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Wings (The Bromeliad Trilogy)



Synopsis

Somewhere in a place so far up there is no down, a ship is waiting to take the nomes home; back to wherever they came from. And one nome, Masklin, knows that they've got to try and contact this ship. It means getting to Florida (wherever that is), then getting to the launch of a communications satellite (whatever that is). A ridiculous plan. Impossible. But Masklin doesn't know this, so he tries to do it anyway. And the first step is to try and hitch a ride on a new kind of truck, a truck with wings; Concorde.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-- The last book of a science-fiction trilogy about four-inch beings who were stranded when their scout ship crashed to earth 15,000 years ago. Truckers (1990) introduced Masklin, leader of a dwindling band of nomes hunting among the hedgerows in modern England. Completely ignorant of their origins, they are guided by a small black box they call "The Thing," which turns out to be a very powerful computer. In Diggers (1991, both Delacorte), they join a group of department-store nomes to live in a quarry. In this last installment, Masklin and friends sneak aboard the Concorde and head for Florida. Their mission: to place The Thing on a communications satellite so it can rouse their waiting mother ship. Nomes are foolishly courageous, companionable, literal and innocent creatures whose repeated misunderstandings confirm readers' sense of smug superiority. The bad puns generated by their mistakes in language may amuse some readers but

annoy others. Neither as complex nor interesting as Mary Norton's "Borrowers" (Harcourt) or the Lilliputians of T. H. White's *Mistress Masham's Repose* (Berkley, 1984), Pratchett's creatures enact a blatantly obvious parable of broadening horizons. Yet the conversational style and fast-moving plot make this cheerful, unpretentious tale useful where there is a need for accessible science fiction, or where the previous volumes have been enjoyed.- Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA
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In book three of the "Bromeliad," the nomes recover their spaceship and leave Earth. At the end of *Diggers* (p. 109), Gemma and the other nomes, trapped in a quarry surrounded by hostile humans, were saved by the appearance of an enormous spaceship. *Wings* is a flashback in which Masklin, Grunder, and Angalo sneak aboard a Concorde bound from London to Miami and make their way to within hailing distance of the space shuttle so that Thing can subvert its communication ports to summon their spaceship, which has been stored on the moon for thousands of years. In the process, they meet a band of wild nomes and are told that the world harbors thousands more. Gemma and Masklin leave for the stars; Grunder stays behind to communicate with humans and the other nomes. There is something a bit affected about naming a series after an orchid that harbors a colony of tiny frogs that leave their flower only when they outgrow it. Norton's *Borrowers* were entrancing, resourceful, and convincing; in comparison, nomes are naive, clumsy, and unlikely. *Wings* is resolutely earthbound, and while Pratchett can be wildly funny in his adult books, he seems tentative here. Still, young readers who liked the earlier volumes will want to read this one. (Fiction. 10+) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

First off, some disclosure: I am a Terry Pratchett fan. I think that even a "bad" Terry Pratchett book is better than most books. Having said that, this is a lovely trilogy, well written and so "simply" that it causes the reader to forget about the writing and really hear what the characters are saying. This book is the third of the trilogy, but actually runs concurrently with the last half of the second book (*Diggers*). It focuses on Masklin, Angelo, and Grunder's (from the first book *Truckers*) quest to reach Arnold Bros. (est. 1905) Grandson Richard, 39, which becomes the quest to call the nomes' Ship from outer space where it has been hidden for the last 15,000 years. Along the way they deal with things like the nature of faith, truth, ethnocentrism, paradigm shifts and the chaos, frustration and fear that such a shift brings about,

romance, love, and encouraging the object of affection to be all they can be rather than trying to trap them into small, manageable shadows of what they might have become. Pratchett even addresses that humans are probably crazy and probably lonely and that is why we have science fiction, and religion. In reading this review, I do make the story sound far busier and stuffier than is written...it is really just an adventure with a bit of romance thrown in. In any case, I recommend the entire trilogy.

I bought this because I wanted to have it in my e-book collection. It was the first trilogy I read by Sir Terry and hooked me immediately. I ended up reading all of the DiscWorld books. Having this as an e-book gives me re-readability of a wonderful book of wonderful imagination.

Reviewers of Terry Pratchett works tend to fawn. They often act like swooning teens at a concert. I am far more direct than all of that. I write fantasy. Correction. I have written fantasy. No more. He is adept, wry, sweetly nudging the reader in the direction of all the what ifs that make life magical. Shit. I am never writing again. He has said it all.

I am over 60 years old , and I LOVED this book. O.K. not only this book... ALL of the Nome books ! If , like me , you've decided that this trilogy is only for children , you were wrong ! A long time ago (years actually) I decided Sir Terry wrote the best books ever. I was RIGHT ! I strongly advise you to buy these stories , you will , like me , LOVE THEM. I am now going to go through all of the cannon to buy every one of Terrys books I haven't read yet. I think YOU should too!!!

When Terry Pratchett died earlier this year, I had wondered what I was missing...there was A LOT of love thrown his way. Now I know. This is good, good stuff. I wish I'd found it sooner.

This was an absolutely wonderful series! So much fun, even with the problems the characters faced. It makes me want to meet Nomes! I hope someday they can all be rescued from earth, but I would also like to see them and at least some humans successfully interact.

Take a break and read this. A very easy mild fun delightful read from Terry Pratchett. Partly because it is for children *and* adults, partly because he wrote it this way. Adults will love it too, even if you have found some of his other stuff slightly more deep than you wanted.

All in all it was an outstanding series, I'd give 5 stars to both Truckers and Diggers. I can't precisely

say why, but for some reason this one fell a little short, but again, collectively it's like an 8 star read...

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