



Web Site Story

Robert Rankin

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They wrote it off as a scare story. The Millennium Bug, the non-event of the twentieth century. But they were wrong, because the Bug was real. Is real. It's a computer virus and it's about to make the deadly species cross-over, from machine to mankind. The Black Death was spread by rats. But this plague will be spread by a mouse. The computer mouse. And do you know how many different kinds of computer viruses there are? And just what they do? And just what they might do to you if you become infected? No? Then read this book and learn the terrible truth.

Or perhaps you'd rather take a holiday in Brentfordland®? Formerly known as Brentford, this Thameside Shangri La is now London's first ever suburban theme park and holiday village. A world of excitement, relaxation and fabulous fun, waiting just for you. To find out more, log on to the Brentfordland® web site. Just give your computer mouse a wiggle.

Go on.

What harm can it do?

Web Site Story Details

Date : Published November 1st 2001 by Corgi (first published June 2001)

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Author : Robert Rankin

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From Reader Review Web Site Story for online ebook

Helle says

Web Site Story is packed with word-play, puns and funny one-liners. Unfortunately all this hilarity gets the overhand of the story, which seems to be second in line to humor. I like a good laugh and I certainly got several (in public) reading this book, but I would like a little more story-line to keep me interested as well.

Jon Clynch says

Having recently read Mr Rankin's autobiography, where he describes this book as his least favourite, I was apprehensive when I launched into it. He was in a particularly bad place (obviously not Brentford!) when he wrote it and I think this shows in certain aspects of the story. However, I enjoyed it and though I missed John, Jim and many of the other usual suspects, the story held enough of Mr Rankin's mind-bending plot twists, bizarre characters and completely surreal dialogue (as well as his trademark running gags) to keep me hooked to the end. Good stuff.

Jyv says

The over-flowery language just annoyed me.

Sean Keefe says

Endearingly daft, this is great fun. A good Rankin rather than a great one, but I'd still recommend ok Rankin to anybody.

Jakub says

Hilarious. Illuminating. Depressing as fucking hell.

Dave Williams says

Some of Mr Rankin's books are better than others. This was a good one. I was going to say "The Matrix in Brentford", but one of the previous reviewers has already said that. The running gags are funny and don't outstay their welcome; not to mention the plot twists.

Mollie says

Web Site Story by Robert Rankin (2001)

Dave Higgins says

Copy of my Launchpad review from 2001:

I have been to Brentford and this is not it; but then I am a reality deviant.

Imagine the Matrix set in a London suburb.

Now imagine it was written by a person who loathes computers.

Now imagine it is so funny you cannot stop laughing long enough to realise how accurate it is.

I have only one more thing to say about this book; it deserves to be on a plinth.

Marta says

Fun fun fun! Rankin's very British humor and absurd situations are at their best. As far as the story.... you think Inception made it hard to know what level you were on? Nothing compared to Go Mango. You don't even know if you are living or are simply a simulation in a computer game. But the One who rules them all has made a mistake when it decided to mess with Brentford. You can rule neither Brentford, nor Ellie, the super-smart silver-haired Fantasy Female with three degrees, 12th Dan Master of the deadly art of Dimac, an expert in most fields of computer technology, and a top-notch video game player. Add in Big Bob and thou hast thyself a Jolly Buggaroo!

David says

I have to say: Robert Rankin's often surreal sense of humour takes some getting used to!

Graham Tapper says

Welcome to the surreal world of Robert Rankin. Once again the setting is that outpost of "normality" in London, Brentford. But things are far from normal. People are disappearing before our very eyes. Why and where have they gone and what has the mega computer corporation, Mute Corp, got, if anything, to do with it. Will Golden Girl, Kelly Ann Sirjan uncover the truth before she too succumbs to its devious plans to turn Brentford into a theme park?

Once again, Rankin at his very best.

Kelly Foxhall says

One of my favourite authors. Nothing is how it seems in a Robert Rankin book, they are the best material to read when you want to escape from the norm.

Cubik10 says

More of a 3.5 than a 3. I hadn't read any of Mr.Rankin's books for at least a couple of years and I didn't enjoy this one as much as many of those read previously. I don't know if this is down to this particular book or just a change in my tastes. It's not awful by any means but at the same time it never left me desperate to turn the next page.

David says

Another surrealist joyride with Robert Rankin. Packed full of dark humour only ever witnessed within the confines of Brentford. Excruciatingly hard to put down.

Nathan Dehoff says

It's been a while since I've read any Rankin, and this 2001 book is pretty typical of his work in many ways. It has an evil force threatening Brentford, conspiracy theories, a dorky guy hooking up with an attractive woman, a lot of running gags, and a convoluted ending where it's not entirely clear what's actually true. The plot plays on Y2K hysteria, positing that the debugging was a front for installing sentient computer chips that cause the machines to play games with humanity. A few familiar Brentonians, including Old Pete and Rastafarian used-car dealer Leo Felix, make appearances. And while Hugo Rune is apparently no longer alive in this vision of the future, his absurd ideas about language and footwear have been adopted by much of society. There are a fair number of inside jokes, like how the Brentford Poets who play a role in the story were apparently founded in real life by Rankin himself, but it's funny even if you don't get all of them. I think I've read most of Rankin's output by now, and I know some of his others are available as eBooks. Some of his most recent works, however, look to only be sold through mail order, and I can't really justify the shipping charges from England. Hopefully I'll be able to get my hands on them someday, as they sound funny.

Sephie says

According to the Daily Express; 'Everybody should read at least one Robert Rankin in their life'. So I can now tick that box.

Another tale of the citizens of Rankin's bizarre version of Brentford, this time affected by a computer virus. Reading like a cross between Lewis Carroll and Terry Pratchett, I can understand why some people get enthusiastic about this genre. I will read another, but not the whole series.

Sean Randall says

With enough charm to keep me enjoying it but not much else, this made me chuckle a little in spots, but didn't really work on any other level. Fun, whimsical and weird.

Nen Simmons says

The good Mr Rankin kindly gave away a kindle version of this for free, in celebration of his 65th birthday. I couldn't remember whether I had already read it, and it wasn't until about 1/4 of the way through that I realised I had - there is something about his books that seem to mess with your memory. In short, a very fine example of far-fetched fiction. A must for fans. For newcomers, I would recommend starting with The Anti-pope, as there are quite a lot of in-jokes, and references to previous books in this one. They do not spoil the story, but I think you will find it funnier if you know what they mean.
