



## The Mammoth Book of Comic Fantasy

*Mike Ashley (Editor) , Avram Davidson , Harvey Jacobs , John Morressy , Terry Jones , Anthony Armstrong , Louise Cooper , David Langford , more... Peter Cannon , Neil Gaiman , Lewis Carroll , Edward Lear , Tom Holt , James F. Sullivan , Ron Goulart , F. Gwynplaine MacIntyre , Randall Garrett , Amy Myers , Heywood Broun , Robert Rankin , James A. Bibby , Anne Gay , Richard A. Lupoff , Craig Shaw Gardner , Jane Yolen , Lawrence Schimel , Jack Sharkey , Alan Dean Foster , Harry Turtledove , Al Sarrantonio , Molly Brown , R.A. Lafferty , Gardner Dozois , Jack Dann , Michael Swanwick , Esther M. Friesner , Terry Bisson , Terry Pratchett ...less*

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A compendium of comic fantasy writing. Most of the stories are modern, with many especially written for this collection. The book also includes classic reprints and rare gems from comic fantasy's roots in past years.

## The Mammoth Book of Comic Fantasy Details

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Author : Mike Ashley (Editor) , Avram Davidson , Harvey Jacobs , John Morressy , Terry Jones , Anthony Armstrong , Louise Cooper , David Langford , more... Peter Cannon , Neil Gaiman , Lewis Carroll , Edward Lear , Tom Holt , James F. Sullivan , Ron Goulart , F. Gwynplaine MacIntyre , Randall Garrett , Amy Myers , Heywood Broun , Robert Rankin , James A. Bibby , Anne Gay , Richard A. Lupoff , Craig Shaw Gardner , Jane Yolen , Lawrence Schimel , Jack Sharkey , Alan Dean Foster , Harry Turtledove , Al Sarrantonio , Molly Brown , R.A. Lafferty , Gardner Dozois , Jack Dann , Michael Swanwick , Esther M. Friesner , Terry Bisson , Terry Pratchett ...less

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## **From Reader Review The Mammoth Book of Comic Fantasy for online ebook**

### **Wendy says**

Let me start by saying that this is a huge book. There are only 512 pages, but it seems to go on forever. I think that this book would be enjoyed most if it was placed on a coffee table in your living room and picked up every now and again when you are in the mood for a short read. But to sit down and read it straight through was quite a chore.

I originally picked this book up solely for the Terry Pratchett Discworld story 'Troll Bridge'. But there are quite a few great stories in here. My favorite was probably 'A Fortnight of Miracles' by Randall Garrett -- but there were quite a few others worth mentioning --

Pizza To Go by Tom Holt

Death Swatch by Esther Friesner

Alaska by John Morressy

The Return of Mad Santa by Al Sarrantonio

Ruella in Love by Molly Brown

I know that there were others that I enjoyed as well, but these stick out.

Overall a fun read, but one that probably needs to be savored in small bites.

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### **Amelia says**

I actually bought this a couple of summers ago when my friends and I discovered a used book shop. But this book has every type of comic fantasy that you could want like how many years does it take monkeys to type Shakespeare to an evil overlord getting his castle redecorated for his upcoming wedding.

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### **Sho says**

I probably should have dipped in and out of this rather than try to read one story a night. They were amusing, mostly, and just right for my bed time reading but I would probably have enjoyed them more if I had interspersed out my reading of the stories with other books.

None particularly stick out as memorable.

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### **Edward Snell says**

Some of these stories were amazing and the others were "only" great. Covering a vast amount of time as far as when written as well as styles this was an amazing find I picked up at a thrift store for next to nothing. As

an added bonus it included a Terry Pratchett short I had never read this book is worth it's weight in gold in my opinion.

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### **Marsha says**

This book doesn't really elicit huge guffaws. But it is filled with stories about creatures, humans, dragons, etc. who find that magic and wizardry can have hilarious pitfalls. Some of the stories aren't what I'd call funny at all. ("Alaska", "A Fortnight of Miracles" and "Wu-Ling's Folly" are notable examples.) What the yarns mainly accomplish is to turn the idea of magical dealings on their heads: evil sorcerers get their comeuppance in unusual ways; enchantments take bizarre turns; powerful wizards turn out to be bungling amateurs and so forth.

There are the usual names here and some choices that may not be known to modern readers. So for the mild chuckle or outright snort of laughter, take your pick from among this collection.

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### **Stoneme Mayo says**

Get past the first story (I found the language hard going) by Avram Davidson to get into a good Tom Holt short. A demon of a third story with a charming ending by Craig Shaw Gardner then follows.

Next a dark humour-less story about the pitfalls of selling home computers to fairies by Gardner Dozois, Jack Dann and Michael Swanwick. At last a laugh-out-loud story of pre-nuptials between "The Grim Lord" and "Princess Minuriel" - "Death Swatch" by Esther Friesner is a breath of "fresh" air.

Overall a good book to put down and pick up whenever the mood takes you especially if like me you can take months to finish a single novel.

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### **Anna says**

Most of the stories in this were not even funny. Actually, in most cases I had to try and remind myself that they were even supposed to be funny. Maybe it is just me not being British enough and not understanding the humour in some of these, but I am very glad I only paid 2 euros for this book at a flea market.

It felt like the better stories were in the beginning and in the end, so no wonder the middle part took me like 2 months to get through.

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### **Jakk Makk says**

Great example of why short stories have fallen out of favor. First somebody hypes the story too big, Mike in this case, then they don't deliver on the punch line. No one ever reads an entire anthology and thinks, "God Bless 'em every one!" In America most of these stories don't qualify as Fantasy. We call these, "The Tears of a Clown." The other reviewers are confused, easy to do since these Mammoth books breed when no one is looking: no Neil Gaiman or Cthulhu Stories in the American Library edition.

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## **Jewels says**

Obviously, I do not share a sense of humor with Mike Ashley. I don't think I cracked a smile the whole time I was reading this, and it was a bit of a chore to get through. I did like the stories by some of my favorite writers, such as Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, but even their stories were more wistful or dark than what I would expect in a 'comic' fantasy. I do get dark humor, don't get me wrong, but I just wasn't feeling it in this volume.

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## **Todd says**

Since this is a short story collection, I'm rating all of the stories with the Goodreads star value. I know, it's a crazy task, but I'm up to it.

Introduction - 2 stars

Peregrine: Alflandia - 1 star (confusing and not at all funny)

Pizza To Go - 2 stars (starts strong, ends weak)

A Malady Of Magicks - 3 stars

Golden Apples Of The Sun - 4 stars

Death Swatch - 5 stars

Press Ann - 5 stars (the unusual form adds to the story)

Troll Bridge - 4 stars (classic Discworld)

The Toll Bridge - 2 stars

Alaska - 3 stars (actually has nothing to do with the US state)

The Cat With Two Tails - 2 stars

The Warlock's Daughter - 4 stars

The Glass Slip-Up - 5 stars (really funny)

The Distressing Damsel - 4 stars

Tender Is The Night-Gaunt - 1 star (tries to hard to be a pastiche)

Shoggoth's Old Peculiar - 5 stars (by Neil Gaiman, naturally)

Looking-Glass Land - 3 stars

The Story Of The Four Little Children - 2 stars

The Disadvantages Of Mind - 3 stars

The Return Of Max Kearny - 4 stars (like a funny Dresden Files)

The Unpleasantness At The Baloney Club - 4 stars

A Fortnight Of Miracles - 5 stars (very entertaining, if not laugh out loud funny)

Aphrodite's New Temple - 2 stars

The Fifty-First Dragon - 2 stars

The Boscombe Walters Story - 3 stars

Fall'n Into The Sear - 3 stars

The Cunning Plan - 1 star (some stories just try too hard)

War Of The Doom Zombies - 2 stars (the title's the best part)

The Tale Of The Seventeenth Eunuch - 4 stars

An Eye For An Eye, A Tooth For A Tooth - 5 stars (short and sweet)

Queen Of The Green Sun - 3 stars

Wu-Ling's Folly - 4 stars  
Mebodes' Fly - 3 stars  
The Return Of Mad Santa - 5 stars (surprisingly fun)  
Ruell In Love - 3 stars  
Been A Long, Long Time - 4 stars

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### **Timothy Tobolski says**

Been a long long time since I read this, and since I recently acquired two of the other five volumes (and just discovered I still need two more) I figured I'd start plowing through these again. I've gotten to the point of requiring all my fantasy reading to contain at least a modicum of humor; let's face it, Tom Holt and Terry Pratchett have spoiled me.

Besides which, I simply cannot recommend the Mammoth Book series enough.

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### **Dainey says**

All shades of fantasy and all types of humour come together in this anthology, looking to provide a little something for everyone.

Although not in "bust a gut laughing"-range of funny, I was mostly left pleasantly enough entertained, with a few outright gems. Unfortunately a few lazy attempts have snuck in, without any intention of the author committing to the story, and a lot of the portrayals of female characters are just as problematic as one would expect from this mix of genres.

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### **Juho Salo says**

This was one of the first books I bought in English, way back when I was young and stupid and thought that David Eddings could not write a bad book and R.A. Salvatore was the peak of fantasy.

Back then I liked it. But perhaps the biggest contribution to my life was that due to this book I found the sequel which introduced me to the Evil Overlord -list -- something I try to uphold in my daily life to this day.

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### **Ch J Loveall says**

my quest for authors continues - I have read authors

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### **Nevyana says**

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