



## Sleeping in the Ground

*Peter Robinson*

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## **Sleeping in the Ground** Peter Robinson

A shocking mass-murder occurs at a wedding in a small Dales church and a huge manhunt follows. Eventually, the shooter is run to ground and things take their inevitable course.

But Banks is plagued with doubts as to exactly what happened outside the church that day, and why. Struggling with the death of his first serious girlfriend and the return of profiler Jenny Fuller into his life, Banks feels the need to dig deeper into the murders, and as he does so, he uncovers forensic and psychological puzzles that lead him to the past secrets that might just provide the answers he is looking for.

When the surprising truth becomes clear, it is almost too late.

## **Sleeping in the Ground Details**

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Author : Peter Robinson

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## From Reader Review Sleeping in the Ground for online ebook

### Ron Chicaferro says

If you want to know how the British police organize, investigate and capture criminals this is the book to read - - It is amazingly thorough - you are part of the team that Detective Superintendent Banks leads in the search for a spree killer. You will work alongside Banks and his subordinates as they try and solve a very tough case. A sniper shoots and kills a number of participants in a wedding party - the hunt is on and everyone in Banks' team is leading the charge - this is a painful case and everyone wants it solved - now. An excellent addition to the "Inspector Banks" books.

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### Christine says

Although I have not followed DCI Banks religiously from the start, I am pretty fond of him. I decided to read Sleeping in the Ground for Yorkshire Day. Sleeping in the Ground is the twenty fourth book from Peter Robinson. Impressive! Yorkshire Day is celebrated on 1st August every year.

It all starts with a wedding and a funeral. A sniper has taken out people at a wedding. Blood shed. Murder. A red wedding. A rampage killer is at large, in a gorgeous Yorkshire Dales setting. Banks and Annie, his long term side kick, are drafted in to solve this unusual case. It appears to be an open and shut case. On a personal level, Banks is mourning the death of his first love. This causes him much reflection.

Robinson shows that he is top of his game with Sleeping in the Ground. He describes a truly terrible event, with such expertise and humanity. We get a real sense of the slaughter at the wedding, as the guests are shot or dying. It is carnage. There is no sense of the author exploiting this. I was moved and chilled to the bone.

I like Banks. Although he is a bit of a misery guts and far too introspective. His love of poetry is quirky and slightly irritating. No one really likes poetry do they? He is probably a little bit too posh for me. He is a top detective, with decent instincts. I also love his team. Jenny Fuller is back from Australia and working as a profiler on the case. They have a past. I wanted to shout at Banks. Stop over thinking. Just get together with Jenny. Do it! I am sure men do not over think like that.

Another top crime tale for Banks and co in beautiful Yorkshire. I must admit that I am glad I never stopped reading this series. It is stellar!

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### MadProfessah says

I have read every DCI Alan Banks and they are now very familiar and comfortable reading experiences. It's not like the books have become interchangeable or stagnant, but there are features which tend to reappear. For example the books are all set in Northern England, in and around Eastvale a small town in Yorkshire. They feature Alan Banks, a smart, music-loving, working-class bloke who became a policeman for no apparent reason and has advanced up the ranks to his current title of Detective Superintendent.

The supporting characters in the books have evolved (and grown more prominent) in the more recent books, with Robinson adding DI Annie Cabot, Chief Superintendent Catherine Gervaise and DC Geraldine "Gerry" Masterson to balance out the central role Banks plays. Sadly, in SLEEPING IN THE GROUND, my favorite

supporting character , DS Winsome Jackson hardly appears (for reasons I won't divulge here).

The mystery at the center of this entry in the long running Banks series is both more and less interesting than usual. There's a horrific mass shooting (at a wedding, no less) to begin the book and when a body of a man with his fingerprints matching a weapon that fired the bullets at the scene is found with a self-inflicted fatal wound it appears as if the mystery is over before it has begun. But of course there are developments which lead to a reopening of this apparent open-and-shut case....

In addition to the main mystery we get a lot more internal dialogue from Banks as he ponders his romantic future and past. A blast from the past, the lovely psychological profiler Jenny Fuller who appeared in some of the very early (like books 8-11) Banks books, has returned to Eastvale and she ends up working with the police to try and identify and understand the mind of a person who can shoot a dozen shots into a wedding (killing both bride and groom).

In addition to Banks we also follow Annie's thoughts for awhile. Even more importantly we also get the POV of Gerrie, who is the most junior member of the team but who eventually makes the most important breakthroughs leading to the eventual denouement and resolution of the case at hand.

Overall, SLEEPING IN THE GROUND is a better than average entry into the British police procedural oeuvre, and for longtime Robinson readers like myself, an enjoyable and familiar diversion.

3.5 STARS.

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### **Thomas Strömquist says**

Far from a top Banks' it's still obvious that Robinson's books are a notch above most in the genre. As usual, it's great to re-visit the characters that one knows so well by now and the story and narrative flows nicely as ever. An odd case, someone goes on a killing spree on a local wedding, turns out to have long stretching ties in the past. A straightforward enough story with a logical - but very satisfying - end. Three stars is by comparison only, if I wasn't so spoiled by many of the 24(!) others in the series, I'd award it a 4. If you are only to read one single Banks novel... ..why?

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### **Barbara says**

Banks is a detective I have been reading for years and installment #24 doesn't disappoint. It opens with a sniper attack on a wedding, a shocking event no matter where it occurs but in rural Yorkshire it is incomprehensible. Banks is faced with a puzzle that has not obvious point of entry to a solution. This novel relies on plodding police work, and noticing the tiniest irregularity. Banks is called in to work on his way home from a funeral. The person who has died was one of Bank's first loves, and her funeral is a reminder to Banks of how quickly life can go by.

As always, Banks is a repository of musical knowledge. Music serves many purposes for Banks - to clear his mind, and to think deeper. Single malts and local beers are mentioned often providing a treat for readers who know them or don't and have something to look forward to. Annie is still part of his team, as well as a new team member, Gerry, a profiler and someone Allan was involved with years earlier.

Banks must be close to mandatory retirement age for the police force, though his age is not mentioned.

Based on the clever detective work that leads the police to the guilty party, Banks still has a lot of life in him. This is a must read for fans of Banks and for those who are new to the series, it can be read without having read the earlier books. It's a 4.5 for me because 5 means super awesome.

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### **Christina McLain says**

You've got to hand it to Peter Robinson. The guy really knows how to write a cracking mystery novel, filled with interesting characters such as his cynical sidekick Annie Cabbot, and the lovely Winsome and fearless young Gerry Masterton. Even his old boss Gristhorpe, with his "endless stone wall building project", makes an appearance in this study of a mass killing with ties to a long past murder. The descriptions of the scenic Yorkshire hills and dales don't hurt either. BUT this book, as do several of his other more recent works, comes with two caveats: first, Robinson peppers his novels with endless endless endless references to music from Schubert to Pink Floyd. A music aficionado might love this, but for many readers, the references are intrusive and irritating. Instead of shining a light on the character of DS Alan Banks (the main detective), they come off as braggadocio --as if the author is showing off his extensive knowledge of music. And secondly, as I have mentioned before in a previous review, Banks should be renamed Bond, yes James Bond, for the number of women, both young and old but yes, it must be said, often much YOUNGER WOMEN, who harbour romantic feelings for the 60ish detective. In this book alone, Banks learns from an acquaintance that his long lost first love never stopped adoring him and then we also learn that a former female colleague - -who comes back after 25 years in Australia --has never gotten over him. Now this is all fine and dandy, but as some male and most female readers already know, Annie Cabbot his former lover and current sidekick (and yes 15 years his junior) still carries a torch for Banks AND now we discover that his 20something DC, Gerry Masterson, finds him attractive. Now maybe there are dozens of cute young things with daddy complexes or desires to feather their own nests hanging around Yorkshire but in my experience not many 25 year olds are attracted to 60 year old men. The guy is not George Clooney or Hugh Hefner. Or Ben Affleck. Really it has got to be the author's fantasy and it sadly detracts from an otherwise excellent book. Just sayin'...

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### **Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says**

My View:

I applaud Peter Robinson on his opening chapter - he has managed to put humanness, individuals, people... back into the narrative of mass murders, thrill/spree killings. Too often we view the landscape with the lens of a camera - we "see" reporting's, documenting of such real life atrocities without emotion, as if the deaths and maiming are without consequence, without pain or effect on others. "If the incident was a scene in a film, it would have looked beautiful. The violence would have taken place in elegantly choreographed silence and slow motion...but the way Terry Gilchrist saw it - and he was there -it was as swift as it was brutal...a crack...a dull thud, then a patch of blood spread over the bride's chest. Her body arched... blood soaked white chiffon and lace, her mouth open, the scream forever struck in her throat...it was all finished in less than a minute. One of the fallen guests was moaning with pain. Nearby, a bridesmaid sat propped up against a gravestone crying, her hands pressed to her bloody midriff where something wet and shiny rested in her lap..." chapter 1

The introduction is bloody, brutal and honest. You cannot help but be affected by the sufferings here. Consequences are felt.

But don't be put off by the graphic violence in this chapter - it serves its purpose well - it reminds us that people are suffering, it connects the reader with the brutal event and the survivors and the first chapter is the

only truly gruesome scene in the book. We read on to discover the motivation of the villain, we discover the long reaching effects of the crime, the effects on those attending the wedding - injured or not and the effects on those who have to deal with these types of situations – the medics, doctors, police... It is a shocking reminder that these type of events happen to real people, not to two dimensional characters on a screen.

Further the plot is nuanced with Banks's personal experience of death and mourning (of a once close friend) as he reflects on life, death and love. Consequences of actions/reactions to events in the past are also explored in a meaningful way. This is a multi-layered narrative.

This is the twenty-fourth book in the DCI Banks series but it can easily be read as a standalone. The events that explode on the opening pages are familiar to all, the unravelling of the crime is an engaging and compelling reading.

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### **Diane S ? says**

Twenty fourth in series and still pretty darn fantastic. Impressive, and since I have read this series from the beginning, that means I have been reading this series for almost 2/3rd's of my life.

A wedding and a funeral, beginning and endings. Of course the wedding doesn't turn out well, pure understatement there, and the person in the casket had secrets not revealed to Banks until forty years later. Also, some things are never truly over, there is guilt and revenge, and some people just don't care about new beginnings.

This series is one of the best police procedurals around, well written, tightly plotted, and some very interesting character that have gone through some harrowing times. Banks himself, is a complicated, multi faceted character. Love music, poetry and this series always contains some of these. Introspective, but beginning to rethink his solitary life as he is getting older. Just a balanced mix of case and personal. A series well worth reading.

ARC from edelweiss.

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### **Madison says**

Opposite of a page turner. Forced myself to get through it. Boring.

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### **Kathy says**

After 24 books I still care about Inspector Banks. I'm glad other characters I have liked in the series are still alive vs the televised version of Banks and his team. I enjoy both for different reasons. This book opens with a shocking mass killing of members of a wedding party post ceremony. The investigation becomes focused on events decades old as Banks in his personal life also visits the past.

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## **Brooke — brooklynereads says**

This novel was an amazing surprise!

Upon receiving this novel, I was very hesitant about reading it not knowing how I would feel reading the twenty-fourth book in a series. I thought I would be lost with no idea about what was going on within the story or the characters. Man, I'm happy I was wrong on that account. Yes, reading the previous novels in this series probably would help in understanding the characters more and their backgrounds along with previous crimes; however, it was not a necessity. This book was also amazing as a standalone.

For those who love shows similar to CSI, Criminal Minds, Chicago PD, etc: this book is for you! While reading, I felt like I was reading an episode that was being acted out in my head except with a book you get way more detail. It was awesome! As much as there is a main character of Alan Banks, he's not the only main character. There is a team within his department that also could be considered as main characters (they were to me at least). I really liked this unique aspect to the novel where it didn't feel like it was a sole person's responsibility to solve a crime and instead was more realistic including a network of people.

As for the story, it was extremely well done, definitely one of my favourite murder mysteries of this year (if not one of my favourites ever). It caught my attention from the beginning and I didn't once get bored. I was enthralled in the story and I wasn't able to predict the suspect.....at all. I was able to predict it at one point in the story but that was essentially when it was confirmed. That's a rarity for me. Typically, I'm able to predict the murderer and then I spend the rest of the novel waiting to see how that suspect is discovered.

I hinted at this above but I also really loved the detail of this novel. Although it's a fictional story, it felt well researched. There was scientific and forensic techniques mentioned that added immensely to the story. It made the story one thousand times more realistic than the average murder mystery novel that doesn't reference any of the actual science behind a murder and how it's necessary for evidence.

This book was amazing! Very happy to have read it and I hope to read more from Peter Robinson in the future!

\*\*\*Thank you to Penguin Random House Canada for sending me a physical copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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## **Luanne Ollivier says**

Peter Robinson's Inspector Banks series is one of my hands down favourites. Sleeping in the Ground is the 24th entry.

I have such a delicious sense of anticipation when I open the cover of the latest Banks. I had no idea what the plot was about, but knew I would be in for another great read. I wanted to catch up with characters I've come to know and appreciate. What has gone on in their lives? Robinson keeps them moving forward in real time with each new entry.

Sleeping in the Ground opens with a wedding - and a funeral. A unknown gunman opens fire on a countryside wedding, killing and wounding many. Banks is away attending the memorial service of his first love from forty years ago, when he is called to the scene. He's become quite introspective with her passing, looking at his own life and decisions. But, it seems to be manifesting itself in anger and short tempered outbursts - quite unlike the usually composed Banks.

The killer is identified early on in the book and I wondered where the book could go from there, as there were still many pages remaining. Banks has some niggling doubts though and continues to investigate even as the case is declared solved. Robinson's plot was inventive and completely unpredictable. I truly enjoy being surprised by a mystery as I read so many.

Robinson excels at both plotting and characterizations. As I mentioned earlier, I read this series as much for the mystery as for those who populate the pages. Familiar supporting players are back, including one from Banks' past. The settings and descriptions have me yearning to sit in a pub with a packet of crisps, catching up on the latest.

As always, I enjoy Bank's music selections. I've often put the book down to look up and listen to a song that is playing in the book, curious as to how and why it fits that particular scene or moment. Banks is also into poetry now and those references are also well suited.

Robinson's prose are effortless and so very engaging. Sleeping in the Ground is a stellar entry in this series - and I will be eagerly awaiting number twenty five.

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## **Patty says**

Sleeping In The Ground

By

Peter Robinson

What it's all about...

It's a beautiful day for a wedding. But suddenly shots are fired and both wedding party members as well as guests are left dead and bleeding. It takes the police as well as emergency vehicles longer than normal to get to the dying, bleeding and wounded. By the time they do...the shooter is gone...there is no sign of him anywhere. Inspector Banks...on his way home from a funeral...ends up at the crime scene where there is confusion as well as chaos. No one has seen any sign of the shooter except perhaps a youth staying at a hostel. But a conversation with him leads Inspector Banks and his team no where.

Why I wanted to read it...

I love these books and I think I have read almost all of them. They are filled with mystery, tea, fried breakfasts, meaty pies and complexities.

What made me truly enjoy this book...

I love the character of Inspector Banks. I truly enjoy the way these books are written. I love watching the mystery unfold. It's just a perfect book to snuggle up with on any kind of a day...beachy, rainy, snowy!

Why you should read it, too...

Readers who love intense yet British mysteries should truly enjoy this book just as much as I did.

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### **Kathy Daso says**

what a shame...I love Banks, but this book was a lot to do about nothing. Even the ending which could have been exciting and threatening was anticlimactic. Are we just writing and reading because we don't know how to end Banks?

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### **zoomball says**

I've been a fan all along. However, I found this addition to the series quite tedious as the plot evolved. Also, the musical references, which I once thought of as entertaining, are so numerous as to become irritating to me.

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