Nice, Good, or Right: Faces of the Wise Woman in Terry Pratchett's "Witches" Novels

Janet Brennan Croft, University of Oklahoma

Abstract
Examines the moral system that guides the use of magic by the witches of Discworld. Considers the definitions of Nice, Good, and Right under this system, and demonstrates how mature witches strive to do what is Right.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol26/iss3/11

Terry Pratchett's profoundly irreverent, bestselling novels have garnered him a revered position in the halls of parody next to the likes of Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, Douglas Adams, and Carl Hiaasen. The Color of Magic is Terry Pratchett's maiden voyage through the now-legendary land of Discworld. This is where it all begins -- with the tourist Twoflower and his wizard guide, Rincewind. On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle (sex unknown), a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. The best man for the job may be a woman. Read online.

A witch is a woman in possession of power. To some, the witch is a figure to fear; to others, she's one of empowerment. She is the healer, the medicine woman, the bruja, the Mother, the crafty Instagrammer. Under her wise guidance, Tony will probe the family ties that bind him, and he will find in himself the magical secrets of the pagan past—a mythic legacy equally as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America in which he has been schooled. At each turn in his life there is Ultima who will nurture the birth of his soul."