

***Wyrd Sisters* by Terry Pratchett**

I only just started reading the works of Terry Pratchett and I've enjoyed it immensely! But *Wyrd Sisters* stuck out to me most strongly for its (often comedic) parallels to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

The Witches of the Discworld are usually loaners, but the young Magrat Garlick has managed to rope Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg into forming a small (if reluctant) coven. When a man shows up one night and thrusts a baby into their arms before he himself is killed, the three witches decide that the best course of action is to hand the child off to the nearest traveling players. And (because Magrat thinks it's traditional and the other two witches find her somewhat endearing, if slightly annoying) the coven decides to give the baby three "gifts" – he will make friends easily, he will always remember the words, and he will be whoever he believes he is. Surely the witches couldn't *know* that the baby is actually the newly orphaned Prince of Lancre, OR that the old King is still hanging around the palace as a ghost, OR that the Barron (who most certainly and absolutely DID NOT stab the old king with the king's own dagger) can't seem to scrub the blood stains off his hands... And of course, no one thinks twice about the sad young jester who sneaks into the library to read, and who knows far more about certain random things (like politics, for example) than anyone gives him credit for. After all, who in their right mind would pay attention to the clown?

Wyrd Sisters is absolutely fantastic! And a perfect read for the Halloween season. It's got just the right mix of comedy, action, moral, and mystery to pull the reader along on an exciting adventure, and leaves one feeling satisfied in the end. Of course, Granny Weatherwax tends to be the fan favorite of the three witches, but I was quite entranced with the big and well-developed personalities of the other two witches as well; in fact, most of the characters are well-rounded and individual, which was extremely gratifying, especially in a fantasy book that is not terribly long. I particularly enjoyed all the trouble the three witches got themselves into and out of, and the ways they went about it... You really can't make guesses with these three, as they'll turn all of your guesses on their heads, yet somehow whatever they do will leave you thinking, "Well of course they would do it that way... that just makes sense!"

I'm slowly working my way through the rest of Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* books, but I think *Wyrd Sisters* will hold a special place in my memory. I loved the way it made me laugh while also making me *think* about how I could see things in a different light or by a new angle, even in my own everyday life.