



Johnny and the Dead (The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy)

By Terry Pratchett

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Johnny and the Dead (The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy) By Terry Pratchett

The second hilarious fantasy novel about Johnny Maxwell from master storyteller Terry Pratchett.

Sell the cemetery?

Over their dead bodies.

Not many people can see the dead (not many would want to). Twelve-year-old Johnny Maxwell can. And he's got bad news for them: the council want to sell the cemetery as a building site. But the dead have learnt a thing or two from Johnny. They're not going to take it lying down... especially since it's Halloween tomorrow.

Besides, they're beginning to find that life is a lot more fun than it was when they were... well... alive. Particularly if they break a few rules.

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Johnny and the Dead (The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy) By Terry Pratchett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7—In this sequel to *Only You Can Save Mankind* (HarperCollins, 2005), 12-year-old Johnny discovers that he can see, hear, and communicate with spirits in the town cemetery. The cemetery, the only spot of unblighted land in the town, is about to be bulldozed and developed by a large corporation, so Johnny and his friends set about trying to save it (and its denizens) from destruction. Unfortunately, no one particularly famous was ever buried there, so the boys' publicity plan seems doomed—until the dead take things into their own innovative and rebellious hands, and Johnny finds the courage to take a stand against all odds. Fans of Gregory Maguire's books will appreciate the tongue-in-cheek tone and wry humor, and the quarrelsome yet friendly chatter among the dead spirits is reminiscent of Eva Ibbotson's titles. The plot (kids versus big corporation, à la Carl Hiaasen) is tied up rather too neatly, but that's beside the point. Readers will take immense pleasure in the jokes, some broad and some subtle and dry, that come sailing at them from all sides. This book stands alone easily, but after reading it, kids will want the first one.—*Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. In the previous volume of the Johnny Maxwell trilogy, *Only You Can Save Mankind* (2005), aliens solicited Johnny's help. Here Johnny is buttonholed by dead people worried about a developer's plans to bulldoze their cemetery. Assisted by three skeptical but loyal sidekicks, Johnny delves into city history and mounts an eloquent plea for preservation, while the ghosts revel in modern technology and pop culture. Aspects of the telling are imperfectly blended, especially the thread involving Johnny's ineffable sense of connection to a local battalion decimated in World War I. Nonetheless, Pratchett's fans will revel in the idiosyncratic touches, such as the quirky euphemisms for *dead* ("breathily challenged," "post-senior citizens"), and his thematic juggling act, which incorporates wit and slapstick, philosophies of the afterlife, and a gritty view of a struggling, working-class community ("The point about being dead in this town is that it's probably hard to tell the difference"). First published in England in the early 1990s, which accounts for some dated references, the trilogy was previously available to U.S. readers only in a book-club edition.

Jennifer Mattson

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Review

- "A humorous book, full of puns and asides, wittily and skilfully written... a delight of a book for any fluent teenage reader." --*School Librarian*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Tapia:

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