



## Knees Up Mother Earth

*Robert Rankin*

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Developers are planning to destroy Brentford's beloved football grounds. Something must be done, and the lads of The Flying Swan, Brentford's celebrated drinking house, take up the challenge. Norman has recently discovered a Victorian computer that holds the secrets of the super-technology of a bygone age, and Archroy, Brentford's lone explorer, has just returned from his seventh voyage, bringing with him the fabled Golden Fleece. Surely, with these stalwarts working for the cause, the field is as good as saved. But this is Brentford, and the ancient forces of evil—Old Testament horrors, beasties from the bottomless pit, that sort of evil—are stirring.

## **Knees Up Mother Earth Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2004 by Gollancz (first published January 1st 2004)

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Author : Robert Rankin

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Humor, Comedy, Science Fiction



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## From Reader Review Knees Up Mother Earth for online ebook

### Nathan Dehoff says

This book returns to Brentford, the London suburb where Rankin grew up, which in his fiction is frequently home to mystical happenings. A local consortium is trying to purchase their football ground, which causes a bit of consternation even though hardly any of the locals have attended a match. It turns out that, as established in an earlier book, Brentford was the site of the Garden of Eden and the Serpent is buried under the ground. The only way to prevent the purchase is for the team to win the FA Cup. Professor Slocombe, Brentford's oldest and most mysterious inhabitant, enlists the aid of Jim Pooley and his bestest friend John Omally to take the team to glory. Fortunately, they have the Professor's magic to aid them. Unfortunately, they have dark forces opposing them. The story ties the long-running Brentford Trilogy (which by now is much more than a trilogy) with *The Witches of Chiswick*, in which William Starling goes back in time from the twenty-third century to the nineteenth to find that Victorian Britain was much more technologically advanced than anyone realized; but most knowledge of this technology was totally wiped out at the beginning of 1900. He also meets his evil counterpart from an alternate future, who is the main villain in *Knees Up*. Norman Hartnel, the local shopkeeper who is always working on some bizarre invention or other, somehow gets his hands on a Victorian computer and unwittingly sells the technology he rediscovers to Starling. As usual, the tale is full of parody and running gags. Not being very familiar with soccer didn't hamper my enjoyment of the book, but there were some jokes about British celebrities that went over my head. Overall, though, it's quite funny.

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### Eden says

Oh, this book was a HOOT! Again, I reviewed this on my alternate blog, but really... why not pick it up yourself? It's a lot of fun.

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### Joseph Teller says

Another fine book, 7th in the Brentford Trilogy. Hard to explain, but in the simplest of terms:

A Great and Ancient Evil lurks beneath the turf of the Brentford football pitch... and someone wants to let it out. But before they can they must face the lads of Brentford on and off the field in battle.

This tale borders on the epic, and features most of the cast of the other books in the trilogy plus some of the stars of the books that are fictional in the universe of the trilogy. An apocalypse brings out the best of the reluctant heroes of Brentford against unspeakable darkness and tentacle waving horror.

If it sounds interesting, read the rest of the series first, or many of the references may confuse the unprepared.

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## **Dan says**

Pooley and O'Malley, of The Flying Swan Pub, must do all they can to save Brentford's football grounds from being demolished. And that may just mean coaching the local team into winning it all. That is, unless the ancient evil which hides in Brentford decides to have some fun too.

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## **Noel G says**

Top quality toot!

Fans of the author will love and those unaccustomed to Rankin's drawl may be confused and slightly scared by his style. But so worth it!

I would rec Rankin to anyone.

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## **Jon Lynch says**

Mr Rankin manages, as usual, to conjur the most bizarre ideas and still make them sound plausible! The darkness is balanced well by the comedy provided by human frailty and the whole thing is, well, far-fetched fiction. Thoroughly enjoyable.

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## **Geoff Battle says**

So, book seven in the Brentford trilogy eh? What Rankin does with Knees Up is very clever. He uses the same characters, the same plot (Brentonians to stop Armageddon) and a lot of the same gags that are present in many of the previous books. There's certainly a whole load of deja vu... and it's all good. The scenario of football is cleverly woven in to the Brentford mythology and creates a raft of new options for Rankin's masterful use of humour, running gags, insightful use of language and even some suspense. Rankin clearly enjoyed writing this book. Knees up is a slow starter but builds up well to an enjoyable conclusion. It's a tad too long as well, but certainly recommended.

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## **Debumere says**

This was hilarious. Absolutely bonkers and extremely entertaining.

Brentford Football Club is, possibly, the worse football team in the world and they need to win the FA cup to stop the apocalypse.

The Brentford series by Robert Rankin is fantastic. Humorous and wildly imaginative.

Throughly recommend.

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### **Scott says**

A humorous mixture of sporting underdogs and fantasy battle between good and evil. Great mix of characters and witty dialogue, plus some nods to well-loved sci-fi movies. Very enjoyable read, even if like myself, you've never read any of the other Brentford Trilogy books.

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### **Penny says**

loved this book. it's beautifully honest, while being pretty strange at the same time

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### **Mollie says**

Knees Up Mother Earth (Brentford Trilogy) by Robert Rankin (2005)

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### **Schecke says**

More Brentford craziness complements of our favorite layabouts John Vincent Omally and James Arbuthnot Pooley. Once again John and Jim need to battle the darkest forces of evil, whilst attempting to lead the Brentford United soccer team to their first championship since the 1920's. If they win, they save the world. If they lose, there will be apocalyptic consequences. All of the regulars , semi-regulars and quite irregulars are here. This list includes Neville, Old Pete, Small Dave, Norman, Professor Slocombe, Archroy, a lady in a straw hat, a casual observer, HG Wells and Cthulhu. This book starts off a bit slow but once it gets going, it's the stuff of epics. This book is labeled book 7 of the Brentford Trilogy as well as being the sequel to an equally good book: The Witches of Chiswick. Honestly you could probably dive right in with this one and not be any more lost than the rest of us... However if you are a purest, start your journey here The Antipope (Brentford Trilogy) and you will be at the very beginning. If that is your choice- when you finally read this one, be sure to let me know what you think. 4/5

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### **John Rhodes says**

Well I am not a football fan but, true to most Rankin books, it is not a rerequesite! I'm still getting lost with the Hugo Rune threads but I suspect (and please fellow Rankin fans tell me if I'm wrong) that there may well be a few missing links or ilogical plot devices here or there in this?!

Enway I still enjoyd it muchly!

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### **Isabel (kittiwake) says**

The 7th book in the Brentford Trilogy and the second book in the Witches of Chiswick Trilogy. When Norman Hartnell of the paper shop collects a large amount of computer spare parts and builds himself a strangely Victorian-looking computer, it starts a string of events involving a buried serpent, Pooley becoming manager of Brentford football team (with O'Malley as his PA), H.G. Wells and his Time Machine, and yet another evil corporation based in a pitch black building.[

I'm not sure that it made much sense, but it was very enjoyable.

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### **D.A. Cairns says**

A farcical underdog sporting novel with time travellers, demons and assorted mystical fantasy elements. Have you ever read such a beast? I just finished *Knees Up Mother Earth*, and whilst I appreciated the craft of the author and the novelty of the concept, including footnoting which I've never seen in a work of fiction before, this book did not really do it for me.

Of the main characters, Jim the gambler and Neville the barmen were sympathetic, caught as they were in circumstances way beyond their imaginations, and way beyond their control. There were times of suspense, and once the basic complication was established by the author, Rankin, there was no question of me being anything other than seriously intent on finding out how it would ultimately be resolved.

At times the narrative drifted and my interest waned but never for too long. I only ever smiled at the ubiquitous one liners and slapstick action, and at times I was irritated by the repetition of words and phrases even though I knew it was deliberately designed for comedic effect. It was a fun read reminiscent of Craske's '*Above His Station*' which I liked better.

A very offbeat and probably funny story with an unlikely yet appealing premise. Not a serious read, but a little bit of fun for everyone.

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### **Alan Smith says**

Robert Rankin is weird. Robert Rankin is crazy. Robert Rankin is what "The DaVinci Code" would have been like if the Monty Python team had edited it. In short, Robert Rankin is hilarious.

You can pick any of his books - all of which deal with funny, weirdly cosmic goings-on, and how they affect the London suburb of Brentford - and be sure of enjoyable reading. In this one, Pooley and O'Malley, stalwarts of the Flying Swan pub have to find a way to save Brentford football ground from the usual nameless horrors, and I hardly think it's a spoiler to say they succeed, in their usual ridiculous mind-bending way!

Just how Rankin manages to keep coming up with ideas, and how he makes such rib-tickling reading out of the most unlikely premises is a mystery. Probably an old charter, or something! Tasty!

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**Sean Keefe says**

One of the best ones! A great laugh.

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**Nishtha Bhasin says**

Brentford United F.C. need to win the FA Cup (they lifted the cup once upon a time, in 1920); in order to save their home ground from the forces of evil trying to awaken the Serpent (the ground was supposedly the site for the Garden of Eden), and ultimately, save Mother Earth.

Yes, it is as insane as it sounds. Effortlessly hilarious and refreshing, this cosmic cracker of a tale with soccer sweet spots is one of the finest works of Rankin. From demonic species to time travelers, all fit into this world. One hell of a ride.

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**Natalie James says**

This was the first of Mr. Rankin's books I had the pleasure of reading. Funny, brilliant characters, and a good storyline! Definitely one I like to re-read from time to time.

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**Kate Rosanne says**

I couldn't even get into this.. Probably because it's a bit footbally

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