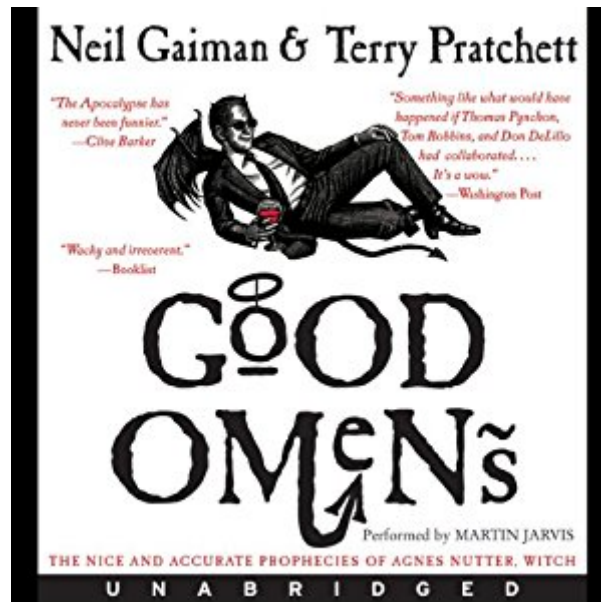




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# Good Omens



## Synopsis

A brilliantly dark and funny take on mankind's final judgment, from bestselling authors Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman. According to the nice and accurate prophecies of Agnes Nutter -- the world's only totally reliable guide to the future -- the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just after tea... --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 32 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Audible.com Release Date: November 10, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B002WEBBBO

Best Sellers Rank: #6 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > Occult #7 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Humorous #14 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Post-Apocalyptic

## Customer Reviews

This book is well written and absolutely hilarious. If you're in the mood for a really fun read, this is the book for you.

If this isn't a movie or a Stranger Things-type series in a year, I'll write it myself. Phenomenal plot (what if the Devil-spawn returned to a relatively normal childhood in the face of unknown, multi-dimensional apocalyptic plans?), hilarious characters and side-notes, and great if you like any of Pratchett's or Gaiman's other works. Very funny, very British, sweetly irreverent.

I am in love with this book. I hadn't heard of it but I'm so glad I took a chance and read it out of the blue. I've read it twice now and it's a very fun read. You should read this book!

The Perfect Summer ReadAre you looking for a fun, quirky book to read? Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witchby Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman is an oldie but

goody. If it's an oldie, why write a review? Because I keep running into people who haven't read this gem, and most of all, because I love this book. The satire is at once silly and hysterical with some honest-to-goodness wit thrown into the mix. It's a zany romp that only the young at heart should take. There's enough British wit and humor to satisfy anyone who likes that sort of thing, and it's genuinely crazy enough to amuse most people. If you're a Douglas Adams fan, well, then you've probably read *Good Omens*. Warning: if you have no sense of humor or if you hate silly, stop reading this review.

**Brief Summary:** Satan and God have a huge problem: the Antichrist has gone missing, and they need him for the apocalypse. It turns out that when the lad was born, some evil nuns gave him to the wrong couple, and he grew up in a sleepy English suburb. Expect for his untapped evil power, he's an ordinary kid rather like Kevin McCallister, the kid in *Home Alone*. Because they happen to like earth and don't want it destroyed, Aziraphale (an angel) and Crowley (a demon) team up to stop the apocalypse; they are much like a British version of the Odd Couple who are trying to save the world from inevitable doom. Crowley, of course, lives life wildly and fully, while Aziraphale is quiet and refined. While everyone (God, Satan, angels, demons, and humans) searches for the Antichrist, the Four Bikers of the Apocalypse gather. And, yes, the Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch are important. Pratchett and Gaiman have created a diverse and eccentric cast of characters. The impending doom is told through multiple points of view as everyone races to save or destroy the world. As any reader would expect, they all come crashing together at the end of the book.

**Why do I like it?** This may be one of the funniest books I've read. First, Pratchett and Gaiman turn the story of the apocalypse inside-out, then, they turn it sideways, and finally, they manage to make the end of the world riotous and entertaining. Along the way, they poke and prod at the ordinary, the crass, and the sacred. I'll admit there is a great deal of silliness about the book, and some of the motifs have been used before, but Gaiman and Pratchett take those motifs and spin them with enduring flare. After all, the book was published in 1990 and is still going strong. I'm always excited when someone I know reads *Good Omens* for the first time. So my friend, take a break from the real world, put aside all serious thoughts, get comfortable, and read this delicious book.

I've always been a fan of both Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett (rip), so this book sounded perfect (which it is). It has the best attributes of both authors, notably Pratchett's footnotes and DEATH. The writing is witty and clever, but my favorite part is in the easter eggs hidden throughout the book, and the way all of the seemingly separate plots converge together at the climax of the story. When I say

"easter eggs", I mean like when (SPOILERS) Agnes Nutter looks at the sky before she dies, chiding whomever she is speaking to, and two hundred years later, it's revealed that she was talking to Shadwell. My rendition doesn't do it justice, obviously, but it's things like that that make reading it even more fun. In summary, everyone and their goldfish should read it, so if you haven't already, go do it now.

The last celebrity death of any kind that really made me cry was when I first heard the news that Terry Pratchett died. I knew it was coming, but it didn't make it any better. I had spent hours and hours with him and in the worlds he created enjoying every minute and praising Offler, the crocodile god, that he was so prolific. The funny thing is that when I first read this book, I didn't read it because it was a Terry Pratchett book. I had read it because it was a Neil Gaiman book. A dozen years ago, or so a buddy first handed me *American Gods*, and this was after I graduated with a degree in English but I had not read either of these English chaps. I then went on to read all the books Gaiman had out, including this one. I remember liking it so much but it felt out of character. It didn't remind me of Gaiman's other books. There was a wit and playfulness that balanced out Neil being a little more serious. Of course, it took me another seven years before I read any of Terry's Discworld books and then I went and had to read fifty of those books. But then it was all over and there were a couple of posthumous books that trickled out but it is not the same to be looking behind you at the fun you had instead of looking ahead of you with that boundless anticipation. But then a week or so ago, I was thinking of the great bit that opens *Good Omens*, where the reader learns that the birth of the world can be tracked so that the age of the world and star positions means that the earth has a zodiac sign. Specifically, that earth is a Libra. I went to track it down and then remembered with joy that though I had already read the book I had read it as a Neil Gaiman book and not as a Terry Pratchett book. It meant that there was a Terry Pratchett book I hadn't read. So, I looked and looked on all my shelves and of course I couldn't find it. It also reminded me that a year ago, I told my wife I was going to organize my shelves, but that's neither here nor there. So, I had to buy it again. And the payoff is worth it. Both authors can work with their strengths with both the more serious Gaiman and the playful Pratchett (and vice versa, Neil can be playful and Terry serious), so that all the main characters work with depth and sympathy and you get a good feeling for the Antichrist's motivations. And even better, I had forgotten how it ended, so that was a nice surprise. Sadly though, for Terry, the rest is silence. O, o, o, o.

A good read, but for some rough spots which seemed rushed. Perhaps having too many story lines operating at the same time detracted from the flow.

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