



Past Reason Hated

Peter Robinson

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From *New York Times* bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author Peter Robinson comes this gripping thriller—in the tradition of Louise Penny and Elizabeth George—set in a picturesque Yorkshire village during the upcoming Christmas season...but one of its residents will not be celebrating this holiday.

Chief Inspector Alan Banks knows that secrecy can sometimes prove fatal, and secrets were the driving force behind Caroline Hartley's life...and death.

She was a beautiful enigma, brutally stabbed in her own home three days prior to Christmas. Leaving her past behind for a forbidden love affair, she mystified more than a few. And now she is dead, clothed only in her unshared mysteries and her blood.

In this season of giving and forgiving, Banks is eager to absolve the innocent of their sins. But that must wait until the many facets of a perplexing puzzle are exposed and the dark circle of his investigation finally closes...and when a killer makes the next move.

Past Reason Hated is a relentlessly suspenseful novel that shows why Peter Robinson is one of the world's most acclaimed and popular mystery writers.

Past Reason Hated Details

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Author : Peter Robinson

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From Reader Review Past Reason Hated for online ebook

Gloria Feit says

From the publisher: Chief Inspector Alan Banks knows that secrets can prove fatal, and secrets were the driving force behind Caroline Hartley's life . . . and death. She was brutally stabbed in her own home three days prior to Christmas. Leaving her past behind for a forbidden love affair, she mystified more than a few. And now she is dead. In this season of giving and forgiving, Banks is eager to absolve the innocent of their sins. But that must wait until the dark circle of his investigation finally closes . . . and when a killer makes the next move.

Since she was the only member of the CID on duty that night, newly promoted Detective Constable Susan Gay, on only her second day on the job at the CID at Eastvale Regional Headquarters, finds the challenge quite exciting. A call had come in from a neighbor of the dead woman, who had gone rushing into the street screaming. As the tale proceeds, there are references to the current public image of the force, tarnished by race riots, sex scandals and accusations of high-level corruption. As the investigation unfolds, there are quite a number of suspects among the various friends, family and colleagues of the dead woman, which after a while made it a little difficult to differentiate among them. Banks' erudition in matters of classical music comes in very handy, as a piece of music, playing on an old-fashioned phonograph at the murder scene, becomes a disturbing clue that he feels is very significant as his investigation continues. And then they realize that the dead woman was in a lesbian relationship

Banks, now 39 years old, had only been promoted to Detective Superintendent only a few weeks ago, is still "learning the ropes," and is always a fascinating protagonist who has come to trust his instincts, as has the reader.

Susan has also been tasked with looking into a series of vandalisms that have taken place in the area, and the author switches p.o.v. from Banks to that of Susan from time to time, making for some very interesting reading. But that's something we have come to expect from Mr. Robinson; this book is as beautifully written as his numerous prior novels. This is the fifth of what is now 22 entries in the series. Although I must admit that I found it a slow read in the early going as the case plods along, the pace soon picks up. I must add that the many wonderfully descriptive sections of the wintry weather that prevails and its effects on driving and walking had me going to my closet for a warm sweater!

The book concludes with an excerpt from the next book in the series to follow this one, "When the Music's Over," and I have no doubt that that entry, as is this one, will be highly recommended.

Ivonne Rovira says

Poor Chief Detective Inspector Alan Banks! You would think Christmastime in the Yorkshire Dales, where he works, would be a slow time, giving him time to spend with his wife Sandra and his children, Tracy and Brian. No such luck!

It is only after Caroline Hartley, the manager of an Eastvale café and an enthusiastic newcomer to the Eastvale Amateur Theatrical Society, is found stabbed to death that so many secrets come to light: her lesbian relationship with the wife of a renowned classical composer, her wild years in London, her

childhood. Where in this 26-year-old woman's life lies the key to why she was brutally killed? With her lover, Veronica Sheldon? With Veronica's estranged husband, Claude Ivers, who believes that Caroline enticed his wife away from him? With Gary Hartley, Caroline's much-younger brother, who resents her fleeing the family home and leaving him to cope with their invalid father? With one of Caroline's castmates from the Eastvale Amateur Theatrical Society? With someone from Caroline's six years in London, about which no one seems to know much? Or does the key lie elsewhere?

Past Reason Hated, although a bit dated when it comes to same-sex relationships (the novel was first released in 1992), doesn't quite measure up to the suspense of *A Dedicated Man* or *The Hanging Valley*, but I enjoyed this novel just the same. It was nice to get to know Susan Gay, newly minted as a detective constable, a little better and to see Banks back in his London milieu.

Karen Brooks says

For all that I adore Peter Robinson's Inspector Banks books, this one frustrated me. In all fairness, it still had wonderful characters, Banks himself demonstrating compassion and empathy towards suspects and guiding, through example, a new and eager DC, Susan, as she embarks on her first case. Peripheral characters are roundly drawn and you get a marvellous sense of them with merely a few words or some dialogue - something Robinson does so well. Place and the season are also evoked with flair. What irritated me was the fact that usually the criminal and the motive behind the crime are buried beneath a mountain of clues and the reader joins Banks as he digs and sieves through the layers, each chapter bringing us closer, each page leading towards a revelation that can leave you on the edge of your seat. In this way, we delight in various discoveries; the links formed and enjoy the 'light bulb' moment where everything becomes clear. With this book, the murderer and the rationale for the crime are apparent within pages. It is quite obvious and while ordinarily this doesn't detract (too much) from the pleasure of embarking on the investigation, in this instance it was annoying and spoiled the reading and investigative experience. This is because 'knowing' Banks as a regular reader does, there is no reason that he too wouldn't be aware, so you become bothered by his overlooking of the apparent. Instead, a red herring is planted at the beginning and in a burst of irksome perseverance, Banks cannot let it go and it preoccupies him (and thus the reader) at the expense of clues staring him in the face.

Throughout the book, Banks expresses his exasperation with this case and the fact that he feels something is eluding him. Yes, it was and it didn't ring true to his character and his ability to laterally think, to understand the criminal mind and, most obviously, the blatant clues strewn before him. That the new DC Susan also fails (conveniently for the author) to pass on information that would lead to identifying the killer is just hair-tearingly stupid. I won't spoil it by revealing what was evident, but I wonder if other readers felt the same? I kept reading hoping, believing I was wrong in my assumptions... Disappointingly, I wasn't and so ended up pissed off with Banks for being so thick-headed! But, perhaps this is also a sign of how invested I am in the books and the principal character - I know he is better than this (as is Robinson). I still adore the books, but this one wasn't as clever or satisfying as the others.

Larraine says

When the body of Carolyn Hartley is found brutally murdered, it soon becomes apparent that there could be

a great many motives. Hartley was gay and living with her lover, but had left home at young age and worked as an exotic dancer and prostitute. Her lover is a slightly older woman who fell in love with Carolyn and left a marriage that had been sterile and unhappy for a long time. So there are no end of possible suspects.

I've been reading the Alan Banks books for years although I didn't start at the beginning. So now I'm catching up to the earlier Alan Banks books. This is one that I found a little unsatisfying. At the end when Banks says he is running out of suspects, you know "who done it" as the saying goes. There is an incident at the beginning of the book that you KNEW was connected with the murder. However, the investigation is being handled by an inexperienced officer. You know Banks would have put two and two together. Or maybe not.

This wasn't as good as the previous book of his I read, "In A Dry Season" or even more recent or older ones. Still, I'm not going to complain. It was still very interesting and readable.

Thomas Strömquist says

Good Inspector Banks story, a classical whodunit quite mellowly paced. Actually reminiscent of Sjöwall/Wahlöö, such as: Roseanna & The Locked Room. Most interesting for the developing and continuing story of Inspector Banks and the people around him perhaps, but the mystery is good too and the ending quite suspenseful.

Marwan says

I didn't like this book as much as the previous one. Usually the killer (least one expected) is revealed in the final chapters after obtaining multiple clues through the investigation. In this one, however you get a hunch about his/her identity after finishing 60% of the story. And I hate it when my hunch is right. Other than that it was a fine book.

Chief Inspector Alan Banks is called to investigate the murder of Caroline Hartley who's found stabbed to death at her home. Just like her death, Caroline's life was mysterious even among the people who knew her, so Banks starts digging into her past. However, more suspects emerge as he keep digging and everyone is hiding something.

Charlotte (Buried in Books) says

Another relatively quick read (once I got going with it). I've found it's virtually impossible for me to read books set at Christmas at other times of the year. I originally started this in June, but just lost interest, so as we're now in the holiday season I picked it back up.

The body of a young woman is found brutally stabbed by the woman she shares a house with on the 22nd December. Caroline Hartley was a teenage runaway, who ended up on the game in London. Years later she returned to the north and had eventually settled down with an older woman - Veronica (who had left her husband to be with her). No-one seemed to be aware that the two women were in a relationship.

Caroline was in rehearsals for the local amateur dramatics production of Twelfth Night.

There are a lot of red herrings in this book, from Caroline's troubled childhood, to her time in London. Even Veronica's husband (who clearly wanted his wife back).

Written in 1991 there are aspects of the story that are horribly dated (people's reactions to same-sex relationships for one). But it was a very clever story, having said that I did figure out who did it about 3/4's of the way through. Too much was made of the mystery woman who was having trouble walking in the snow in high heels - that's when it clicked for me. The fact that they were putting on Twelfth Night as well. The fact that Susan's old teacher (director of the play) had taken such an interest in her.

Good story, but it ended far too abruptly.

Jenn says

Not my favourite Inspector Banks mystery. I'm still not sure how I felt about the detective Susan. And the murderer was a tad odd to me. All that background work on the victim, all that time spent on the play. I guess I prefer his later novels.

Eadie says

A picturesque Yorkshire village is dressed in its finest for the upcoming Noel. But one of its residents will not be celebrating this holiday.

Chief Inspector Alan Banks knows that secrecy can sometimes prove fatal and secrets were the driving force behind Caroline Hartley's life and death. She was a beautiful enigma, brutally stabbed in her own home three days prior to Christmas. Leaving her past behind for a forbidden love affair, she mystified more than a few. And now she is dead, clothed only in her unshared mysteries and her blood. In this season of giving and forgiving, Banks is eager to absolve the innocent of their sins. But that must wait until the many facets of a perplexing puzzle are exposed and the dark circle of his investigation finally closes and when a killer makes the next move.

My Review:

This was a very interesting mystery with different characters and plot and I enjoyed it very much but not as much as some of the others I have read. I know this series keeps getting better and better so I do look forward to reading more from Peter Robinson.

Bill Lynas says

Neil Pearson does a fine job of reading Peter Robinson's fifth story featuring Chief Inspector Alan Banks. Unfortunately the story does not live up to the quality of the narration, & the suspects are never fully developed beyond shallow stereotypes.

Hopefully this is just a weak entry in what is proving to be a highly entertaining series.

Donna says

I'm hovering between 2 and 3 stars. This is my second novel by this author, Peter Robinson. I like the MC, Inspector Banks. He sounds like an all around good guy. I liked the dialog the most, even when it was feeling overused. It helped to lend credibility to the characters. I also liked the other characters, but they seemed quite distant. I never felt like I got to know any of them. I wasn't pulled in and I think it is because this was a different sort of Crime/Mystery book than what I'm used to. The MC methodically spends his time sifting through the clues and going from interview to interview. That didn't make for an interesting read especially since it was easy to conclude who did it.

Also, some of the ideas perpetuated about gay/lesbian living were antiquated and seem to date this book. Overall, I still liked the characters and the methodical approach in its investigation. So, 3 stars.

David Highton says

A murder by multiple stabbing of a beautiful young woman in a lesbian relationship just before Christmas kicks off an elongated police procedural as Banks and his team chase down all the leads - Robinson's usual strong character development makes this an absorbing read.

Lori says

A lesbian woman who was in an amateur production of Twelfth Night is murdered. Does the motive lie in the present or in the past? Chief Inspector Banks and his team, which now includes Inspector Susan Gay, must puzzle it out. Everyone seems to be hiding something. Sergeant Hatchley married and received a promotion, moving to a coastal town, but still serving under Banks. The murder takes place just before Christmas. Most seasoned mystery readers will determine the perpetrator early, but the pacing of the investigation keeps readers interested regardless. I listened to the audio version read by James Langton who does a good job as usual.

Lawyer says

Past Reason Hated: Inspector Banks at Twelfth Night

Review to follow.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

Caroline Hartley was a beautiful enigma, brutally stabbed in her own home three days prior to Christmas. Leaving her past behind for a forbidden love affair, she mystified more than a few. And now she is dead.

Peter Robinson's Inspector Banks series just keeps getting better and better.

I love his attention to detail, particularly to the little things in his character's lives that makes them more human or real to us, allowing letting minutiae to overtake the storyline.
