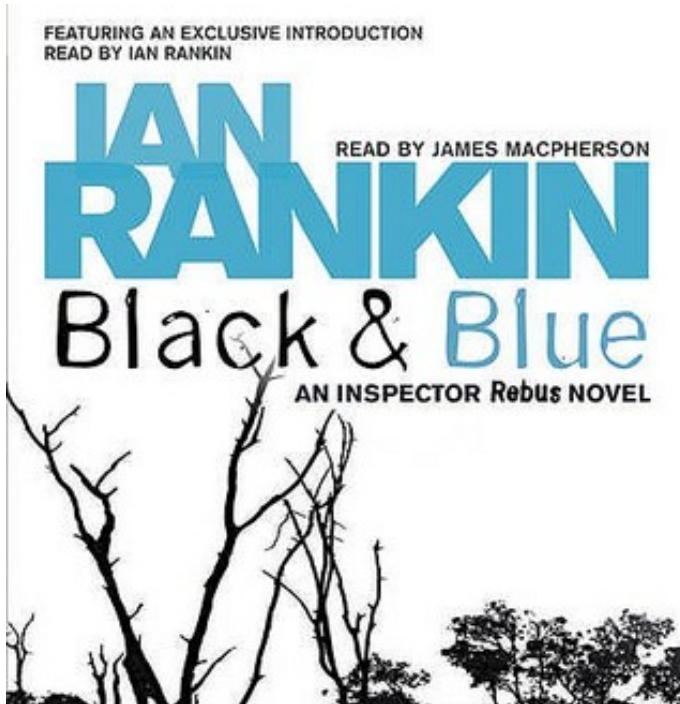


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Ian Rankin

**Black and Blue (Inspector Rebus #8)**



Title: Black and Blue (Inspector Rebus #8)

Author: Ian Rankin

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## Description

FEATURING AN EXCLUSIVE INTRODUCTION READ BY IAN RANKIN. Others in the Rebus series have been uniformly first rate: BLACK & BLUE outreaches them in excellence...His is a superbly drawn character; matched by the edgy authenticity of the Scottish locale and dialogue.

## Insightful reviews

Dr Bob: This was my first Rebus novel as I often find pure police 'procedurals' contrived and cliched. On the advice of a friend I didn't start with the first Rebus book as I was told this is the one where Rankin really gets into his stride and, from what I've seen, it was the right choice.

I really enjoyed this multi-stranded novel that starts with the murder of a North Sea oil worker in Edinburgh but ties in a creepily rendered old and new serial killer, a miscarriage of justice and Edinburgh's gangland underbelly without feeling forced or as if Rankin was trying too hard to make you go 'Ah, hah! How clever!' In fact Rebus's method is 'refreshingly' old fashioned, mainly legwork and instinct, and it pays off as feeling very 'authentic' while still keeping you guessing how the pieces fit together. Also, there's a nice amount of dry wit and snappy writing in this book that I wasn't expecting.

I'll definitely look up the sequels!

Eadie: This was another great Inspector Rebus read. The characters were interesting and the plot took us from Edinburgh to Glasgow, Aberdeen, an offshore oil rig, and the Shetland Islands. All these locations contributed greatly to the atmosphere of the novel. Rankin mixes both his fictional account of "Johnny Bible" and his theories on Bible John ( a real life serial killer who is still at large) in this tale involving drug dealing, murder and gangsters in Scotland's three major cities. There are a lot of twists and red herrings throughout but it is Rebus' struggles with his own personal demons that make it a worthwhile read.

Paul Darcy: by Ian Rankin, published in 1997.

This is the 8th Inspector Rebus novel from Ian Rankin and it's a very good one. Rankin mixes a real life case of murder with his own twist on what may have really taken place.

We see Rebus involved in several cases simultaneously in 'Black and Blue', and you never know just how each will tie in to the other until quite far into it. There is the old case of Bible John (the real killings) that Rebus just happened to be a sergeant on and has a dark secret about the case to keep covered up - but with Johnny Bible, another serial killer loose in the now, Rebus's old case and even Rebus himself are up for review.

But as you would suspect Rebus is not taking this sitting down - which is kind of funny because at one point in the book Rebus is sitting down and getting a grilling just like a criminal - a high point of the novel.

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Something else I really liked about this one was the fact that 'Bible John' had his own investigation going on about, what he calls his 'upstart' in Johnny Bible who imitates his killings of years past. The paths of Rebus and Bible John cross and re-cross with both not sure who the other is - quite fun to read. And the ending was not what I expected - very satisfying and definitely no cop out (sorry for the pun . . .)

And the references to music artists and lyrics abound in 'Black and Blue' just as they do in most of Rankin's Rebus novels (well the seven previous and this one anyhow). It's a fun puzzle to work through and even this Rebus book title 'Black and Blue' is also an album title by 'The Rolling Stones' which in itself is significant to this book since this album was their first studio album with the departure of guitarist Mick Taylor and the case of Bible John is Rebus's first killer case as a sergeant and his commanding inspector has just recently departed (yes in that sense) as he works on the Johnny Bible case in the here and now - nice tie in.

But that is too much information which is what I find Rankin books to provide in spades. I probably miss about half of the implied or cryptic tie ins, but I can always read the series again later in life when I'm wiser and smarter . . .

We see Gill Templar back again as well and chatting up Rebus - okay she asks him out! Good to see Rebus looking again at a relationship, but he has so much going on in this novel he doesn't have time to tie his shoes. And I had to laugh at the "evil" Americans in this novel. Is this how Scotland sees America? Maybe I shouldn't laugh.

All in all another great novel in the Rebus series (which now ends with Rankin's last book titled 'Exit Music') and is the only one I'm waiting for now to come out in paperback. I can't wait to finish the entire series, but it will have to wait a while. I have 9 novels left yet and many more others in-between to read.

So, what are you waiting for. If you like mystery novels, dry humour, good story and intriguing characters - you are going to love Inspector Rebus. Read them all - you will not regret the time spent.

Chuck Slack: What a superb book!! Ian Rankin relatively placed the total sequence jointly during this book. We get extra perception to Rebus, what makes him tick, his singleminded ness, his charm, and his foibles. 3 circumstances which are probably separate yet turn into intertwined with each page. All i will say is that turning pages during this learn is bittersweet. With each web page Rankin brings you one web page towards fixing the case yet unfortunately one web page toward the end. enjoyed it!

Timothy: After tough the better echelons of energy in allow it Bleed, Rebus is distributed clear of St Leonards Station to a grim Edinburgh outpost. He works on situations one is a infamous copycat serial killer and the opposite a defenstration. in the meantime he's topic to an inner research right into a case that happened while he used to be a tender constable. the tale is greater by means of his travels via Scotland and the reappearance of characters from the 1st Rebus secret Knots and Crosses, specifically DI Morton, Jim Stevens and Gill Templar. Rebus

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additionally studies personality improvement while he is going at the wagon. As usual, the sarcastic loner will push everyone's button ahead of he solves the case(s).

Col: Ian Rankin's creation, Detective John Rebus is quite a bit a superb depiction of the Scottish psyche for me. he is a type of William Wallace for at the present time in my eyes, albeit with no the kilt, the saltire warfare paint and maybe sporting a piece extra weight than Wallace did!! and naturally his books are an excellent vacationer advisor to Glasgow's posh neighbour over the line - the nice urban of Edinburgh (although in equity as a vacationer consultant it will not unavoidably convey you a lot tartan or shortbread or castles during this tour!) Rebus does characterize quite a bit of the Scottish personality for me - at the floor he is all sharp edges, curmudgeonly, argumentative, cynical - what we in Scotland name "thrawn!". yet beneath he is totally human - there is his generosity of spirit, the chill at authority and posturing, his right down to earthness and certainly his appreciation of an honest pub! i like each Rebus tale and there are numerous to choose between yet i have long gone with "Black and Blue" since it splendidly weaves jointly a fictional tale and a real existence unsolved secret - the "Bible John" murders in Glasgow within the 60's. it is easily Rebus and Rankin at their very very best!! selected this as a part of a collection of Ten Books That characterize My state - Scotland. if you want to examine the others you will find them at <http://theonlywayisreading.com/2013/1...>

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