

The Football Factory

John King

The Football Factory is driven by its two main characters—late-twenties warehouseman Tommy Johnson and retired ex-soldier Bill Farrell. Tommy is angry at his situation in life and those running the country. Outside of work, he is a lively, outspoken character, living for his time with a gang of football hooligans, the excitement of their fights and the comradeship he finds with his friends. He is a violent man, at the same time moral and intelligent.

Bill, meanwhile, is a former Second World War hero who helped liberate a concentration camp and married a survivor. He is a strong, principled character who sees the self-serving political and media classes for what they are. Tommy and Bill have shared feelings, but express their views in different ways. Born at another time, they could have been the other. As the book unfolds both come to their own crossroads and have important decisions to make.

The Football Factory is a book about modern-day pariahs, people reduced to the level of statistics by years of hypocritical, self-serving party politics. It is about the insulted, marginalised, unseen. Graphic and disturbing, at times very funny, *The Football Factory* is a rush of literary adrenalin.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John King is the author of seven novels to date. His first book, *The Football Factory*, was an instant word-of-mouth success and was later turned into a high-profile film. Sales in the UK now top a quarter of a million copies. The novels *Headhunters*, *England Away*, *Human Punk*, *White Trash*, *The Prison House*, and *Skinheads* followed. King's writing reflects his interests—social history, music, literature, drinking, travel, soccer, and non-party politics. Before becoming an author King worked at a variety of jobs and spent two years travelling around the world in the late-1980s. He has long been associated with fanzines, writing for various titles over the years and running *Two Sevens* in the early 1990s. He currently publishes and edits *Verbal*, a fiction-based publication. Other interests include a regular Human Punk night at London's legendary 100 Club. He lives in London.

ACCOLADES

"Only a phenomenally talented and empathetic writer working from within his own culture can achieve the power and authenticity this book pulses with. Buy, steal or borrow a copy now, because in a short time anyone who hasn't read it won't be worth talking to."

—Irvine Welsh, author of *Trainspotting*

"King's novel is not only an outstanding read, but also an important social document.... This book should be compulsory reading for all those who believe in the existence, or even the attainability, of a classless society."

—Paul Howard, *Sunday Tribune*

"Bleak, thought-provoking and brutal, *The Football Factory* has all the hallmarks of a cult novel."

—Dominic Bradbury, *The Literary Review*

"Powerfully written and tells you more about the mentality of those who disrupt football matches than all the theses of the sociologist academics put together."

—Ian Wooldridge, *The Daily Mail*



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P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org
info@pmpress.org
(510) 658-3906

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