

# The Inspector Rebus Novels

## By Ian Rankin



### **Knots and Crosses** [1987]

Once John Rebus was a Para, served in the elite SAS. Now he's an Edinburgh policeman who spends time evading his memories, missing promotion opportunities, and right now ignoring a series of crank

letters. But as the murders go on happening right under his nose, Rebus cannot ignore the presence of a serial killer stalking the city streets any longer. He isn't the only detective working the case, but he is the only one with all the pieces to the puzzle and those letters keep on coming.



### **Hide and Seek** [1990]

A junkie lies dead in an Edinburgh squat and he's just another dead addict. Nobody but Detective Inspector John Rebus, prowling the streets of the city in search of something so evil he can almost taste it, confronting the darkness within himself as

well as without, gives a damn. Rebus digs deeper into the death which looks more and more like murder. There is something savage and seductive at large in Edinburgh, something from which there is nowhere to hide.



### **Tooth and Nail** (a.k.a. Wolfman) [1992]

They call him the Wolfman - because he takes a nip out of his victims and because they found the first victim in the East End's lonely Wolf Street. But there's no urban predator that Rebus fears. When Scotland Yard are anxious to find the last serial killer

on their patch they look north and soon Rebus is on his way south from the chill of Edinburgh to the rain of London. A serial killer from Dr Liza Frazer is attractive in more ways than one and Rebus is happy to take her up on her offer of help. But in taking on one ally who doesn't think that everyone's achilles heel in the fight against the Wolfman.



### **A Good Hanging: and Other Stories** [1992]

Twelve Inspector Rebus mysteries, including the hanging of a student during the Festival, an arson attack on a bride watcher, and the apparent witnessing of a miracle... If you're the kind of traveller who

likes to step off the tourist trail this is the book for you.



### **Strip Jack** [1992]

SOMEONE IS STRIPPING JACK NAKED... Gregor Jack, MP, well like, young, married to the fiery Elizabeth to the outside world a very public success story. But Jack's carefully nurtured career plans take a

tumble after a 'mistake' during a police raid on a notorious Edinburgh brothel. Then Elizabeth disappears, a couple of bodies float into view where they shouldn't, and a lunatic speaks from his asylum... With his wife missing, his job on the line, and his sanity in doubt, Gregor Jack is ripe for revenge.



### **The Black Book** [1993]

It all happened because John Rebus was in his favorite Edinburgh massage parlour reading the Bible... So opens the latest Rebus mystery and within a few pages the hapless Rebus has lost a lover, found an unwanted brother, been reacquainted with a

dangerous ghost from the past, and witnessed the black comedy of life in a blood-soaked Edinburgh butcher's shop. Or as Rebus puts it, 'just one of those weeks'.



### **Mortal Causes** [1994]

The last people to die in Mary King's Close had been plague victims. But that was in the 1700s. Now a body has been discovered, brutally tortured and murdered in Edinburgh's buried city. Inspector John Rebus, ex army, spots a paramilitary link,

but how can this be true? It is August in Edinburgh, the Festival is in full swing. No one wants to contemplate terrorism in the thronging city streets. Special Branch are interested, however, and Rebus finds himself seconded to an elite police unit with the mission of smashing whatever cell may exist. But the victim turns out to be a gangster's son, and the gangster wants revenge on his own terms. Soon Rebus finds himself in a non-man's land where friendly fire is as likely to score a hit as anything launched by the unseen enemy.

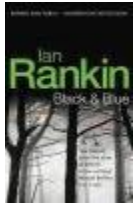


### **Let It Bleed** [1995]

Two boys hug and jump... One man blows his brains out and does his lady a last favour... Alone in his cell another sets a ball rolling that may demolish a glittering career... Everyone keeps secrets and sometimes not just their own. In an

Edinburgh winter the wind blows chill and penetrating. For Rebus it slams one door shut only to open another. Investigating the disappearance of the Provost's daughter

leads him from the Old Town to Silicon Gel, from drug addicts to government ministers. And plants the seed that grows into a nagging belief that there may be some criminals beyond the grasp of modern justice.



### **Black and Blue [1997]**

Inspector John Rebus must disinter all four cases to nail just one killer. And do it while facing the glare of an internal inquiry led by a man he has just accused of taking backhanders from Glasgow's Mr Big, and with TV cameras at his back investigating a miscarriage of justice. One mistake is likely to mean an unpleasant and not particularly speedy death or, worse still, losing his job.



### **The Hanging Garden [1998]**

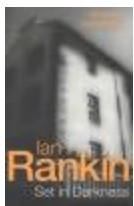
A tense and complicated thriller featuring inspector John Rebus from the acclaimed author of BLACK AND BLUE. Rebus is buried under a pile of paperwork generated by his investigations into a possible war criminal resident in Edinburgh. His immediate superiors are more than happy to have him tucked away in a quiet backwater for several months looking into ancient history. But the Crime Squad are forced to bring him back to the present day when a young upstart gangster, Tommy Telford, muscled in on Big Ger Cafferty's turf and Rebus's local knowledge becomes essential to the efforts to shut down Telford's business as a drug dealer, pimp and extortionist. Before he can act the waters are muddied further when the war criminal is found hanging in Warriston Cemetery.

Death is Not the End [1998 – novella]



### **Dead Souls [1999]**

A call from an old friend brings back memories and more than a little guilt for DI John Rebus. An old schoolfriend's son has gone missing, the ghost of Jack Morton is inhabiting Rebus' dreams, a part-time poisoner is terrorising the local zoo and a freed paedophile rouses the vigilantes.



### **Set in Darkness [2000]**

Two unusual incidents in one day seem unconnected, until a third body - that of a prospective member of the Scottish Parliament - is found at Queensbury House. Inspector Rebus investigates, and uncovers old secrets that suggest Scotland's second attempt at devolution will be just as dirty.



### **The Falls [2001]**

A student has gone missing in Edinburgh - completely out of character. She's not just any student, though, but the daughter of extremely well to do and influential bankers. There's almost nothing to go on until Detective Inspector John Rebus gets an unmistakable gut feeling that there's more to this than just another runaway spaced out on unaccustomed freedom. Two leads emerge: a carved wooden doll in a toy coffin, found in the student's home village, and an Internet role playing game. The ancient and the modern, brought together by uncomfortable circumstance . . .



### **Resurrection Men [2002]**

Rebus is off the case literally. A few days into a murder inquiry following the brutal death of an Edinburgh art dealer, Rebus blows up at DCS Gill Templer. He is sent to the Scottish Police College for 'retraining' in other words, he's in the Last Chance Saloon. Rebus is given an old, unsolved case to work on, in order to teach him and others the merits of teamwork. But there are those in the team who have their own secrets and they'll stop at nothing to protect them. As if this wasn't enough, Rebus is asked to act as a go between for gangster 'Big Ger' Cafferty. And as newly promoted DS Siobhan Clarke works the case of the murdered art dealer, she is brought closer to Cafferty than she could ever have anticipated...



### **A Question of Blood [2003]**

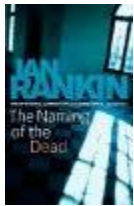
A shooting incident at a private school just north of Edinburgh. Two seventeen year olds killed by an ex Army loner who has gone off the rails. As Detective Inspector John Rebus puts it, 'there's no mystery'... except the why. But this question takes Rebus into the heart of a shattered community. Ex Army himself, Rebus becomes fascinated by the killer, and finds he is not alone. Army investigators are on the scene, and won't be shaken off. The killer had friends and enemies to spare ranging from civic leaders to the local Goths leaving behind a legacy of secrets and lies. Rebus has more than his share of personal problems, too. He's fresh out of hospital, hands heavily bandaged, and he won't say how it happened. Could there be a connection with a house fire and the unfortunate death of a petty criminal who had been harrasing Rebus's colleague Siobhan Clarke? Rebus's bosses seem to think so...



**Fleshmarket Close** (a.k.a. Fleshmarket Alley) [2004]

An illegal immigrant is found murdered in an Edinburgh housing scheme: a racist attack, or something else entirely? Rebus is drawn into the case, but has other problems: his old police station has closed for business,

and his masters would rather he retire than stick around. But Rebus is that most stubborn of creatures. As Rebus investigates, he must visit an asylum seekers' detention centre, deal with the sleazy Edinburgh underworld, and maybe even fall in love...Siobhan meanwhile has problems of her own. A teenager has disappeared from home and Siobhan is drawn into helping the family, which will mean travelling closer than is healthy towards the web of a convicted rapist. Then there's the small matter of the two skeletons - a woman and an infant - found buried beneath a concrete cellar floor in Fleshmarket Close. The scene begins to look like an elaborate stunt - but whose, and for what purpose? And how can it tie to the murder on the unforgiving housing-scheme known as Knoxland?



**Naming of the Dead** [2006]

July 2005, and the G8 leaders have gathered in Scotland. With daily marches, demonstrations, and scuffles, the police are at full stretch. Detective Inspector John Rebus, however, has been sidelined, until the apparent suicide of an MP coincides

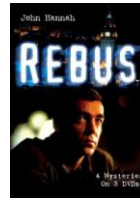
with clues that a serial killer may be on the loose. The authorities are keen to hush up both, for fear of overshadowing a meeting of global importance - but Rebus has never been one to stick to the rules, and when his colleague Siobhan Clarke finds herself hunting down the identity of the riot cop who assaulted her mother, it looks as though both Rebus and Clarke may be up pitted against both sides in the conflict. THE NAMING OF THE DEAD is a potent mix of action and politics, set against a backdrop of the most devastating week in recent British history.



**Exit Music** [2007]

It's late autumn in Edinburgh and late autumn in the career of Detective Inspector John Rebus. As he tries to tie up some loose ends before retirement, a murder case intrudes. A dissident Russian poet has been found dead in what looks like a

mugging gone wrong. By apparent coincidence a high-level delegation of Russian businessmen is in town, keen to bring business to Scotland. The politicians and bankers who run Edinburgh are determined that the case should be closed quickly and clinically. But the further they dig, the more Rebus and his colleague DS Siobhan Clarke become convinced that they are dealing with something more than a random attack - especially after a particularly nasty second killing. Meantime, a brutal and premeditated assault on local gangster 'Big Ger' Cafferty sees Rebus in the frame. Has the Inspector taken a step too far in tying up those loose ends? Only a few days shy of the end to his long, inglorious career, will Rebus even make it that far?



Rebus – A British television series, which has also aired on PBS' Mystery in the US, has adapted 14 of the novels, between 2000 and 2007, in four separate seasons. The library system owns Season One, which is listed below:

**Season One**

1. Black and Blue
2. Hanging Garden
3. Dead Souls
4. Mortal Causes

**Season Two**

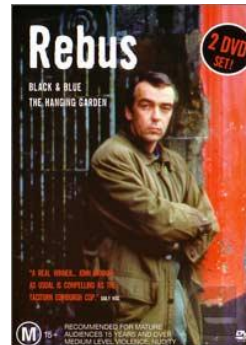
1. The Falls
2. Fleshmarket Close

**Season Three**

1. Black Book
2. A Question of Blood
3. Strip Jack
4. Let it Bleed

**Season Four**

1. Resurrection men
2. The First Stone
3. Naming of the Dead
4. Knots and Crosses



The Inspector Rebus Series – 4 mysteries on 3 DVDs

Includes adaptations of the novels Black and Blue, Dead Souls, Hanging Garden, and Mortal Causes.

Inspector Rebus Series. 22 primary works & 40 total works. John Rebus once served in Britain's elite SAS. Now he's an Edinburgh cop who hides from his memories and misses promotions. To solve brutal murders, he enters the grittiest sides of Edinburgh, the dark heart of contemporary Scotland which lurks behind the elegant and historic buildings. Hard-boiled Inspector Rebus has been described as "the most" | More. Book 1.Â The fourteenth Inspector Rebus novel - and No.1 be" | More. Want to Read. Specifications. Series Title. Inspector Rebus Novels. Publisher. St. Martin's Press.Â This is the sixth novel featuring John Rebus, and was the first in the series to tackle political issues. (While one of the central characters in 'Strip Jack' was an MP, the plot did not engage with politics.) A common trait in Rankin's books is that they tend to open with the action already underway - he doesn't do gentle build ups.