

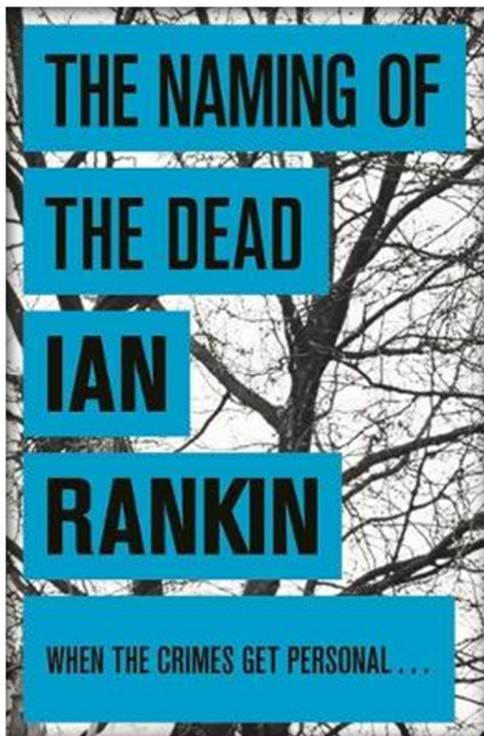


Helping you choose
your next book



LoveReading Reader reviews of **The Naming of the Dead** by Ian Rankin

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Catherine Bryce

An excellent thriller guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.

Another fantastic story from Ian Rankin's DI John Rebus series and this is one that will keep the reader's attention throughout the book.

Set in Scotland against the political background of an impending G8 meeting of world leaders Rebus has the additional pressure regarding security, politics, the media and so forth to deal with plus his everyday police duties continue.

From the walls of Edinburgh Castle a Scottish politician falls to his death but is this murder or suicide and the Establishment wants to keep this quiet and not attract negative publicity in the city at this time when they eyes of the world are on Edinburgh

Rebus and his assistant Siobhan Clark also have to deal with the murder of a rapist who had recently been released from prison but Clark also has her own issues as her mother was assaulted during protests but Rebus continues with his investigations and without giving too much away the plot of the story is first class.

This is a must read for your booklist!

Berwyn Peet

Clever, intriguing - a terrific page-turner.

I hadn't read any of Ian Rankin's novel about Rebus before this but will now have to read some more in the series to find out what happens to the main characters especially Siobhan. I also liked the setting and the complex plotting. There are various threads - a murdered rapist, a possible serial killer, the apparent suicide of an MP - all cleverly woven together. The setting is Edinburgh in 2005 when the G8 meeting was happening and the atmosphere and tension of this is brilliantly described. It is quite a complex story and I did find it a little confusing at times - there was one character where I think it would have helped if I'd read the previous novels - but the interweaving of the plot lines mixed with the personal lives of and the relationship between Rebus and Siobhan was masterly.

Phylippa Smithson

If you want to have your inaugural visit into why Ian Rankin, creator of the addictive Rebus novels, is the best of the very best in crime writing – this is the one for you.

It captures everything. Insight into the very essence of who Rebus is – a crouch, aging, annoying, sarcastic, lacking respect for his superiors, determined, focused and solver of complex cases. A complex thriller with as many red herrings, nooks and crannies as some other crime writers' offerings put together. It also captures what I love about Rankin's Rebus series – they are always based on reason, be it money, love revenge and always, always, always of a consistently high standard.

What somewhat sets this one apart is that it is set at a time of high political intrigue in the non-fiction world which headlined British lives in 2005 and still haunts us to this day – the London terrorist attack and G8 Summit in Scotland.

Read and enjoy but be warned, if this one is your first, you will be starting an addictive journey as there are 19 to read – and Rankin has not stopped yet.

Angie Rhodes

Rebus does not take fools gladly, he doesn't have the time or the patience and rules? well now and again they need a little, hmm bending and if it gets results, keeps low life criminals off the streets, Rebus figures Scotland is better

for it, and he will not be losing sleep over it.

There has been a murder on his patch, but he isn't really bothered, why? The victim was a rapist, so that's one down, loads to go, that's his way of thinking. That is until another body turns up and he and DS Siobhan Clarke, realise they have a serial killer on the loose.

With this and the apparent suicide of an MP they both have their work cut out, easy, they are used to working under pressure, but when the crimes could be linked with one of your own, well that's a whole different ball game...

Jennifer Moville

*I love a good murder story and **this had me gripped into the pages. Ian Rankin gets you engrossed in all his novels from the start. He always seems to find a new way of telling the old who killed who saga.***

Rebus is looking into the suicide of an M.P. But the G8 summit is in Scotland and he is told in no uncertain terms not to upset the apple cart. He gets involved with a case that two other detectives are trying to solve of the murder of a man who was a rapist - but does anyone really care that he is dead.

It seems that crimes are repeating themselves which leads them to think a serial killer is in the area and they need to act fast. Can they catch him before he commits any more crimes or are they just putting their own lives in danger too?

A real mystery book that I would love to watch on the TV.

Beverley Davenport

John Rebus and Siobhan Clarke work well together. Rebus gritty, intelligent, mentor to the up and coming Clarke. Both rigorously tested to stay on the straight and narrow in pursuit of the truth.

DI Rebus and DS Clarke are investigating a possible serial killer and the possible suicide of an MP. The Edinburgh backdrop is plunged into a temporary chaos as it fills with demonstrators, high profile figures attending the G8 summit, celebrities and police recruitments from far and wide. John Rebus and Siobhan Clarke work well together. Rebus providing a gritty, intelligent and old school rebel mentor to the up and coming Clarke, his quick retorts, sense of humour and down to earth attitude is either endearing or infuriating depending on who you are. Old flames, parents, local politicians and mobsters test them

both to stay on the straight and narrow and remain focused on the tasks ahead, neither are always successful and repercussions and consciences needle them both. A brilliant plot which keeps you turning pages, and the observant details adding to the atmosphere and the characters are never superfluous.

Rankin has created such earthy, strong and vulnerable characters, so real and believable that I could picture them and hear their voices in my mind; definitely my new favourite author.

Katie Dickinson

This was my first Ian Rankin novel...it certainly won't be my last.

The G8 summit on world poverty is coming to Edinburgh with its collection of leaders, politicians and police whom all have their own pecking orders. DI John Rebus finds himself right at the bottom of the pile with DS Siobhan Clarke in charge.

A suspect serial killer is on the loose, leaving trophies of victims in public places. But when the victims are rapists and murderers does the law enforcement want to divert attention from Scotland's ability to run a successful summit? Siobhan finds that the troubles get personal and Rebus struggles with his own relationships, the death of his brother Michael on his mind.

Rules are broken and Siobhan finds herself treading a fine line to obtain justice, how far do you go when the person offering help is a criminal and old rivalries are in play? How far do you go to 'Name the Dead?'

Les Wood

It's interesting to see how 2005 compares with our current moderate views and actions. It's a salutary story, quite sombre but all issues both factual and invented interweave to create another winner.

Ian Rankin continues to impress with his amazing knowledge of procedures, locations, the inner workings of the mind and relationships. In this his 16th Rebus novel, he moves onto and re-visits family issues, politics, real life events, serial killers (maybe?) and world issues, a veritable cornucopia of all things relevant and topical. His novel is full of in-fighting, rash actions, back stabbing, red herrings, individuals that are too good to be true and seeds of doubt as to whether or not Rebus has finally lost it. I never review the plotline or events within a novel that's for you to find out. Suffice to say you won't be

disappointed!

Sue Burton

Good read and covers current affairs that is happening throughout the world.

This is the first Ian Rankin book I have read and I thoroughly enjoyed it and shall certainly be looking out for more books. I really liked Inspector Rebus and could visualize him. The storyline was also very interesting. But "The Naming of the Dead" takes place against a much larger backdrop, with a G8 summit that took place outside Edinburgh in July 2005. Protesters converge on the site to raise awareness of every social ill from poverty and hunger to the war in Iraq, and of course that draws every policeman and security consultant in the free world too -- everyone except Detective Inspector John Rebus, who's so irascible and contrary that none of the brass wants to let him anywhere near the world's leaders.

Jillian McFrederick

Continuing on with the popular characters of Siobhan Clarke and John Rebus, this novel has as added value the backdrop of both the G8 and the terrorist bombings of London on 11/7.

These historic events serve to place events in a credible reality created by Rankin which adds depth and impact to the story. As usual he combines a tangle of crimes for the pair to solve from rapists to activists to the usual low life's who inhabit the streets of Edinburgh.

I enjoyed this read as much as most of his others though did feel at times that I lost the thread of some of the plots.

The saving grace as always is the enigmatic relationship between Rebus and Siobhan and the fascinating insights into the crime underworld of the city of Edinburgh.

Angie Rhodes

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Edel Waugh

This is book 16 in the Rebus series and it just keeps getting better and better. This book primarily centres around the G8 summit in Edinburgh and a serial killer on the loose, both making the police a little twitchy. Rebus seems to be loosening up a lot since the series started, he has more of a sense of humour and with a rapier wit at times. He is casually excellent at his job.

We see a lot more of Siobhan in this book than we ever did before and I really liked that. She is a very likeable character and I would love to see her more centrally in future plots.

I recommend this to all Rebus fans.