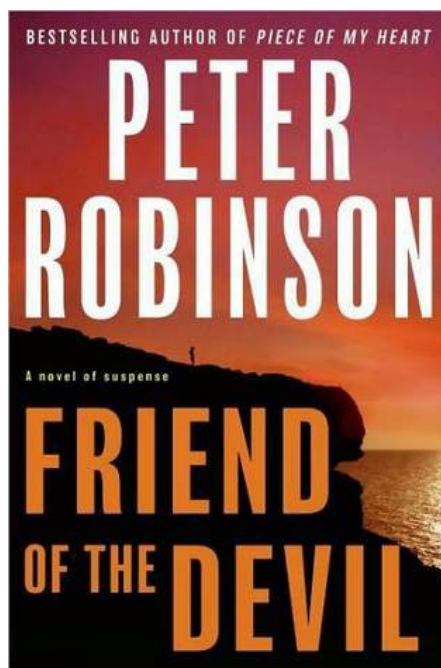




Friend Of The Devil

Peter Robinson

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New York Times bestselling and Edgar award-winning author Peter Robinson—a riveting double homicide leaves two seasoned detectives baffled as they race against the clock before more corpses surface.

Two murders . . . two towns . . .

A woman sits in a wheelchair perched on a cliff high above the sea, her throat slit from ear to ear . . .

In a maze of narrow alleys behind a market square, a teenaged girl has been murdered after a night of drunken revelries with her friends.

The seemingly senseless Cliffside killing falls to Inspector Annie Cabbot, on loan to a local police department. The terrible death of young Hayley Daniels becomes Chief Inspector Alan Banks's investigation. But shattering revelations threaten to awaken the slumbering demons of earlier, darker times, and more blood is in the offing when the two cases brutally and unexpectedly collide.

Friend of the Devil is a chilling, brilliant, and utterly mesmerizing novel of suspense.

Friend Of The Devil Details

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Author : Peter Robinson

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From Reader Review Friend Of The Devil for online ebook

Karen Brooks says

Number 17 in the Inspector Banks canon, *Friend of the Devil*, was the first of Robinson's books that I'd seen as a TV show (terrific) before reading. As a consequence, I read the novel with a sense of knowing the outcome but not being one hundred per cent sure – and that's the beauty of book to TV translations, they are never quite the same. The book, of course, has far more detail, takes time to unpack scenes and explore characters inner thoughts in a way the TV cannot. So, even though I "knew" the story, there was a sense in which I didn't and that made reading a double pleasure.

The novel commences with DI Annie Cabbot being called to the vicious death of a wheelchair bound woman by the sea. When she discovers the identity of the woman who is linked to an old and horrific case that first introduced Annie into Bank's life, the stakes change. This is a high profile case where, it's felt, justice has at last been served. But that doesn't change the fact that a murderer has struck and must be brought to justice. At the same time, Banks is called to investigate the murder of a beautiful, clever and popular young woman who is found in an area known as The Maze in Eastvale.

At first, there seems to be nothing in common with the two cases but, as the investigations proceed and both Banks and Annie are forced to think outside the square, commonalities begin to emerge – commonalities that lead them to discover the lies that have kept dark secrets hidden, and that the killer or killers are closer than they thought.

What I love about Robinson's books, apart from the cases themselves, is that he also delves into and as a consequence develops, the personal lives and friendships between the central characters. Banks and Cabbot have had a rather tumultuous personal relationship and, in this book, it's no exception with Annie making mistakes, feeling judged (something which she is perfectly capable of doing to herself and far more harshly than those close to her, despite what she thinks) and failing to trust those who only have her best interests at heart. Likewise, Banks doesn't know how to recapture the friendship he's enjoyed with Annie nor reconcile the loss he feels now that their intimate relationship has ended.

Nonetheless, this doesn't directly affect their ability to work together as a team nor acknowledge each other's strengths just as they accept each other's weaknesses. Something all the officers do to a greater and lesser degree.

Another fine addition to such a consistently strong and utterly readable series.

Mara Pemberton says

I know I should have listened to this series in order, but when you download books from Overdrive or one of the other library download programs, you don't always have a choice in which books the library has that you can download because of archaic laws or copyright laws, and the whim of publishers.

Eadie says

This novel was about 2 separate murders that in the end came together and were linked to murders from 18 years ago. The plot had lots of twists and turns and kept the pages turning right up to the very surprising ending. I would recommend reading *Aftermath* and *Caedmon's Song* before reading this one as some of the characters were connected to the characters in those two books. I now look forward to reading the next installment in the Inspector Banks series and I highly recommend this series to those who like mystery

suspense thrillers and suggest that you read them in order.
4.5 stars

Scribblegirl says

I can tell you without having to look it up that Peter Robinson is in his 50's. And probably going thru male menopause.

I can tell you this because his main character, Inspector Alan Banks, is in *his* 50's and seems to be going through male menopause, and because Robinson is obsessed with making sure I know every single excruciating detail of Banks' fictional life, from what he has at mealtimes to the hipness level of the music Banks is listening to, including song title, band/artist name, and which album said song can be found on in the real world. It's unbefrigginglievably, relentlessly, tedious.

In addition to Robinson's obsession with the mundane details of his main character's life - the one with which he so painfully obviously identifies - there are the unrelated leaps in plot "logic" to contend with, and two stories which must be related, but which, halfway thru this excruciating read, are not yet connected to each other. Add in female characters who are unbelievably uptight and unrealistic, and you have a book I'm only reading because I've nothing else in the house to occupy my scant free moments with.

I find it mind-boggling that Robinson has actually written something like 18 of these horrendous Banks yarns and that at least one of them was a bestseller. He is, without a doubt, one of the WORST writers I have ever had the misfortune to read. It makes me angry legions of trees were sacrificed for the publication of a single one of his stories, let alone all the ones that have been published, in all their various formats. If I could give this travesty a negative star count, I would. Don't waste your time.

update: finished this book and promptly ripped it to shreds to save anyone else who might chance it. dreck.

Clare O'Beara says

I have enjoyed earlier books in this series more, but this is still a well crafted set of cases.

I was surprised by Annie Cabot's going off the rails and as much by the younger lad she picks up almost stalking her after she makes it clear she's not interested. Couldn't he find a girl his own age? Banks comes across as purposeless outside his job and starts an unlikely relationship with a much younger lady.

The crimes are serious but it's odd how this Eastvale station doesn't tackle tractor theft, cannabis growhouses or other major crimes. Just bizarre deaths. I did feel too many crimes were being shoehorned into the tale, past and present. And if a girl is killed in a maze of dark lanes in town, why is no council official involved, when you would expect them to be under pressure to put up serious lighting for public safety.

This is a complex and maybe over-clever tale with a lot of names to keep straight and case files expanding like concertinas, so not the best place to start the series.

Allie says

Robinson's latest thriller in paperback, it seems rushed and ill-conceived. There are too many coincidences, too many pat answers, too simple a conclusion. I was not satisfied and I hope for better from Robinson's next novel.

Paula Dembeck says

In the seventeenth addition to the series, the reader visits ghosts from a past investigation as once again Robinson is able to create a tangled web of mystery surrounding two horrendous crimes.

Annie has been working in the Eastern area, seconded to help them during a period when they are short of staff. This time Annie and Alan become involved in working on two different murder cases, both of them vicious crimes.

Banks is investigating the rape and murder of Hayley Daniels, a beautiful nineteen year old whose body was found in the Maze, an old abandoned storage area with a labyrinth of alleys, nooks and crannies located near the city center. Most of the buildings are inhabitable and going through the Maze is really a shortcut to nowhere. People know to stay away from there after dark, where condoms and needles are often found littering the dark corners and dusty floors. Hayley had been brutally raped and strangled, found by a nearby shop owner who used the facility to store his remnant leather goods.

Meanwhile Annie at the Spring Hill Police Station is investigating the puzzling murder of a twenty-eight year old quadriplegic, who was taken in her wheelchair to a nearby cliff. There, as she sat unable to move or speak, her throat was slit and she had bled to death. Is this a mercy killing or did someone benefitted from her death? The clues to the murder may lie deep in the woman's past. Annie must unravel a tangled web to identify the victim and the solution to the murder results in some horrific conclusions.

Banks is not struggling as much in his personal life. He is still not smoking, although he still gets the urge to pick up a cigarette every once in a while. He is beginning to like driving the Porsche he inherited from Roy and although he initially thought he might get rid of it, he likes the way it hugs the roads and thinks he'll hang on to it. He is slowly rebuilding his collection of jazz CDs and is enjoying his nights with his books, his wine and his music. There may even be an interesting new relationship in his future and Banks is acting like an excited schoolboy at the thought.

He and Annie are still on shaky ground in their personal relationship, but they are able to work together which is a step forward. Annie out on a tear one night foolishly becomes involved with a young man who she later wishes she had never met. She goes through a rough patch with Banks and also Winsome, who she truly thought was a friend.

Dr. Glendenning the pathologist has retired and has been replaced by Dr. Wallace who we met in the last book in the series. She is less flamboyant, a much quieter person who proceeds with her work in a no nonsense manner.

Kevin Templeton has been promoted to sergeant, but the rest of the team do not like his unsavory or idiosyncratic methods, his callous disregard for people's feelings and his overactive libido. Banks is concerned that he is throwing a wrench into the team and perhaps needs to be transferred out.

Robinson continues his music references, all neatly within the context of the plot, reviving memories of Alan's past. It is one way Robinson adds layers of complexity to Alan's character and keeps the readers interested after all these many books.

Chrissa Vasileiou says

Η ?ποψ? μου για το βιβλ?ο στο site "Book City" και τον παρακ?τω σ?νδεσμο: Παρ?α με τον δι?βολο

Tina says

Once again we have two separate murder investigations going on here. In my opinion, his writing gets better with each book. So far there are currently 23 DCI Banks books out and I'm on a mission to catch up with the series. Then I can eagerly await publication of the newest book in the future.

This book, Friend of the Devil, is number 17 in the series.

DI Annie Cabbot has been loaned out to neighboring police force but she is in touch with Eastvale Police as the two investigations appear to relate to one another.

Alan Banks is paired with obnoxious DS Kevin Templeton and one of my new favorite characters, Winsome Jackman. Winsome is a 6 foot black female detective hailing from Jamaica. You can imagine the stir she causes in the quiet Yorkshire dales since they've never had any ethnicity in the police force before.

In Banks' investigation we have a collage-aged drunken female who was found raped and murdered in The Maze. There are many suspects but the murderer wasn't who I thought it would be. Great job of keeping that a mystery up until the end. I wish he had written about the murdered girl's family again though, see them have closure.

Detective Inspector Annie Cabbot's investigation involves a wheel-chair bound woman who had her throat slit. Why would anyone want to harm a paraplegic? That is revealed, as well as a blast-from-the-past from a previous book, when they discover the murderer in this case.

At the 60% mark there was a huge twist and surprise! As always what I love about Alan Banks is the dedication to the job as well as his personal life interests of literature, music and food. Reading some reviews there are folks who only want the murder investigation and have zero interest in the personal life and loves of our detectives. I like the balance of knowing who these people are when they aren't working. It makes them more rounded characters for me.

There was quite a bit of food mentioned in this book as many discussions take place in a pub. At one point Banks meet someone in a wine bar and enjoyed a good wine and baked brie with toasted baguette. Yorkshire puddings, sausages, vegetarian meals, Black Sheep ales and more.

Joey Woolfardis says

Just another one of those nondescript crime fiction books with a protagonist that is neither particularly smart or great at relationships, and a plot that relies on things just happening as opposed to anyone working things out, science-related or otherwise. The same kind of crime, the same kind of characters, the same kind of decent enough writing but not great enough to be anything except escapism. He can't write women, though. They're either victims or Victorian prudes.

Kathy says

So that is my fill of Peter Robinson for a time. I did enjoy the production of the Banks series a bit more than the reading if I can count on my memory. This book had some gruesome and rather inappropriate sexual content, e.g. comments about heightened sexual fulfillment reported by young women of the time who favored Brazilians...made by the female pathologist to Banks...Really?!

How far have I fallen? Bad enough reading of raped and murdered young women, violated in every possible way, but then having this kind of discussion while dissecting a body...No more, thanks.

Now I MUST message my daughter not to read this review as it could sicken her dear sensitive soul.

Marisa says

The latest adventure for DCI Alan Banks and his second-in-charge Annie Cabbott brings back the spectre of one of their most haunting past cases. I won't say who it is - it's too much fun to feel that gasp of surprise! This case involves the murder of two women - both complex, compelling cases. The police procedural is as usual gripping and smart. But for me, the real focus was the spiral that Annie Cabbott finds herself in as she comes face-to-face with her own personal demons. She is drinking too much, she is making choices that could jeopardize her career, and there is an embarrassing incident involving Banks. Annie is coming to grips with her troubled past and her real feelings for Banks, just as she has pushed him away, again. It would be agonizing, if I could only tear myself away from this latest instalment in a wonderful series. On to book #17!

Monica says

The 17th book in Peter Robinson's series...and just as good as all the other books before it. Robinson's methodical and precise style of writing is always a delight to read. Alan Banks and DI Annie Cabbot are each involved in a case of murder. The book moves between both murder stories, sometimes separately and sometimes overlapping them. Robinson brings in the story line from one of his standalone books, "Caedmon's Song". Although Banks didn't appear in this book at all it plays a big role in "Friend of the Devil".

Robinson continues to build on both the professional and personal lives of both Banks and Cabbot. While some people may find it cumbersome to read about all the little details of Alan's and Annie's lives, this is what builds strong and believable characters who I come to time and time again when I want to get lost in a good mystery. The ending of the book is strong and believable.

Damaskcat says

If you are reading this series out of order make sure you read number 12 - 'Aftermath' before you read this one as it gives away the ending of that book and is a continuation of it in many ways. DI Annie Cabbot is on loan to Eastern Area and is working in the murder of a woman in a wheelchair on a cliff at Whitby. She couldn't have got there by herself and it wasn't suicide so who would have had a motive to do the deed?

Meanwhile, back in Eastvale, DCI Banks is involved in the brutal rape and murder of a young woman in an alley which is part of an area of the town known as The Maze.

Annie and Alan are not getting on well but neither is quite sure why. But two investigations which look as though they could be linked in ways which are far from clear mean they really do need to talk to each other and compare notes. This is a gripping and well written novel with plenty of nail biting moments and a very tense conclusion. No one will be the same when the murderer or murderers are discovered.

If you enjoy crime stories with believable and likeable characters, excellent plots which are very well written with plenty of psychological depth to them then this could be the series you are looking for. I have been reading them back to back now for the last couple of months and I am still enjoying them - which is always the test of a good series.

Tony says

FRIEND OF THE DEVIL. (2007). Peter Robinson. **1/2.

According to the information on the jacket, this was the 17th in this author's Inspector Banks series of novels. I haven't read all of them in any kind of order – unless random is an order – and have usually come away with satisfaction after a two-night read. In this episode, I got the feeling that Robinson had done some comparison shopping in the mystery section of his local bookstore. All of the idiosyncrasies of other popular writers have been included in this novel in order to give it a sense of immediacy – but which only tend to slow down the story by filling the pages with irrelevant detail. Based on previous experience with Robinson's writing I had expected leaner writing and an actual stab at police procedural writing. It wasn't in this book. The story kind of grinds itself out, and Inspector Banks seemingly stands back and watches as events occur. I hope Robinson gets back on track and makes Banks an "Inspector" again rather than just an on-looker from the sidelines.
