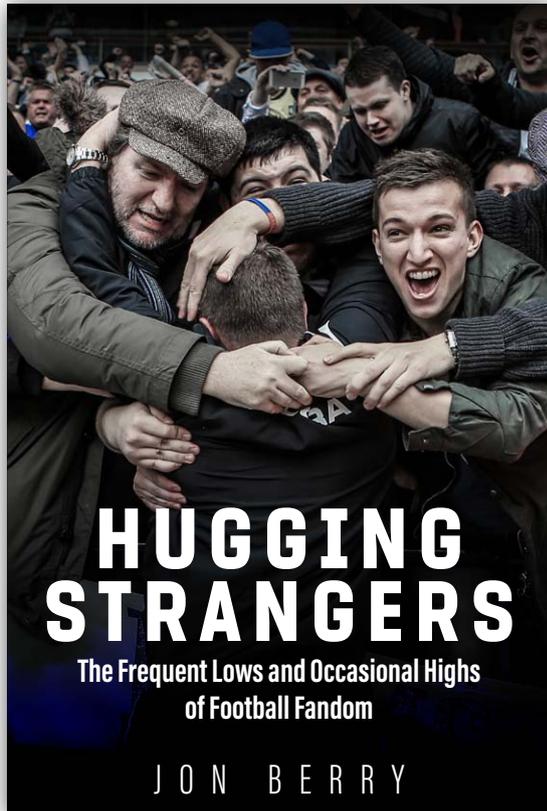




## Title information



### Hugging Strangers

The Frequent Lows and Occasional Highs of Football Fandom

By Jon Berry

#### Key features

- From the smell and fug of St Andrew's in 1963 until the end of the 2018/19 season, Jon Berry captures the regular despair and occasional joy of supporting Birmingham City
- Collection of anecdotes that will resonate with hopelessly committed supporters everywhere – it takes a wry look at what it means to follow a club through thin and thinner
- Affectionate without being nostalgic, it looks at how football can be both totally familiar and completely unrecognisable since the 1960s
- Photo section of key moments and individuals – some of them even successful
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

What is it like to follow one of English football's perennial non-achievers? *Hugging Strangers* is a celebration of what it means to support your club through thick and thin. It speaks to all who love the game but are lumbered – by way of family, geography or plain bad luck – with a team whose glory days are few and far between. At the end of the 1963/64 season Birmingham City stayed in the first division by winning on the last day of the campaign. In the 55 years that followed, the Blues kept either survival or promotion for the final fixture on a further 12 occasions. Stir in nine relegations, eight promotions, along with play-off failures and embarrassing exits from cup competitions and you'll have an idea of what it means to be a Blues fan. But you don't have to be a Birmingham fan to enjoy this book. This light-hearted collection of tales from a lifelong, hopeless football addict will strike a chord with anyone who has asked themselves quite why they allow this simple game to assume such importance in their lives.

#### Details

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