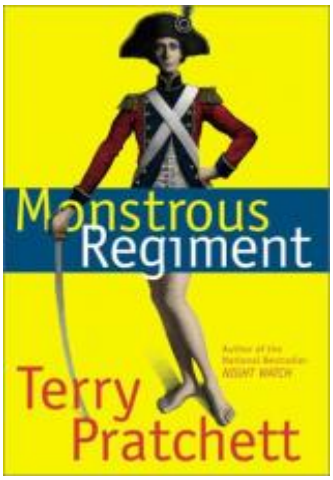
Monstrous Regiment

by Terry Pratchett



About the Book

War has come to Borogravia. The homes and businesses limp along, doing the best they can without their men, sent to fight their age-old enemy. Polly has taken over the lion's share of responsibility for the running of her family's humble inn, The Duchess. Her beloved brother Paul marched off to war almost a year ago, but it has been more than two months since his last letter home, and the news from the front is bad: the fighting has reached the border, supplies are dwindling, and the brave Borogravians are losing precious ground. So the resourceful Polly cuts off her hair and joins the army disguised as a young man named Oliver. As Polly closely guards her secret, she notices that her fellow recruits seem to be guarding secrets of their own.

A novel that explores the inanity of war, the ins and outs of sexual politics, and why often the best man for the job is a woman, **Monstrous Regiment** is vintage Pratchett in top form.

Discussion Guide

1. Polly and her fellow comrades are forced to disguise themselves as boys because of the law forbidding female participation in the armed services. However, their female regiment succeeds where all men before them have failed. What is it about these girls that make them so successful?

2. The national deity, Nuggan, and his "Abominations" strictly control the lives of the people of Borogravia. What do you think Pratchett is trying to say about the integration of religion and government?

3. Polly feels that her regiment ends up being viewed as mascots instead of true soldiers, and is angered by this. Do you agree with her opinion or do you feel that they did, in fact, initiate change?

4. Do you think that Polly and the rest of her regiment will succeed as soldiers as they head off to war, yet again, at the

end of the novel?

Author Bio

Sir Terence David John Pratchett, more commonly known as Terry Pratchett, was an English novelist, known for his frequently comical work in the fantasy genre. He was best known for his popular and long-running *Discworld* series of comic fantasy novels. Pratchett's first novel, THE CARPET PEOPLE, was published in 1971, and since his first *Discworld* novel (THE COLOR OF MAGIC) was published in 1983, he had been writing two books a year on average. Pratchett was also known for close collaboration on adaptations of his books.

In 2001, Pratchett won the Carnegie Medal for his children's novel THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RODENTS. He was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) "for services to literature" in 1998. He was knighted in the 2009 New Year Honours.

In December 2007, Pratchett publicly announced that he was suffering from early onset Alzheimer's disease, subsequently making a substantial public donation to the Alzheimer's Research Trust, and filming a program chronicling his experiences with the disease for the BBC. He passed away on March 12, 2015 at the age of 66.

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