



2003

### The Bromeliad Trilogy

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Pratchett, Terry. *The Bromeliad Trilogy*. HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN 0060094931. \$18.89. 502 pp.

Reviewer: Janet Francis

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Adventure stories; Science fiction;

Subject: Department stores--Fiction; Computers--Fiction; Quarries and quarrying--Fiction;

Book--Reviews;

Shades of *The Borrowers* restored and enhanced! Pratchett's work contains the same fascination with a world coexisting, unseen, peopled with human characters that really aren't. His immeasurable imagination extends from Nomish life in a department store defined and described by a canon of scripture--Arnold Bros. (est. 1905) through a narrow escape to a stone quarry and finally return to the mother ship which has been waiting dormant for them. Or some of them. The subtitles of the trilogy (*Truckers*, *Diggers*, *Wings*) name the traveling but only hint at the solidity of the characters and their very reasonable world.

Masklin, who says "I was born in a hole -- how can I ever be prepared for anything" is the on and off leader of the core group aided by the Black Box, a sort of computer-dressed inspiration. He is accompanied by a prophet, an extremely practical young woman, a mechanical genius (on a small scale), etc., etc., etc.

The book is long and dense, qualities which can only make it better for young fantasy devotees, but this one doesn't need to be made better. The reader may even learn a couple of things like: "The important thing about being a leader is not being right or wrong, but being certain", or "...the more you found out, the less you really knew". Highly recommended.