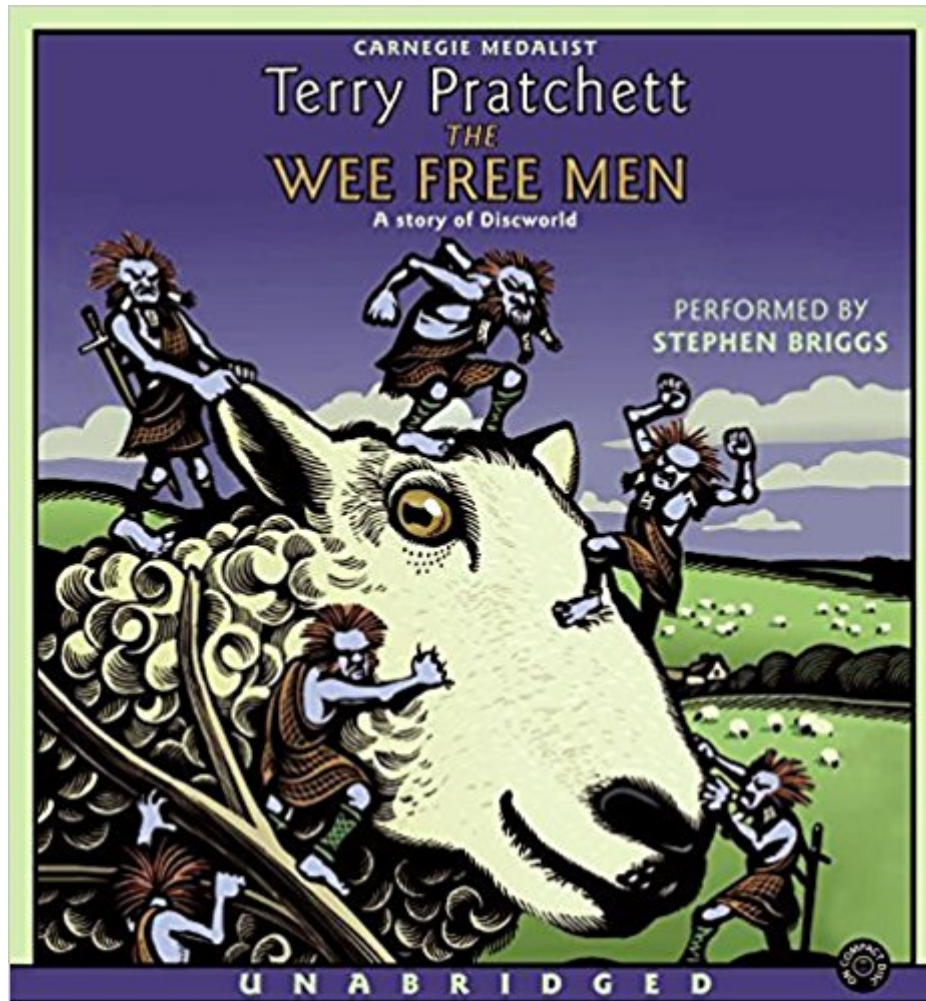




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The Wee Free Men



Synopsis

Armed only with a frying pan and her common sense, Tiffany Aching, a young witch-to-be, is all that stands between the monsters of Fairyland and the warm, green Chalk country that is her home. Forced into Fairyland to seek her kidnapped brother, Tiffany allies herself with the Chalk's local Nac Mac Feegle -- aka the Wee Free Men -- a clan of sheep-stealing, sword-wielding, six-inch-high blue men who are as fierce as they are funny. Together, they battle through an eerie and ever-shifting landscape, fighting brutal flying fairies, dream-spinning dromes, and grimhounds -- black dogs with eyes of fire and teeth of razors -- before ultimately confronting the Queen of the Elves, absolute ruler of a world in which reality intertwines with nightmare. And in the final showdown, Tiffany must face her cruel power alone ...

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Customer Reviews

Nine-year-old Tiffany Aching needs magic--fast! Her sticky little brother Wentworth has been spirited away by the evil Queen of faerie, and it's up to her to get him back safely. Having already decided to grow up to be a witch, now all Tiffany has to do is find her power. But she quickly learns that it's not all black cats and broomsticks. According to her witchy mentor Miss Tick, "Witches don't use magic unless they really have to...We do other things. A witch pays attention to everything that's going on...A witch uses her head...A witch always has a piece of string!" Luckily, besides her trusty string, Tiffany's also got the Nac Mac Feegles, or the Wee Free Men on her side. Small, blue, and heavily tattooed, the Feegles love nothing more than a good fight except maybe a drop of strong drink! Tiffany, heavily armed with an iron skillet, the feisty

Feegles, and a talking toad on loan from Miss Tick, is a formidable adversary. But the Queen has a few tricks of her own, most of them deadly. Tiffany and the Feegles might get more than they bargained for on the flip side of Faerie! Prolific fantasy author Terry Pratchett has served up another delicious helping of his famed Discworld fare. The not-quite-teen set will delight in the Feegles' spicy, irreverent dialogue and Tiffany's salty determination. Novices to Pratchett's prose will find much to like here, and quickly go back to devour the rest of his Discworld offerings. Scrumptiously recommended. (Ages 10 to 14) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-10 • This new edition of the first book in Pratchett's excellent "Tiffany Aching" series (HarperTempest) features full-color illustrations that are true to the author's keen descriptions. Fans of the original won't find faults: Tiffany looks like a true nine-year-old, and the blue-skinned Wee Free Men seem appropriately fierce and funny at the same time. Three well-chosen foldouts show key plot transitions as Tiffany first sees the Wee Free Men, later steps into the fairy world, and ultimately unleashes her full powers. Plentiful spot illustrations and creative use of space show that the illustrator has clearly entered into the spirit of Tiffany's world. Significant words occasionally appear behind the text in light gray, appropriate for a girl who has read the dictionary (because "no one told her you weren't supposed to"). Line drawings of Wee Free Men frequently appear along page borders as they hang from, climb up, and occasionally steal the letters of the text. Recurring passages that tell the backstory of Tiffany's Granny, merely italicized in the original edition, are now cleverly highlighted by insets resembling yellowed paper. Pratchett's expertly written fantasy works fine without any pictures, but these attractive images are quite effective without overwhelming the words. For less sophisticated readers, the visual elements may serve as reference points to help them navigate the rich setting and cohesive but complex plot. • Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Chalk is a place of sheep and shepherds but never a witch was known to be there, however that might have been incorrect. Terry Pratchett's 30th Discworld novel, "The Wee Free Men", is the second time he's written for young adults but his writing and humor are top notch as well follow a nine-year witch Tiffany Aching going up against the Queen of Elves with only a horde of six-inch blue little men. Tiffany Aching finds her family farm being invaded

by monsters from dreams as well as a horde of little blue men, the titular Wee Free Men. Tiffany is very smart for her age and sees things as they are just like her grandmother, so when strange things pop up she uses an iron pan to beat them back. Although she later figures out that her grandmother was a witch, Tiffany has her first encounter with one in the form of Ms. Lick who tells her to be careful but not to tackle the problem on her own but when her brother is kidnapped by the Fairie Queen, Tiffany knows she's going to need help while not sounding desperate. Tiffany's help comes to her when the local clan of the Wee Free Men shows up looking for the new "hag of the hills" the hills because of the invasion of the Queen. Tiffany and the Wee Free Men invade Fairyland and manage to return with her brother, a feat that Granny Weatherwax finds impressive for someone so young and untrained. "The Wee Free Men" features Tiffany as the only point-of-view character, save from a narrator, which keeps the book fairly orderly when reading as well as being in line for a book for younger readers. The story itself is somewhat familiar for long time Discworld fans with the antagonist being the Queen of the Elves invading, but Pratchett changes things up with the use of dreams and the conflict as seen from a nine-year old. The cameo appearance of Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg at the end, sets up further adventures of Tiffany and connects her subseries with the Witches subseries with the hopes of seeing favorite characters in future books. The second young adult and first Tiffany subseries book of the Discworld canon is a fantastic book; "The Wee Free Men" gives someone new for long time fans while introducing older characters for younger new readers. While it's intended for a younger audience, older fans will appreciate Pratchett's humorous fantasy writing with his twists and turns.

This is the seventh book that I have read by Sir Terry Pratchett and so far this is my favourite book by him. I can't wait to get my hands on the next book in this series! Now let's move onto the actual review. First of all let's talk about the writing style. I really enjoyed how this book was written. Reading from Tiffany's point of view was very interesting and I enjoyed looking at the world as she sees it. I also loved the humor that Terry Pratchett intertwined into the story, as I usually do with his books. The characters in this book very amazing! I greatly enjoyed learning about all of them. I especially loved the Nac Mac Feegle as they were awesome. Who wouldn't love fighting, drinking, stealing little blue men? It was great seeing how they live and learning more about them and their history. I also liked Tiffany a lot. What I especially appreciated about her was how flawed she was.

She felt like a real person and I loved her as the main character. The story felt as if I was reading a novel that has been intertwined with a fairy tale. The adventure that Tiffany went on was fascinating and I loved the way the other world was described. (I can't explain it any better because it would spoil things.) All in all I highly recommend this book to everyone. Literary everyone.

This is Terry Pratchett at the height of his powers. In the second novel for YA readers set in his justly famous Discworld universe of novels, "The Wee Free Men" is the story of a sensible, level-headed young girl who accidentally gives her sticky younger brother away to the fairies no one believes in. Since no one else believes in them, she feels it's up to her to get her brother back unharmed. But it's not like she's going after her brother empty-handed. She does have a cast-iron frying pan and a bad attitude. And she somehow has earned the respect of the Nac Mac Feegle. The Nac Mac Feegle are fairies . . . of a sort. They were kicked out of fairy land for fighting, drinking, swearing, drinking, stealing, fighting, general tomfoolery and swearing while drinking and fighting. Massively strong, incredibly quick and almost impossibly sticky-fingered, the average Nac Mac Feegle stands about two inches tall and talks in a Scottish accent that comes across marvelously in Pratchett's dialogue. This is the start of a marvelous trilogy following young Tiffany Aching as she moves from granddaughter of a (possible) witch, to a full-fledged witch on her own. It's not only a treat for YA readers, but also for parents to read aloud to their younger children. I already have purchased numerous copies of this book to give away as each of my boys and my many nieces and nephews have come of the age where they'll enjoy the book. Every one of the young kids I've gifted with the book has come back asking for more. Definitely worth your time and money.

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