



Even Dogs in the Wild

Ian Rankin

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Hands in his pockets, Rebus turned to face Cafferty.

They were old men now, similar builds, similar backgrounds. Sat together in a pub, the casual onlooker might mistake them for pals who'd known one another since school.

But their history told a different story.

Retirement doesn't suit John Rebus. He wasn't made for hobbies, holidays or home improvements. Being a cop is in his blood.

So when DI Siobhan Clarke asks for his help on a case, Rebus doesn't need long to consider his options.

Clarke's been investigating the death of a senior lawyer whose body was found along with a threatening note. On the other side of Edinburgh, Big Ger Cafferty – Rebus's long-time nemesis – has received an identical note and a bullet through his window.

Now it's up to Clarke and Rebus to connect the dots and stop a killer.

Meanwhile, DI Malcolm Fox joins forces with a covert team from Glasgow who are tailing a notorious crime family. There's something they want, and they'll stop at nothing to get it.

It's a game of dog eat dog – in the city, as in the wild.

Even Dogs in the Wild brings back Ian Rankin's greatest characters in a story exploring the darkest corners of our instincts and desires.

Even Dogs in the Wild Details

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From Reader Review Even Dogs in the Wild for online ebook

Bettie? says

Description: *Even Dogs in the Wild* brings back Ian Rankin's greatest characters in a novel that explores the darkest corners of our instincts and desires.

Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke is investigating the death of a senior lawyer during a robbery. The case becomes more complex when a note is discovered, indicating that this may have been no random attack. When local gangster Big Ger Cafferty receives an identical message, Clarke decides that the recently retired John Rebus may be able to help. Together the two old adversaries might just stand a chance of saving Cafferty's skin.

But a notorious family tailed by a team of undercover detectives has also arrived in Edinburgh. There's something they want, and they'll stop at nothing to get it. As the cases collide, it's a game of dog eat dog--in the city as in the wild.

Opening: **Malcolm Fox** woke from another of his bad dreams. He reckoned he knew why he'd started having them – uncertainty about his job. He wasn't entirely sure he wanted it any more, and feared he was surplus to requirements anyway. Yesterday, he'd been told he had to travel to Dundee to fill a vacant post for a couple of shifts. When he asked why, he was told the officer he'd be replacing had been ordered to cover for someone else in Glasgow.

‘Isn't it easier just to send me to Glasgow, then?’ Fox had enquired.

Ian Rankin discusses Even Dogs In The Wild

Darryl Christie wasn't a huge fan of Glasgow. It sprawled in a way his own city didn't. And there were still traces of the old enmity between Catholic and Protestant – of course that existed in Edinburgh too, but it had never quite defined the place the way it did Glasgow. The people spoke differently here, and had a garrulousness to them that spilled over into physical swagger. They were, as they chanted on the football terraces, ‘the people’. But they were not Darryl Christie's people. Edinburgh could seem tame by comparison, head always below the parapet, keeping itself to itself. In the independence referendum, Edinburgh had voted No and Glasgow Yes, the latter parading its saltired allegiance around George Square night after night, or else protesting media bias outside the BBC headquarters.

Rebus nodded. ‘What's the book?’

‘He said, changing the subject. It's Kate Atkinson.’

‘Any good?’

‘Someone keeps coming back from the dead.’

‘Not a bad fit for this evening, then.

Soundtrack to the book, which is a paltry affair this time:

Bruce Hornsby & the Range - The Way It Is

Quicksilver Girl- Steve Miller Band
Even dogs in the wild - The Associates

Somewhere deep in the night
There's a child on his own
And his pulse isn't there
And the house is aglow
With the light from outside
Well the house is aglow

There's a mattress downstairs
Full of brown peppered holes
And the hoarse hair is coarse
Not as coarse and as rough
As the rash thoughts that never heal sores

3* Knots and Crosses (Inspector Rebus, #1)
3* Hide and Seek (Inspector Rebus, #2)
4* Tooth and Nail (Inspector Rebus, #3)
3* Strip Jack (Inspector Rebus, #4)
3* The Black Book (Inspector Rebus, #5)
3* Mortal Causes (Inspector Rebus, #6)
3* Let It Bleed (Inspector Rebus, #7)
3* Black and Blue (Inspector Rebus, #8)
3* The Hanging Garden (Inspector Rebus, #9)
3* Dead Souls (Inspector Rebus, #10)
2* Death Is Not the End (Inspector Rebus, #10.5)
3* Set in Darkness (Inspector Rebus, #11)
4* The Falls (Inspector Rebus, #12)
4* Resurrection Men (Inspector Rebus, #13)
4* A Question of Blood (Inspector Rebus, #14)
4* Fleshmarket Close (Inspector Rebus, #15)
4* The Naming of the Dead (Inspector Rebus, #16)
4* Exit Music (Inspector Rebus, #17)
5* Standing in Another Man's Grave (Inspector Rebus, #18)
4* Saints of the Shadow Bible (Inspector Rebus, #19)
4* Even Dogs in the Wild (Inspector Rebus, #20)
3* In the Nick of Time: John Rebus vs. Roy Grace
4* A Good Hanging: Short Stories
2* Beggars Banquet

4* The Complaints
4* The Impossible Dead

Sandy says

Woo-hoo! A new Rankin/Rebus on the horizon. Please, please someone send me an ARC. I'm willing to offer \$\$\$, house cleaning services, one of the kids....

Update Nov. 25th: review to follow

Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says

Perfect!

My View:

Make a date for a great night in - settle yourself somewhere warm and cosy (your favourite reading chair perhaps...) have a glass of whiskey to the ready (to keep in sync with the protagonist's choice of spirits) and a couple of Dark Side Truffles (<http://www.darksidechocolates.com.au/>) - Rebus has yet to be introduced to this delight but I am sure he would love them. Now, comfortable? Good, grab your copy of Ian Rankin's outstanding, intriguing and realistic, must read in one sitting, Even Dogs In the Wild and enjoy a fantastic night in!

Joey Woolfardis says

The twentieth Rebus novel from Rankin, this one concerns a retired John Rebus who is still stuck in his routine of drinking too much IPA and wandering the streets of Edinburgh looking for another pub to drink too much IPA in. In Even Dogs in the Wild, the past comes back to haunt Rebus' old nemesis Cafferty, bringing the two of them closer together than they'd really like. Throw in Siobhan Clarke and Malcolm Fox and you have a very decent crime book.

I'm always going to enjoy Rebus novels, but this one was a bit lacking. It didn't really have a whole lot of Rebus working things out, which is what I love so much about the Rebus novels. He's not like other detectives: he actually thinks things through and works the crimes out in his mind, as opposed to other detectives who basically stumble upon the answer by accident 94% of the time.

There was also a bit too much Siobhan and Malcolm in this, but when you're protagonist is a retired detective with no business working on detecting cases, that is most likely to happen. The storyline was pretty decent and it had me guessing, but that was mostly because there weren't too many clues laid out for you.

Despite all of that, it was still much better than a lot of other people can do and I enjoyed it immensely because there were occasional sparks of wonderful Rebus action. I'd strongly suggest you don't start with this one if you're new to Rankin and Rebus, but by all means don't miss it out, either.

Andrew Smith says

Is this the finest Rebus book ever written? Well, I've yet to read a few of the very early books, but IMO this is certainly the best of the rest!

Rankin writes intelligent, funny and brilliantly observed crime stories, set in and around Edinburgh. Rebus, the (now) ex-copper who sets out to solve the crimes is one of the best fictional inventions I've come across. A hard drinking, blunt, risk-taker, he lights up every page he features in. His bone dry one liners are hilarious and he espouses a tired wisdom that has me nodding along in time with his fearless enunciations.

This is a stand-alone story, but there are loads of carry over characters here: colleagues, of course, but two old adversaries also feature prominently. It starts with 'Big Ger' Cafferty (either an arch-enemy of Rebus or a long time drinking buddy, depending on how you choose to interpret their relationship) having a pot-shot taken at him whilst he's at home one evening. Big Ger was once the top dog of the Edinburgh criminal underworld but he's in semi-retirement now. Is it an old enemy out for revenge? Or maybe it's the new kid on the block, Daryl Christie, sending him a message? Rebus is soon called on by the local police to utilise his leverage with Cafferty, who refuses to talk to anyone else. Before you know it he's been co-opted to the investigating team, on a consultative basis. The plot thickens as a group of heavies from Glasgow are spotted snooping around Edinburgh. Are they trying to move into Christie's turf? Did they have anything to do with the Cafferty incident?

It's all satisfactorily complex and the story is brilliantly told by Rankin, but the real joy here is the dialogue which bristles with menace and dark humour throughout. I just loved the flow and the atmosphere of the whole thing.

And to think that Rankin seemed to have seen off Rebus a few years back! I watched a television interview with him recently where he stated that he has a book deal which requires him to have completed his next novel by June 2016. So far he hasn't written a word and has no idea who will feature in the book. Please let it be Rebus, Ian – please!

Mary Gilligan-Nolan says

The end of the books written to date on Rebus. I am so sad, I loved this series, but I hope that there may be a couple or more, left to be written. Please Ian Rankin, keep Rebus going for another while. There is still life in the old dog. This story was particularly well written and topical, as it involved a subject that has been widely reported in the past few years, something very evil that was covered up for decades, involving very high ranking persons, from many walks of life. Rebus is asked to come back and assist a case involving Big Ger Cafferty, strangely, as a victim this time, as opposed to his shady gangland activities. When a bullet is fired through Cafferty's window and a note pushed through his door threatening he will die for his part in something he cannot fathom, he will only talk to Rebus initially and is reluctant to admit anything to the police. Malcolm Fox features again in this story, now finished in Complaints and being shunted back and over from one division to another. Love the Rebus series and hope there may be some more to come.

Leah says

Rebus in a deerstalker?

Siobhan Clarke has been called in to investigate the murder of David Minton, a former Lord Advocate (chief legal officer of the Scottish Government). At first, it looks like a robbery gone wrong, until a note is found on Lord Minton's body – I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID. That evening, as Siobhan and Malcolm Fox share dinner, they are told of a shooting in the city – the target Big Ger Cafferty, retired gangster and long-time Moriarty to Rebus' Holmes. The shooter missed, and Cafferty is refusing to talk to the police about it, so Siobhan suggests bringing Rebus in on it as the one man to whom Cafferty is likely to open up. Problem is Rebus is now retired (again) – and so begins his new career as a 'consulting detective'. Fox meantime has been seconded to a team through from Glasgow who are carrying out surveillance on a Glasgow gangster and his son, in Edinburgh looking for one of their employees who has betrayed them and run off with a truck-load of drugs.

The book gets off to a great start with a short prologue where two gangsters are in a forest to bury a body. But things don't go quite to plan. It takes quite a long time for all the various strands of the book to come together, but as always Rankin handles the plotting with sure skill, meting out the information with perfect timing to keep the reader's interest from flagging at any point. This book is more noir in feel than some of Rebus' recent outings, being very much about the gangsters of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The thing I love most about Rankin is that his books and characters are set very much in the real, recognisable world of present-day Scotland, and that shows through in his treatment of the gangsters here. He portrays them as less relevant than they used to be, with so many of their old fields of activity having become either legalised – money-lenders now advertise their exorbitant interest rates on TV, and gambling has become brightly lit, family fun – or less lucrative, with the police more successful in preventing protection rackets, for instance. Much organised crime is now carried out via the darknet rather than on the streets. Cafferty and his Glasgow counterpart, Joe Stark, are rather outdated dinosaurs – still dangerous in the parts of society in which they operate, but not universally feared or admired as the old-time gangsters once were. Gun crime is shown as it truly is – extremely rare and not a major issue in Scottish society. (There was 1 – yes, one – gun murder in the whole of Scotland in 2014. Sorry to be a killjoy.) It's very refreshing to get such a true picture, rather than the nonsense that fills so many books in the 'Tartan Noir' genre, most of which describe a society that is as realistic as Hobbiton, or as outdated as Dickens' London.

However, the book isn't only about the warring gangsters. There is another strand that touches on a subject very much in the current news – the historical abuse of children in care homes. Again Rankin handles this with all his usual skill and sensitivity, showing not only how it affected the children at the time but how the after-effects of abuse can cascade down through generations. And he does it without resorting to shock horror tactics, voyeuristically salacious details or crocodile tears. As a result, the story feels both authentic and credible.

There is perhaps a little less reference to the political side of Scottish life than there has been in the more recent books, but I think this is a good reflection of post-referendum life, where the close result has somewhat left the nation feeling that it's in political limbo. But the storyline touches on the power structures of both police and government, and especially on the abuse of power at the top.

This wouldn't be one I would necessarily recommend as a starting point for newcomers to Rebus. There are so many characters from previous books in it that I think it will work best for existing fans, who understand how the relationship between Rebus and Big Ger has developed over the years. But for me, a new Rebus is always a huge treat – Rankin is so in control of his writing and plotting that reading his books is an effortless joy. Another strong entry in the series that I'm sure fans will enjoy, and great to have Rebus back in action after the long two years since the last book. Here's hoping his 'consulting detective' days are not over...

NB This book was provided for review by the publisher, Orion.

www.fictionfanblog.wordpress.com

Lewis Weinstein says

I have read other books in Rankin's Rebus series, and enjoyed them immensely. This one, not so much. There are too many characters, too many plot threads, an absence of needed transitions, frequent lack of clarity about who is actually in a scene, and not enough 'helps' for readers to keep track of the interlocking events. That said, there were some excellent moments. It seems like another edit or two might have eliminated the problems I had with this book and made it the equal of others in the series.

James Thane says

The twentieth book in this great series finds the protagonist, former Edinburgh police detective John Rebus, finally retired. The hard work of detecting has been turned over to younger men and women like Rebus's long-time protege, Siobhan Clarke, and his one-time nemesis, Malcolm Fox. Fox, a former member of the Complaints division (Scotland's version of Internal Affairs) is still distrusted by almost every other police officer, and has been assigned to a relatively useless role assisting a surveillance team visiting from Glasgow. The team has spent months attempting to take down a major Glasgow crime family and has followed the father and son to Edinburgh, where the criminals are allegedly attempting to find a man who has stolen valuable property from them.

At the same time, Siobhan is investigating the murder of Lord David Minton an elderly, influential former prosecutor. The initial assumption is that the victim was killed during a burglary, even though nothing appears to have been taken. But then Clarke discovers that Minton had received a note threatening his life just before he was killed. Shortly thereafter, someone takes a shot at "Big Ger" Cafferty, an infamous Edinburgh crime boss. The only cop, or ex-cop, that Cafferty will even think about discussing the matter with is his long-time nemesis, John Rebus. Over the years, the two adversaries have developed a grudging respect for each other, and Rebus agrees to be the intermediary between Cafferty and the police.

The plot thickens considerably when it turns out that Cafferty received the same threatening note that Lord Minton had gotten. The case also seems to tie into the surveillance that Malcolm Fox is working, and retired or not, once John Rebus has the bit between his teeth, nothing is going to stop him from immersing himself in the investigation.

The result is one of the best entries in what has been a consistently excellent series. Rebus is in top form, and it's great to see him back in harness, working alongside Clarke and Fox. Of course, as any fan of the series

knows, for John Rebus, "working alongside" his colleagues should be interpreted very loosely. Rebus has always been his own man, and he's not at all reluctant to stray off the reservation in the pursuit of an investigation, irrespective of what his supervisors or his colleagues might think. Working with him, even in "retirement," can be a very taxing exercise for those around him. But for the reader, it's enormous fun. I can only hope John Rebus is still investigating cases and frustrating his superiors for years to come.

MadProfessah says

I like that Rankin is combining his Fox and Rebus books and has also brought along Clarke as well. I'm wondering if he will continue including first-person perspectives from the "villains" Darryl Christie and Joe Stark and Ger Cafferty?

I think there's atleast one more epic Rebus book where he and Cafferty make their last stand and he passes the baton over to Clarke and Fox?

Anyway enough ruminating about the series as a whole, let's review this entry, titled EVEN DOGS IN THE WILD. I agree with others that this one of the best books in the John Rebus series. Rankin does a really good job of combining multiple threads and mysteries while simultaneously including material which develops the emotional aspects of his characters (Rebus visiting his grandkid, Fox and Clarke getting closer, the fate of "Brillo").

Gloria Feit says

They retired Rebus in the 19th novel in the series, but they can't keep him down. In this, the 20th Rebus mystery, he proves that experience and relationships still count in solving a case. It all begins when someone takes a shot at Rebus' long time on-again-off-again bete noir, Big Ger Cafferty. As a result, Rebus becomes part of an investigation headed by his former sidekick, Siobhan Clarke, as a consulting detective.

Clarke's brief is the murder of David Minton, retired Lord Advocate, initially thought to be the result of a housebreaking, at least until Rebus begins to put two and two together. Meanwhile, another sub-plot involves Malcolm Fox, formerly of Professional Standards, and now a DI, involving the surveillance of a couple of heavyweight gangsters from Glasgow, now in Edinburgh presumably looking for a miscreant who stole goods and cash from them. But are they really there to take over Cafferty's territory?

The author wraps up the main plot by having Rebus, Clarke and Fox put the various clues together after Cafferty remembers a long lost thought. It is always a pleasure to read a Rebus novel, and I look forward to reading the 21st in the series, Rather Be the Devil, to be published January 31, 2017.

Highly recommended.

Simon McDonald says

In many respects, *Even Dogs in the Wild* feels like Ian Rankin's magnum opus; like he's been building towards this moment, this novel, since he started writing all those years ago. It brings together many of his greatest characters – John Rebus (of course); Siobhan Clarke; Malcolm Fox; and Ger Cafferty, to name just a few – and pits them against a dark, violent, enigmatic foe, who is targeting the Edinburgh underbelly's most fearsome players.

Rebus is retired now, of course. Like Michael Connelly, Rankin made the decision long ago to age his protagonist in real time, and as his inaugural readership has aged, so too has the character. But Rebus's blood runs blue – take away the badge and the official responsibility, but he's still the same man; he retains that insatiable thirst for justice, and to bury his nose in other people's business. So when Cafferty is targeted by this mysterious gunman, it doesn't take much to rope Rebus into the investigation. His relationship with Cafferty has taken an interesting turn in recent years since his retirement. It would be a mistake to call them friends, but the animosity between the two has dissipated now that their societal roles are opaque. So, too, has Rebus's relationship with Malcolm Fox turned into something more reminiscent of friendship; a mutual respect has garnered in the years since Fox was with the complaints (internal affairs) and was investigating the perennially insubordinate Rebus. In fact, the first sparks of true mateship starting to flicker...

So, there is plenty for veteran readers to enjoy; an added dimension that newcomers might not wholly appreciate, but will undoubtedly value the added texture of Rebus's world. Thankfully, the core mystery itself – Who is the killer? What's his beef? – is packed with twists and turns, and revelations that'll leave readers floored. After 20 years of writing crime, Rankin is a grandmaster of the genre, and his year's sabbatical has reinvigorated his already-stellar storytelling flair. While I was saddened when Rebus retired, my greatest fear was that he might later be shoehorned into subsequent novels; his name carries a ton of cache, after all. I'm thrilled that hasn't been the case. Rebus still belongs in this world, and it's clear Rankin has plenty more to say about the character, and through his perspective.

Even Dogs in the Wild is a brilliant novel; a page-turner with great depth. If this is what we get when Ian Rankin takes a year off to recharge his batteries, I'd be content to wait two years between novels; not happy, no way; but willing to comply.

PETER SYMONDS says

Hmmmm....

I'm a massive Ian Rankin fan but up until the last few chapters this one bored me silly. I never failed to finish one of his before but halfway through I nearly gave up mainly due to a lack of crime and therefore lack of case bulked out by all of the characters from Ian Rankin's recent novels: Rebus, Cafferty, Malcolm Fox, Siobhan Clarke etc. Only in the last few chapters did it come together for a fairly satisfactory ending.

25 years ago Ian Rankin struggled to make a living as an author writing better books than this. If he'd tried to get this published 25 years ago we'd never have heard of him a quarter century later.

Graeme Roberts says

Rebus is the best! But now he's a consulting detective, having recently retired. His talented and no-nonsense former sidekick, the newly minted Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke, has allowed Rebus to insert himself into a serial murder case that somehow involves "Big Ger" Cafferty, the retiring king of the Edinburgh underworld, Darryl Christie, the up-and-coming pretender, and Joe Stark, the big boss of Glasgow.

Unexpected twists abound, and the world of the hard men is so cold, dark, and empty you could spit, and it would freeze in mid-air.

Ian Rankin is getting better.

Bill says

Yeah, Rebus is back!
