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A Blink of the Screen: collected shorter fiction - Terry Pratchett

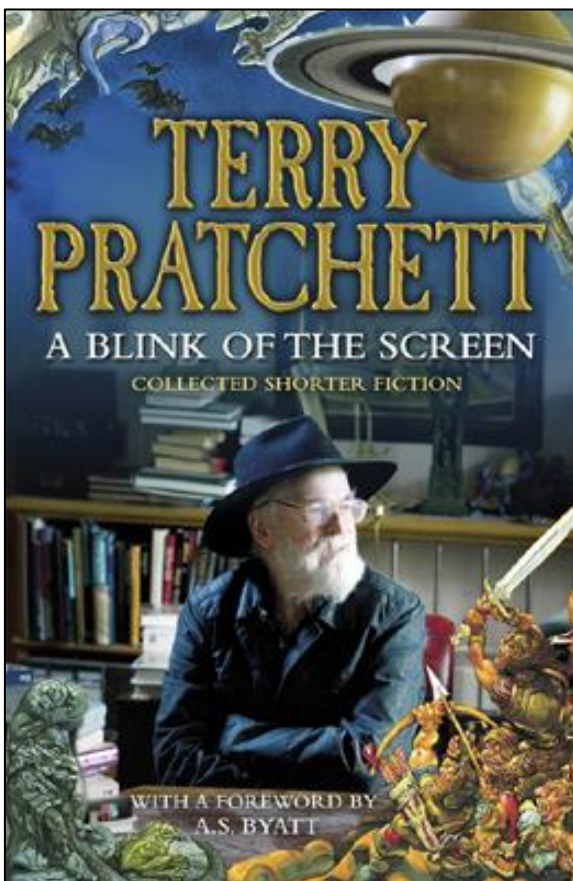
Publisher: Doubleday

RRP \$49.99

Readers are given a rare glimpse into the development of a talented author through four decades encompassing writings from his teenage years, extracts from his journalism, short stories and other fiction associated with his well-known *Discworld* series.

The chronological arrangement of the collection offers an insight into Pratchett's thinking at each point in time. It's intriguing to see his experimentation with different styles. There are dark and moody patches, satirical pieces, cynicism, quirky humour and sharp-eyed observations from a people-watcher who understands human nature better than most. As the stories unfold, admiration grows for the creative genius polishing each gem with finesse.

Death and the hereafter feature in several stories, accompanied by perceptive comment on the inevitable. Pratchett's chilling Christmas story, set in 1843, carries echoes of Ray Bradbury's macabre writings. Although many characters are from other realms, there's always a sense of reality in their behaviour and responses.



Psychedelic illustrations by the late Josh Kirby warrant close examination to discover the out-of-this-world detail and unique characters. There are also a few illustrations by other artists and some drawings by the author.

Science fiction fans and young adults will enjoy discovering Pratchett's alternative universes. An entertaining collection of thought-provoking work by an accomplished storyteller.

Author's Website:

www.terrypratchettbooks.com

**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett.**