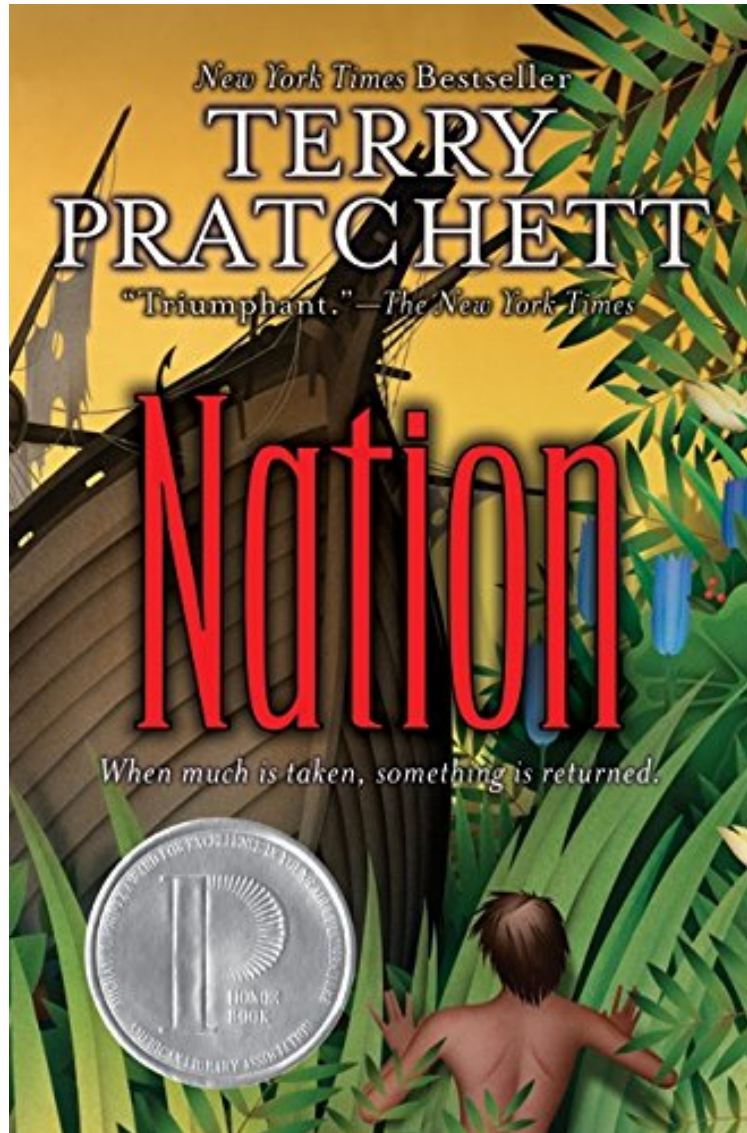


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Terry Pratchett : Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Terry called it his Favorite BookBy skye mccloudWhile i still would have an Impossible time choosing just One (Equal Rites? Guards Guards? The Truth? Good Omens? ...) i have to admit that Nation is without a doubt some of his most Amazing Writing...but in the End...i Worship Terry Pratchett for the way he makes me Laugh...Bless His Insights into Life Humanity...But i Bow to those who Ignite my Laughter0 of

0 people found the following review helpful. Timely, thoughtful, compelling, and funnyBy 3tabbiesLately, TP's young adult books have been stronger than his adult books. I was fairly certain I wouldn't like this one, though, being both non-Discworld and about a couple of kids on an island. I had visions of Blue Lagoon Meets Lord of the Flies. I should have had more faith in TP. This may be one of his best books, period.Set on a slightly-alternate Earth, the plot may have sounded convoluted a few years ago--giant wave comes along and destroys everyone and everything in its path. But the 2004 tsunami lent a heart-breaking credibility to it. The characters could have easily been cookie-cutter one dimensional types beholden to the plot; instead, they are all complex, genuine people--some likeable, some not, but all entirely believable.TP, as usual, handles big issues--religion, growing up, "destiny"--with a deft touch. He sees all sides, and gives them all a fair shake. I would happily recommend this book to readers of all ages, all beliefs, and all backgrounds. Everyone will recognize a bit of themselves here.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I just love it when I find a REALLY good book! It's like winning the lotteryBy TansitTerry Pratchett was a literary god. The only reason I put my book down (I'm halfway through in one sitting so far) was to give it a five star review! He has a way with words that just makes me smile- he is able to balance descriptions of things and characters beautifully. It's almost poetic but not in anyway stuffy or forceful. It flows so naturally that I forget I'm reading a book and actually live in the Nation for the time being. Many people compare it to Lord of The Flies, the only similarity is that they all have to survive, and they all happen to be on a beach, all similarities end there. LoTF is about descending from civilisation, Nation is about re-inventing structure and a new order. I love both books, but they don't compare.

When a giant wave destroys his village, Mau is the only one left. Daphne a traveler from the other side of the globe is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Slowly, they are joined by other refugees. And as they struggle to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge death himself, and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down.

From School Library JournalStarred . Grade 7-10In this first novel for young people set outside of Discworld, Pratchett again shows his humor and humanity. Worlds are destroyed and cultures collide when a tsunami hits islands in a vast ocean much like the Pacific. Mau, a boy on his way back home from his initiation period and ready for the ritual that will make him a man, is the only one of his people, the Nation, to survive. Ermintrude, a girl from somewhere like Britain in a time like the 19th century, is on her way to meet her father, the governor of the Mothering Sunday islands. She is the sole survivor of her ship (or so she thinks), which is wrecked on Mau's island. She reinvents herself as Daphne, and uses her wits and practical sense to help the straggling refugees from nearby islands who start arriving. When raiders land on the island, they are led by a mutineer from the wrecked ship, and Mau must use all of his ingenuity to outsmart him. Then, just as readers are settling in to thinking that all will be well in the new world that Daphne and Mau are helping to build, Pratchett turns the story on its head. The main characters are engaging and interesting, and are the perfect medium for the author's sly humor. Daphne is a close literary cousin of Tiffany Aching in her common sense and keen intelligence wedded to courage. A rich and thought-provoking read.Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Bookmarks MagazineCritics praised Nation as a hybrid, deeply philosophical book aimed at young adults, but one likely to appeal to adults as well, much like Philip Pullmans His Dark Materials trilogy or J. K. Rowlings Harry Potter series. With echoes of William Defoe and William Golding, Nation takes the form of a classic Robinsonade, notes the Washington Postthat is, a book in which characters on a desert island recreate civilization. As his characters grapple with questions of leadership, humanity, and survival, Pratchett explores fundamental ideas about religion and culture. This might all sound rather heavy, but there is plenty of originality and humorand cannibals, spirits, and secret treasuresto go around. In the end, Pratchett offers a vision of a deeply humane world. In some part of the multiverse there is probably a civilisation based on the thinking of Terry Pratchett, writes the Guardian, and what a civilised civilisation that will be.Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLCFrom Booklist*Starred * Somewhere in the South Pelagic Ocean, a tidal wave wipes out the population of a small islandexcept for Mau, who was paddling his dugout canoe home after a month spent alone, preparing to become a man. The wave also sweeps a sailing ship carrying Daphne, an English girl, up onto the island and deposits it in the rain forest, where Mau finds her. Over the months that follow, they learn to communicate while welcoming more people to their shores and building a community of survivors. Mau searches for the meaning behind his peoples gods, while Daphne applies her nineteenth-century knowledge of science and history to the many puzzles she discovers in this unfamiliar place. Broad in its scope and concrete in its details, this unusual novel strips away the trappings of two very different nations to consider what it is people value and why. Certain scenes are indelible: Maus nonverbal communication to Daphne that a pregnant woman has landed, and she must help with the birth; or the terrifying yet awesome descent into a cave. Quirky wit and broad vision make this a fascinating survival story on many levels. Grades 7-10. --Carolyn Phelan