

Soul Music: Titania

When wonderfully witty author Terry Pratchett was coming to Sydney in 2002, I was devastated when I would miss him as I would be in Brisbane at the *Wild Women's Wisdom Weekend* retreat and then on to visit a fantasy-loving friend. Wait...a honey of an idea. Was Terry going to be in Brisbane at the time? Voilà! He was to sign books at the Queen Street Mall, the Monday morning following the retreat. YAY!

I was grateful when my pal's father drove us into the CBD. At the bookshop, I bought a brand-new copy of *Soul Music*. I had packed my copy of *Mort*, sent to me by my best friend in Canada in 2001; my introduction to Terry's fantastically funny *Discworld* series. My favourite character turned out to be Death, not evil and morbid as one may imagine but timeless, wise, just and he loves curries and petting cats!

I have always been curious about how Death ate, so when it came to be my turn, I asked Terry.

'Slowly,' was his reply. Hehe!

I am ever grateful for this opportunity to meet him as for me it did not come around again, as Terry tragically passed from this world in 2015 from Alzheimer's. I hope his spirit is faring well. Rob Wilkins, his assistant, wrote a touching passage about how wise Death came to greet Terry to take him to his next life. I cried when I read that. One can see it on Terry's Wikipedia entry.

I cherish my signed copies, in which Terry wrote '*BOO!*' and '*Not Fade Away*,' which is all the more special as I felt I was fading away at the time, unnoticed. No longer, I am happy to say.

I wonder how many more stories Terry had in that wonderful imagination of his? He's such an inspiration. I am also a fantasy author, venturing into science-fiction, romance, self-help and new age, for adults, young adults and children.

Terry Pratchett, I thank you so much for your rich works. *Good Omens* was hilarious! (Co-written with Neil Gaiman, fellow fantastic fantasy author of *StarDust*, another of my faves.) LOVED Aziraphale and Crowley. Adore how an angel and a demon became besties. Aww.

We miss you, Pterry, as we fans call him, a nod to his novel, *Pyramids*, in which characters have a silent 'P' in front of their names. Fare you well.