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The Falls

Ian Rankin

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IAN RANKIN

The Falls

A BBC RADIO 4 FULL-CAST DRAMATISATION

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Ian Rankin : The Falls before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Falls:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good Detective Yarn from ScotlandBy Llewellyn KingI found The Falls gripping with many twists and turns. I like how human the detectives are and how believable the situations are. This is not great literature but it is right up there with good detective writing. Also, if you have any interest in Edinburgh and things Scots, this is a bonus. A good read all round although Americans may be surprised by the amount of drinking but if you have lived in Britain you know it is an aspect of the culture. If you like detective fiction featuring very human sleuths, this novel is most certainly for you.I'm glad Ian Rankin doesn't do much Scots dialect which can make the going very hard.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful NovelBy Kathleen BarryI am in love with John Rebus. I love his side kicks and new friends. This is an excellent book with a plot as twisted as a cyclone. Well don, Rankin. Can't wait to start the next book in this series.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Story!By SWR44Excellent as usual. I like the increasing focus on his colleagues navigating their own lives. Also this was more personal than some of the organized crime books. All in all one of my favorites.

A full-cast dramatisation of the novel by Ian Rankin. A banker's daughter goes missing from Edinburgh University. Rebus finds a six-inch coffin in her home village, a sinister clue which leads to his discovery that she was involved in an internet game.

.com Edinburgh police detective John Rebus, Ian Rankin's popular series detective, is a brilliantly realized character, as moody, dark, and melancholy as Edinburgh itself. In *The Falls*, he's almost certain that missing university student Philippa Balfour is dead, but he's less sure how she died or what her misadventure has to do with the tiny doll in a hand-sized coffin that turns up near a waterfall on the Balfour family estate. It's not the first coffin found near the scene of a crime; could Philippa be the victim of a serial killer? The only other lead the police have is a cryptic e-mail from someone called Quiz Master, inviting Philippa--and then constable Siobhan Clarke, who responds using Philippa's screen name--to join him in a bizarre scavenger hunt that might lead Clarke to Philippa's body, her killer, or her own death. This time out Rebus has a new boss, who's no happier with his unorthodox style or impolitic attitude toward the Edinburgh establishment than his last one was. But even under department suspension, Rebus manages to tie a number of seemingly disparate and unconnected clues together and deliver a killer in a scene that even the most discerning reader may not see coming until it jumps off the page. A bestseller in the U.K., *The Falls* is Rankin's best yet. --Jane Adams
From Publishers Weekly
A number one U.K. bestseller, Rankin's 13th novel featuring Scottish Det. Insp. John Rebus may be his breakout book in the U.S. Rankin's brilliant evocation of a moody Edinburgh, deeply human characters and labyrinthine plot give dimension to this always absorbing series. With his stubborn insistence on tying up the frayed ends of every knotty clue, and iconoclastic refusal to be a team player, hard-drinking Rebus is a bane to his superiors but a blessing to readers. University student Philippa Balfour, daughter of the powerful head of a private bank, disappears; the few clues are incongruous a puzzling Internet role-playing game she participated in and a doll in a tiny wooden coffin found near her discordant family's home. Rebus's assistant, Det. Constable Siobhan Clarke, tackles the mysterious Internet game; Rebus ignores his superiors by obsessively following the coffin's obscure historical implications, aided by museum curator Jean Burchill, a friend of newly appointed Det. Chief Supt. Gill Templar and a promising anodyne to Rebus's lonely personal life. Readers won't be able to skim this dark, densely written novel, but they won't want to. Artfully placed red herrings, a large cast of multifaceted characters and a gripping pace will keep them engrossed. And Rebus is a character whose devils and idiosyncrasies will leave them eager for more. (Nov. 8)
Forecast: A bestseller in Ireland, Australia and Canada as well, this novel may achieve similar heights here, spurred by a tour by the Edinburgh author, winner of Britain's Gold Dagger Award.
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From Library Journal
In his latest police procedural, Edgar-nominated Rankin (*Set in Darkness*) explores Edinburgh's gruesome past and dark present. Investigating the disappearance of Philippa Balfour, a young woman from a wealthy banking family, Inspector John Rebus has only two clues to work with: an e-mail message on Philippa's computer, indicating that she was playing an online game with the mysterious Quizmaster, and a tiny wooden coffin found near the Balfour family home. While Detective Constable Siobhan Clarke attempts to track down the Quizmaster by playing the game in Philippa's place, Rebus focuses on the coffin. Is there a connection with 18th-century body snatchers, or is the link more contemporary? The possibility of a serial killer also arises. Combining complicated multiple plot lines with finely drawn characters and fascinating Scottish lore and settings, Rankin once again proves himself a master of the gritty British crime novel. For all mystery collections. Wilda Williams, "Library Journal" Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.