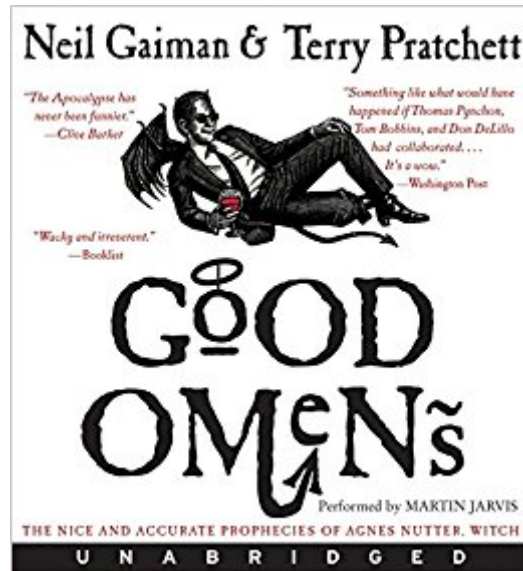




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Good Omens CD



Synopsis

The world will end on Saturday. Next Saturday. Just before dinner, according to *The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch*, the world's only completely accurate book of prophecies written in 1655. The armies of Good and Evil are amassing and everything appears to be going according to Divine Plan. Except that a somewhat fussy angel and a fast-living demon are not actually looking forward to the coming Rapture. And someone seems to have misplaced the Antichrist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pratchett (of Discworld fame) and Gaiman (of Sandman fame) may seem an unlikely combination, but the topic (Armageddon) of this fast-paced novel is old hat to both. Pratchett's wackiness collaborates with Gaiman's morbid humor; the result is a humanist delight to be savored and reread again and again. You see, there was a bit of a mixup when the Antichrist was born, due in part to the machinations of Crowley, who did not so much fall as saunter downwards, and in part to the mysterious ways as manifested in the form of a part-time rare book dealer, an angel named Aziraphale. Like top agents everywhere, they've long had more in common with each other than the sides they represent, or the conflict they are nominally engaged in. The only person who knows how it will all end is Agnes Nutter, a witch whose prophecies all come true, if one can only manage to decipher them. The minor characters along the way (Famine makes an appearance as diet crazes, no-calorie food and anorexia epidemics) are as much fun as the story as a whole, which adds up to

one of those rare books which is enormous fun to read the first time, and the second time, and the third time... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When a scatterbrained Satanist nun goofs up a baby-switching scheme and delivers the infant Antichrist to the wrong couple, it's just the beginning of the comic errors in the divine plan for Armageddon which this fast-paced novel by two British writers zany details. Aziraphale, an angel who doubles as a rare-book dealer, and Crowley, a demon friend who's assigned to the same territory, like life on Earth too much to allow the long-planned war between Heaven and Hell to happen. They set out to find the Antichrist and avert Armageddon, on the way encountering the last living descendant of Agnes Nutter, Anathema, who's been deciphering accurate prophecies of the world's doom but is unaware she's living in the same town as the Antichrist, now a thoroughly human and normal 11-year-old named Adam. As the appointed day and hour approach, Aziraphale and Crowley blunder through seas of fire and rains of fish, and come across a misguided witch hunter, a middle-aged fortune teller and the Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse. It's up to Adam in the neatly tied end, as his humanity prevails over the Divine Plan and earthly bungling. Some humor is strictly British, but most will appeal even to Americans "and other aliens." Literary Guild alternate. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is well written and absolutely hilarious. If you're in the mood for a really fun read, this is the book for you.

If this isn't a movie or a Stranger Things-type series in a year, I'll write it myself. Phenomenal plot (what if the Devil-spawn returned to a relatively normal childhood in the face of unknown, multi-dimensional apocalyptic plans?), hilarious characters and side-notes, and great if you like any of Pratchett's or Gaiman's other works. Very funny, very British, sweetly irreverent.

I am in love with this book. I hadn't heard of it but I'm so glad I took a chance and read it out of the blue. I've read it twice now and it's a very fun read. You should read this book!

The Perfect Summer Read Are you looking for a fun, quirky book to read? Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman is an oldie but goody. If it's an oldie, why write a review? Because I keep running into people who

haven't read this gem, and most of all, because I love this book. The satire is at once silly and hysterical with some honest-to-goodness wit thrown into the mix. It's a zany romp that only the young at heart should take. There's enough British wit and humor to satisfy anyone who likes that sort of thing, and it's genuinely crazy enough to amuse most people. If you're a Douglas Adams fan, well, then you've probably read *Good Omens*. Warning: if you have no sense of humor or if you hate silly, stop reading this review.

Brief Summary: Satan and God have a huge problem: the Antichrist has gone missing, and they need him for the apocalypse. It turns out that when the lad was born, some evil nuns gave him to the wrong couple, and he grew up in a sleepy English suburb. Expect for his untapped "evil" power, he's an ordinary kid rather like Kevin McCallister, the kid in *Home Alone*. Because they happen to like earth and don't want it destroyed, Aziraphale (an angel) and Crowley (a demon) team up to stop the apocalypse; they are much like a British version of the *Odd Couple* who are trying to save the world from inevitable doom. Crowley, of course, lives life wildly and fully, while Aziraphale is quiet and refined. While everyone (God, Satan, angels, demons, and humans) searches for the Antichrist, the Four "Bikers" of the Apocalypse gather. And, yes, the Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch are important. Pratchett and Gaiman have created a diverse and eccentric cast of characters. The impending doom is told through multiple points of view as everyone races to save or destroy the world. As any reader would expect, they all come crashing together at the end of the book.

Why do I like it? This may be one of the funniest books I've read. First, Pratchett and Gaiman turn the story of the apocalypse inside-out, then, they turn it sideways, and finally, they manage to make the end of the world riotous and entertaining. Along the way, they poke and prod at the ordinary, the crass, and the sacred. I'll admit there is a great deal of silliness about the book, and some of the motifs have been used before, but Gaiman and Pratchett take those motifs and spin them with enduring flare. After all, the book was published in 1990 and is still going strong. I'm always excited when someone I know reads *Good Omens* for the first time. So my friend, take a break from the real world, put aside all serious thoughts, get comfortable, and read this delicious book.

I've always been a fan of both Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett (rip), so this book sounded perfect (which it is). It has the best attributes of both authors, notably Pratchett's footnotes and DEATH. The writing is witty and clever, but my favorite part is in the easter eggs hidden throughout the book, and

the way all of the seemingly separate plots converge together at the climax of the story. When I say "easter eggs", I mean like when (SPOILERS) Agnes Nutter looks at the sky before she dies, chiding whomever she is speaking to, and two hundred years later, it's revealed that she was talking to Shadwell. My rendition doesn't do it justice, obviously, but it's things like that that make reading it even more fun. In summary, everyone and their goldfish should read it, so if you haven't already, go do it now.

The last celebrity death of any kind that really made me cry was when I first heard the news that Terry Pratchett died. I knew it was coming, but it didn't make it any better. I had spent hours and hours with him and in the worlds he created enjoying every minute and praising Offler, the crocodile god, that he was so prolific. The funny thing is that when I first read this book, I didn't read it because it was a Terry Pratchett book. I had read it because it was a Neil Gaiman book. A dozen years ago, or so a buddy first handed me *American Gods*, and this was after I graduated with a degree in English but I had not read either of these English chaps. I then went on to read all the books Gaiman had out, including this one. I remember liking it so much but it felt out of character it didn't remind me of Gaiman's other books. There was a wit and playfulness that balanced out Neil being a little more serious. Of course, it took me another seven years before I read any of Terry's Discworld books and then I went and had to read fifty of those books. But then it was all over and there were a couple of posthumous books that trickled out but it is not the same to be looking behind you at the fun you had instead of looking ahead of you with that boundless anticipation. But then a week or so ago, I was thinking of the great bit that opens *Good Omens*, where the reader learns that the birth of the world can be tracked so that the age of the world and star positions means that the earth has a zodiac sign. Specifically, that earth is a Libra. I went to track it down and then remembered with joy that though I had already read the book I had read it as a Neil Gaiman book and not as a Terry Pratchett book. It meant that there was a Terry Pratchett book I hadn't read. So, I looked and looked on all my shelves and of course I couldn't find it. It also reminded me that a year ago, I told my wife I was going to organize my shelves, but that it wasn't neither here nor there. So, I had to buy it again. And the payoff is worth it. Both authors can work with their strengths with both the more serious Gaiman and the playful Pratchett (and vice versa, Neil can be playful and Terry serious), so that all the main characters work with depth and sympathy and you get a good feeling for the Antichrist's motivations. And even better, I had

forgotten how it ended, so that was a nice surprise. Sadly though, for Terry, the rest is silence. O, o, o, o.

A good read, but for some rough spots which seemed rushed. Perhaps having too many story lines operating at the same time detracted from the flow.

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