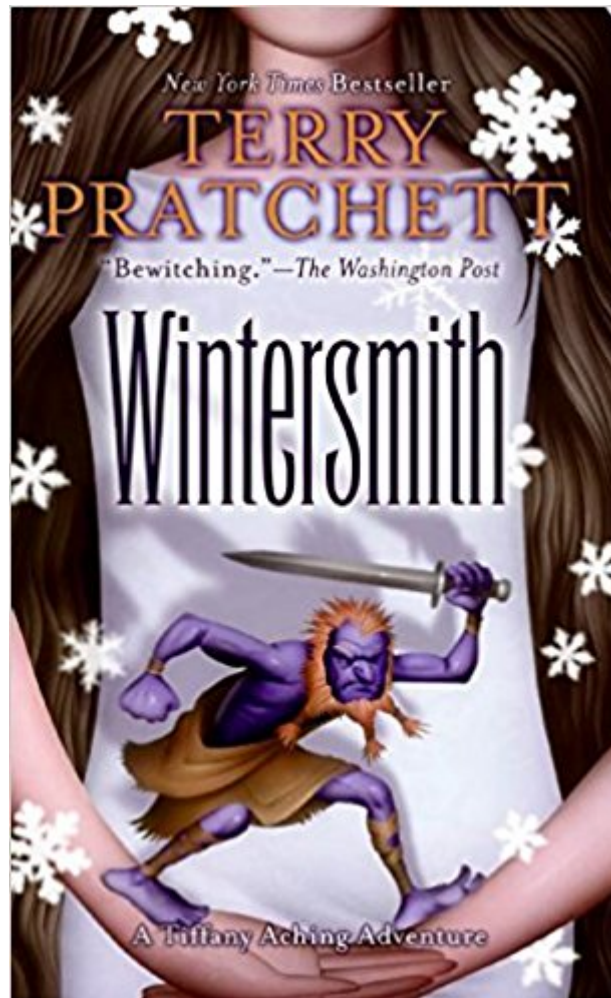




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# Wintersmith (Tiffany Aching)



## Synopsis

ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults \* ALA Booklist Editors' Choice \* ALA Notable Children's Book  
"Pratchett's unique blend of comedy and articulate insight is at its vibrant best. Full of rich humor, wisdom, and eventfulness." —Horn Book (starred review)  
By beloved and bestselling Terry Pratchett, this is the third in a series of Discworld novels starring the young witch Tiffany Aching. When the Spirit of Winter takes a fancy to Tiffany Aching, he wants her to stay in his gleaming, frozen world. Forever. It will take all the young witch's skill and cunning, as well as help from the legendary Granny Weatherwax and the irrepressible Wee Free Men, to survive until Spring. Because if Tiffany doesn't make it to Spring, Spring won't come for anyone.

## Book Information

Series: Tiffany Aching (Book 35)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 277 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #41,763 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Wizards & Witches #70 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #181 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up  
"Winter must die, and Summer must sink into the ground; it is all part of the Story, and Tiffany Aching has danced into the middle of it. On the last day of autumn, Tiffany travels to the woods to witness the Black Morris, the traditional dance of the gods heralding the arrival of winter. In a moment of heedless excitement, her rollicking feet draw her to the music, and she crashes headlong into the Wintersmith. He is fascinated by the girl and proceeds to court her in his own fashion—all the snowflakes are made in her image and giant Tiffany-shaped icebergs appear in the sea. Meanwhile, Tiffany begins to show characteristics of the goddess Summer—the touch of her bare feet makes things grow. All the attention from the Wintersmith would be quite flattering were it not for the deadly winter that threatens the shepherds

of the Chalk. As the situation is very dangerous and death is certain, the Nac Mac Feegles (along with an especially lively cheese named Horace) are directly in the fray protecting their big wee hag along with Annagramma, Granny Weatherwax, Miss Tick, and other favorites from past adventures. All are skillfully characterized; even the Wintersmith elicits sympathy as he joyfully buries the world in snow in his attempt to win Tiffany. Replete with dry and intelligent humor, this latest in the series is sure to delight.

Heather M. Campbell, Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO  
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--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** Here's the third Discworld story for younger readers in a series that began with *The Wee Free Men* (2003) and continued in *A Hat Full of Sky* (2004). Despite a stern warning from Miss Treason, the eccentric witch from whom 13-year-old Tiffany Aching is learning her craft, the girl has gone and danced with the wrong men. Having inserted herself into a dark reverse Morris dance in which summer and winter achieve their seasonal balance, Tiffany has attracted the amorous attentions of the Wintersmith. To express his ardor, he brings his chilly powers to bear, replete with Tiffany-shaped snowflakes burying the world in the rising drifts of his infatuation. While Granny Weatherwax, Miss Perspicacia Tick, and sundry veteran witches work with Tiffany to restrain the Wintersmith's zeal, the Wee Free Men set off to fetch a Hero to assist Tiffany, along the way adopting a cantankerous blue cheese. Add an assortment of junior witches-in-training, and yet another rollicking, clever, and quite charming adventure is brought to readers, who will find themselves delighted again--or for the first time--by Pratchett's exuberant storytelling.

Holly Koelling  
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I loved this book. Tiffany Aching and the Wee Free Men are endlessly entertaining. Terry Pratchett does a wonderful job of maintaining the integrity of his world and his characters while keeping everything fresh and creative. The humor is wrapped around serious themes. The characters have fantasy aspects but they illustrate many universal truths of human nature. I am going to have to slow down reading the series in order to savor them fully.

but the fire is so delightful. And since we've no place to go. Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"And snow it does in Terry Pratchett's delightfully funny and thoughtful latest book, *Wintersmith*. I have to admit that I ordered *Wintersmith* because it was by Terry Pratchett. I did not

notice that it is targeted as a Discworld book for younger readers. Adult fans of Discworld or of the genre generally should ignore this fact and step up and read Wintersmith. It is fun and should appeal to "children of all ages!" The plot is summarized quite nicely in the book description and I won't waste anyone's time repeating that summary. What isn't summarized is Pratchett's way with words and with characterizations. Here we have Tiffany Aching. Not only is she a 13-year girl entering her angst-filled teen years with a lot to learn about becoming an adult, but she is also learning how to become a witch. The witches in Macbeth sum this situation up nicely when they chanted: "double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble." Pratchett has a keen ear for Tiffany and he manages to convey these pangs of adolescence with an empathy that would be too sweet if it wasn't interspersed with humor and a nod and a wink. Pratchett knows how to keep the cauldron bubbling and those bubbles contain some of Pratchett's famous set-pieces. The Wee Free Men (the miniature version of Cohen the Barbarian multiplied by a factor of five hundred) provide some of those 'fun' moments. Two examples bear repeating. At one point early on Daft Wullie goes on (with more than a wee bit of Scottish brogue) about the problem of being married and having to deal with "the Pursin' o' the Lips", the "Foldin' o' the Arms", and "not tae mention the Tappin' o' the Feets". It is left to Rob Anybody to explain the art "o' the husbandry". A little later Tiffany's beau-in-waiting Roland wonders if he is too clever by half. Roland is relieved to hear that being too clever by half is preferable to "bein' too stupid by three quarters!" Out of context these may seem to be nothing more than throw-away bits of fun writing. In context they seem a bit more than that. Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg provide Tiffany with what can best be described as an inimitable (if off-kilter) support group. They are recurring characters on Discworld and they are in fine fettle. Rounding out the cast of characters is Wintersmith. This representation of Winter itself, who falls in love (in a boyish sort of way) with Tiffany, is a great counterbalance to Tiffany's character. If Tiffany is a young girl struggling to learn to be a woman, Winter is something approaching a boy struggling to learn what it is to become a human and then a man. It is a funny and touching portrayal. Looking at Tiffany (and her fellow teen witches) and Wintersmith and Roland was a lot like looking back at high school. Even in the alternate world that is Discworld - some things just don't change. Wintersmith was a fun book to read despite the fact that I am decades (sad to say) removed from my teen years. This is a great book to pass throughout the family and one of the reasons I read Wintersmith so quickly was the fact that my own teenager was doing the Tappin' o' the Feets and the Foldin' o' the Arms until I'd finished it. Highly recommended for youngsters - even those with grey hair such as me. Enjoy. L. Fleisig

great book. the first T Pratchett paperback i've bought, i got it because it was on sale, i was wondering if it would work for me since it's late in the series and the second in another series with a young female protagonist, it stood up on its own. great tone, great world, nice humor, a bit creepy in places ala brothers grimm. just well done. will be buying more Pratchett books.

This is the third in Terry Pritchett's wonderful "YA" Fantasy series. I put the "" around "YA" as this book (and the entire series) is suitable for all but the youngest readers, and I heartily recommend it for the older crowd- of which I am part. Tiffany Aching is a Witch. Well, no, she doesn't actually cast hexes or curses or sell love potions or tell fortunes- and in fact few Witches on Discworld do any "real" magic at all. Mostly what they do is tend to their "flock"- usually a small rural village. They use herbals, "headology", give advice, help with the lambing, sit with the dead, visit the elderly, and so forth. Mind you, they do wear pointy hats and ride a broomstick now and then. Tiffany has made a mistake- when invited to watch the Black Morris (performed at the start of Winter- and in all other ways the opposite of the Morris dance) she intervenes and takes the place of the Lady Of Summer who dances with the Wintersmith. This intrigues the Lord of Winter, who decides he now needs to become "human" and woo our young heroine. What's interesting here is that the "villain" is not in any way "evil"- he just makes some bad decisions out of ignorance- he thinks eternal Winter won't really be all that bad! How Tiffany solves this problem as well as handling all her duties as a "Witch"- as well as growing up, is the crux of this delightful and often humorous book.

This is my favorite title of the four Pratchett's I have read! Now if anyone asks me where to start reading the series, I will say with the Tiffany Aching arc. This is very YA readership friendly, too. I buddy read this with Annemieke from A DANCE WITH BOOKS, and we are already planning on buddy reading I Shall Wear Midnight next month. We have to get our Tiffany fix!

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