



Death Is Not the End: A Novella (Inspector Rebus Mysteries)

By Ian Rankin

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For readers unfamiliar with the blistering plots and language of Ian Rankin's longer works, this special edition novella is the perfect opportunity to get to know Rankin and his unforgettable creation, Inspector John Rebus. For longtime Rebus fans, it is an opportunity to follow him as he explores a subplot from his most recent outing, *Dead Souls*. When his high-school sweetheart calls him out of the blue, Rebus agrees to track down her missing son, who was last seen at a bar owned by some shady mob-linked gangsters. His pursuit takes him through an Edinburgh beyond the tartan tearooms and cobbled streets of the tourist brochures, a modern city boasting a variety of criminals and their victims. As Rebus contemplates the lurking immortality of his own city, Rankin offers readers page-turning suspense and astonishing literary grace.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Inspector John Rebus of Edinburgh's finest has been knocking readers' socks off for years, in 10 full-length police procedurals by Ian Rankin that star the thoughtful, intelligent Scot. In this neat little novella, he does in 73 pages what many of his peers take three times as long to do--set an interesting scene, solve a crime, develop a character, and allow him to grow and change without sacrificing either pace or plot. Agreeing to track down the missing son of his high school sweetheart and her husband, a friend of his youth, Rebus takes the reader into the gritty back streets and criminal byways of Edinburgh, following Damon Mee from the nightclub where he was last seen through gambling casinos, football matches, and face-to-face encounters with the mobsters who may have been involved in his disappearance. Along the way Rebus confronts his own mortality, the choices he's made, and the obligations he owes his past. The theme of vanishing was spun off from *Dead Souls*, a full-length novel; according to Rankin, he wrote this brief but fully-realized piece first, then cannibalized part of it as a sub-plot for *Dead Souls*, "while altering the histories of the characters involved so that both can be read independently." Which is why American fans who haven't yet read *Dead Souls* will pick it up right after this one. *Death Is Not the End* is short enough to read on a shuttle flight and still have time for a nap. But like Rankin's other solid Rebus stories, it will stay with you even after you wake up. --Jane Adams

From Publishers Weekly

Using a subplot from his last Inspector Rebus novel (1999's *Dead Souls*), Gold Dagger Award-winner Rankin demonstrates at novella length why his Edinburgh policeman stands at the forefront of contemporary detectives. When 23-year-old Damon Mee vanishes from Gaitanos, a popular Kirkcaldy nightclub, the young man's parents naturally ask Insp. John Rebus for help. The father went to school with Rebus, while the mother turns out to be the inspector's old flame Janis, "the only girl in his long and trouble-strewn life who'd ever managed to knock him unconscious." Locating a missing person suddenly becomes personal, as Rebus broods over the past, wondering what might have happened had he and Janis stayed together. Might the recently engaged Damon be having his own doubts about love and marriage? A stakeout of Gaitanos leads Rebus to Richard Mandelson, a shady casino manager who drives a gold Rolls-Royce. Meanwhile, Matty Paine, a croupier in Mandelson's employ, is under pressure from his boss to approach his friend Stevie Scoular, the star of the Edinburgh Rangers football team, about throwing their next game. When Rebus also asks Matty (whom he once got off a drunk-driving charge) for a favor, he finds his investigation taking an unexpected twist. Taut exposition, wry dialogue and deft plotting, together with an insider's view of the seedy underside of Edinburgh, combine to make a superior thriller, well deserving its status as part of the Criminal Records series of novellas, edited by Otto Penzler. (June)
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From [Booklist](#)

This entry in the Criminal Records series of novellas, edited by Otto Penzler, finds Edinburgh copper John Rebus on the trail of a crooked casino owner and, in his free time, helping an old girlfriend track down her vanished son. (As Rankin notes in an afterword, the missing-son story line was adapted as a subplot in the full-length Rebus novel *Dead Souls*). Rebus is a private man, not willing to share his inner demons, and the brush with his past brings him closer to his feelings than he usually allows. All the strengths of the Rebus novels--an uncompromising view of inner-city crime, full-bodied characters on both sides of the law--are in evidence in this shorter form. Rebus fans who have read *Dead Souls* will enjoy comparing the two versions of the missing-son story, but the tale could also function as an introduction to the Rebus novels. An ongoing

series of crime novellas would make a welcome addition to the genre. *Bill Ott*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marissa Wegener:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Death Is Not the End: A Novella (Inspector Rebus Mysteries).

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Betty Williams:

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