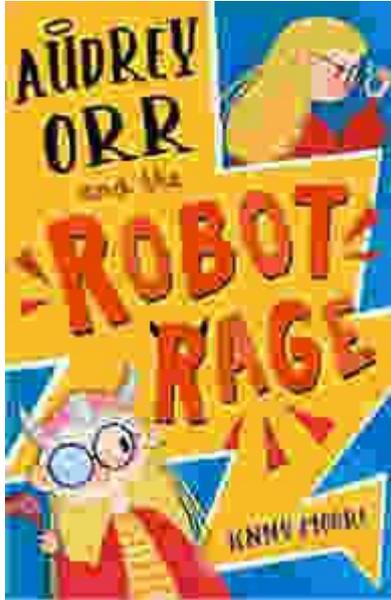


# Audrey Orr and the Robot Rage

Jenny Moore



If you like fart gags (and you wouldn't be here if you didn't) *Audrey Orr and the Robot Rage* is going to be right up your *gate*. That's Norwegian for 'street'. You can laminate that and stick it on a flash card. But I digress. Fart gags are just the start in this gag-heavy romp. There are athlete's foot jokes aplenty, too; zany, knitting grand-dads; head teachers in false beards and every kind of wackiness in between, some of which will make your eyebrows shoot up your forehead. I can honestly say I never thought I would read a book that contained the line "Audrey remembered the giant robo-turd". It made me do a proper, wet, snort. Every book should contain that line. Could someone please send Hillary Mantel a memo.

Let's get down to it then. The story starts with Audrey's mum winning a Scandinavian cruise holiday, and so begins a deluge of barmy. Audrey's boil-kneed headteacher won't allow her to take a holiday during term time, under threat of expulsion. But in between knitting colanders and car aerial warmers her grand-dad finds an intriguing advert in *Men's Knitting Weekly* while sitting on the toilet. It may just solve all his granddaughter's problems. Mad professor A. N. Droyde fashions a perfect robot copy of Audrey to take her place at school so Audrey can take full advantage of the ship's onboard a Soft Scoop 2000 ice-cream machine while sailing from fjord to fjord.

*But uh-oh, what's this? When Audrey's robot stand-in - or Awesome as Audrey has named her - hears a song called 'Robot Rage' on the radio it sends her into a ... well ... robot rage. Awesome becomes Awful, intent on stealing Audrey's life before crushing humankind beneath her techno-foot.*

I'll leave it there because spoilers, but the story belts along at a pace and every page is liberally sprinkled with gags and bonkers characters. The whole Orr family is quite, quite barking but Audrey's dad with his foot-fungus fixation especially spoke to me (hey, we've all been there). Stuffed with silly, and with a massive gag-per-pence ratio, *Audrey Orr and the Robot Rage* will appeal to readers at the younger end of Middle Grade. Obviously, every reader's sense of humour is different but with *so* many jokes everyone is sure to find something that will make them chuckle.

Reviewer: Martin

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