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Posted on 07 March 2019 By Peter Robinson

~DOWNLOAD ? Watching the Dark ?

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~DOWNLOAD ? Watching the Dark ? DCI Alan Banks Reluctantly Investigates DI Bill Quinn With Inspector Joanna Passero Quinn, Convalescing At St Peter S Police Treatment Centre, Was Killed By A Crossbow On The Tranquil Grounds, And Left Compromising Photos Quinn May Be Disreputable, Linked To A Vicious Crime In Yorkshire And To A Cold Case English Rachel Hewitt Vanished In Estonia Six Years Ago I have read quite a few Inspector Banks novels by Peter Robinson and though I ve read them out of order Which is fine to do I ve grown very fond of the ethical, gruff and clever DCI Banks and have read enough to be both rewarded and frustrated by where he s at professionally and personally now as I m sure Robinson intends Watching the Dark is the twentieth book in the Banks series and in this novel we find the intrepid inspector investigating the murder of a convalescing peer, DI Bill Quinn, a man recently widowed and who, for some reason, never quite recovered from not being able to solve a case from six years ago about a young English woman who went missing in Estonia When Quinn is found dead with a crossbow in his chest, and compromising photos are found in his room, Professional Standards in the form of the lovely Joanna Passero arrives to partner an irascible Banks on the case. Not long after Passero is assigned, another man, who appears to be an illegal European immigrant, is also found murdered Connections between Quinn and this man and the cold case of the young woman start to emerge It s at that point that Banks understands he has to travel to Estonia and perhaps solve an old case in order to bring the current one to a close and find the killer Given permission to travel overseas, he is furious and frustrated to discover that Passero is to accompany him Able to get under his skin, it s not sparks that fly so much as hair and teeth when Passero and Banks are forced to work closely together Added to this is the fact that Banks old partner, Annie, who has also just come out of extended convalescence, has returned to work Determined to find form and fast, Annie refuses the favours offered by Banks and their boss, except where it means being treated as a fully functioning member of the team Throwing herself back into her job, she s forced to confront her fears and memories and finds, once she becomes heavily involved in the case that the professional can be and is personal as well Nothing and no one is as they seem in this case and the further Banks and Annie delve, the darker and deeper they re drawn into the shady world of prostitution, illegal immigrants and drugs and the cruelty that other humans can and do inflict upon each other I find the I read these books and love them, the uneven they can be as well Robinson has a fabulous way of bringing the characters to life on the page but sometimes, just sometimes, their actions don t always ring quite true and seem to solve a particular narrative purpose rather than be part of their motivation For me, one example here, was the relationship between Passaro and Banks While initially we understood that Banks was annoyed and felt hobbled by the presence of

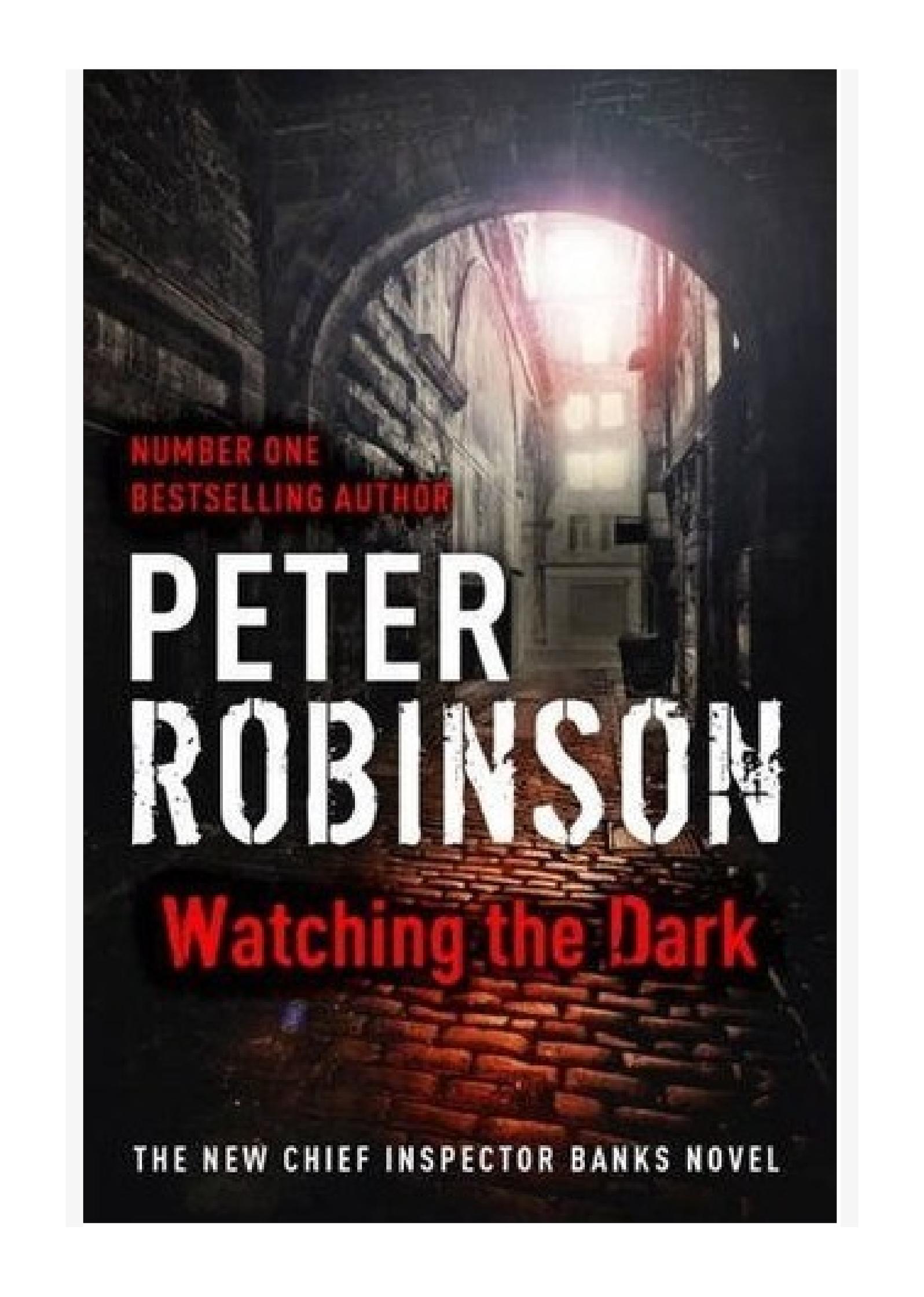
someone from Professional Standards, when he and Passaro have it out and, in his own mind he acknowledges that his beloved Annie also worked for that section and she's not tainted, past novels tell us that Banks would have moved on and work at building the professional relationship with Passaro. In this novel, it doesn't happen and Banks' attitude to Passaro, particularly when they're in Estonia and he reverts back to resentment, galled a bit. Banks is not a misogynist though, typical of his generation, he struggles sometimes with women and what they want, but he has always been respectful and appreciative of what they bring to their professional roles and the workplace. This is proven with Annie. With Passaro, he becomes, as Winsome accuses him at one stage, childish. But then again, I also put this behaviour down to a growing sexual attraction that he might feel for Passaro and the emotional toing and froing that can cause. Likewise, after Passaro unloads to Banks about her personal life, the door is open down the track for romance, so perhaps my comments are unfair and this is what Robinson was setting up but there were times in their relationship at least that the Banks we've grown to know and I guess rely on to be stable was not and that was disconcerting. Love might explain a great deal, however Robinson also explores the seamy and seedy side of the underworld with ease, introducing characters you hope you never meet on a dark night. While at the same time, he also manages to bring the beauty of Estonia to life, the novel sometimes reading like a travel book, but as seen through Alan Banks' eyes not a bad way to view another country and culture. Overall, I really enjoyed this book as I have the other Banks in the series and will look forward to trawling back and discovering of his life and cases and fleshing out the holes that currently exist in my knowledge of DCI Banks.

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks and his protégé, D.I. Annie Cabbot return for the twentieth time in this excellent British crime series. The case opens when a police detective who is convalescing at a center for the treatment of injured police officers, is murdered, shot to death by someone armed with a crossbow. The victim is a recent widower named Bill Quinn who six years earlier had been involved in a high profile case involving a young British woman, Rachel Hewitt, who went missing in Estonia and was never seen again. As Banks begins the investigation, he discovers that Quinn had secreted several photos showing him in an apparent compromising position with a young woman. This brings the Professional Standards division into the picture, in the person of an icy blonde named Joanna Passaro. She is assigned to shadow Banks's investigation in an effort to determine if Quinn was a corrupt cop. Banks is not at all happy about this, but he has no recourse. In the process of the investigation, the team traces the victim's recent phone calls and this leads them to the body of a man who had been water boarded and then drowned. The second victim appears to have been involved in some way with a group smuggling impoverished eastern Europeans into the UK and then exploiting them there. The trail leads back to Estonia where, six years earlier, Bill Quinn had investigated the disappearance of Rachel Hewitt. If it all sounds a bit complex, it is fortunately, we have Alan Banks to sort it all out for us. While Annie Cabbot heads up the

investigation in the UK, Banks and Passero head off to Estonia where things get increasingly curious and dangerous. It's an entertaining mystery with several twists and turns. It's fun to watch Banks in action again and to watch the relationship between him and Joanna Passero as well. The investigation is an intriguing one, and all in all, this is a nice addition to the series. I can hardly believe that this is the 20th DCI Banks book I've read. Peter Robinson has written some outstanding novels although this isn't one of them, it is still a very good book. It opens with an unusual murder, Banks visiting some very bleak English locations, as well as some pleasant foreign ones. The plot is good and, as always, the characters are wonderfully written, whether they are major players or just ones that make a fleeting appearance. As Simon Garfunkel almost sang: Here's to you, Mr. Robinson, I love your books more than you could know. Whoa, whoa, whoa. God bless you please, Mr. Robinson. Heaven hold a place for those you write. Keep those plot lines tight. Apologies to Paul Art for insulting their legacy. Lyrics were never my strong point. It has been a long while since I read any DCI Banks novels, I had forgotten how good they could be. This one deals with a murdered police officer, who may just be bent, a girl missing in Estonia for 6 years, and the European migrant slave trade. So well written and absorbing that I was a quarter of the way through the book before I realised it. Excellent police procedural, with enough back story that even if you haven't read any DCI Banks novels before, you won't feel like you're out of the loop. Highly recommended to all lovers of British police procedurals and British crime novels in general.

Lorraine Jensen, a patient at the St Peter's Police Treatment Center, is in the habit of getting up around dawn when her pain is keeping her awake to sit outside before the other members of the Center are up. As the light grew stronger, Lorraine thought she could see something like a bundle of clothes at the far side of the lake. Since Barry, the head groundsman and estate manager, was in the habit of keeping the artificial lake and natural woodlands tidy, it was unusual to see anything that looked out of place. Although the grass was still wet with dew, Lorraine walked to where she had spotted the bundle of clothes. She did not get all the way to the spot when she realized that it was a dead body she was looking at and not a bundle of clothes. DCI Alan Banks was immediately dispatched to St Peter's as soon as the authorities had been notified. Banks had visited Annie Cabbot there during her recent convalescence. Now Annie was due back to work on Monday and Banks was looking forward to working with her again. When Banks and the Dr. in attendance turned over the body, they found that the victim had been shot with a crossbow bolt. Lorraine recognized the corpse as DI Bill Quinn. Banks stated that he knew Quinn too but only in passing. When Quinn's room is searched, some photographs were found that placed Quinn in a compromising position. Quinn's wife was deceased but the photographs looked as though they had been taken some time ago. Inspector Joanna Passero, of the Police Standards Division, is assigned to work with Banks to determine if Quinn has somehow done something that would reflect badly on himself as well as the department. Banks feels hindered by Inspector Passero but has no choice in the matter. As he digs deeper into the

case he keeps going back to a six year old missing person case that Quinn investigated and Banks is beginning to feel that there are crooked police officers involved in the old case as well as the current case of Quinn s murder.This is a fast moving story that keeps the reader guessing. A new Peter Robinson book is always a big event in my reading calendar so as soon as Watching the dark was published all of my other in progress books were pushed aside.I am afraid that I found this book disappointing.Too much descriptive writing about the surroundings and not enough meat on the bones for the story.The first half of the book ticks along nicely but then a series of oh so fortunate events lead us to the conclusion.A major character just happens to get murdered.A career criminal just decides to go straight and tell all All a little too contrived and lazily written for this reader I am afraid.There are just too many convenient things that just happen to come together as the story draws to a close for this to be at all believable.I enjoyed reading the book but felt short changed by the conclusion.



NUMBER ONE
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

PETER ROBINSON

Watching the Dark

THE NEW CHIEF INSPECTOR BANKS NOVEL

This the the twentieth DCI Banks, recently published I couldn't wait In the gap between Bad Bay and this, I read Before The Poison loved it, so was really expecting good things with this What a disappointment The twists were obvious, it really was DCI Banks by numbers, the Professional Standards Officer was introduced, Banks behaved like an idiot towards her at the beginning, but mellowed out, and the final chapter seemed as if Peter Robinson simply couldn't wait to finish the book Between Banks, I have got stuck into DI Lynley Elizabeth George , but lived Banks Going back after reading several Lynley murders made it seem as is Peter Robinson has lost his love for this character somewhat Complete anti climax I would wait for the paperback to come out. I had to give this latest Banks mystery a two not because it's not a good story, it's very good, but because it is told so ponderously It's a mystery, not Thomas Hardy I felt like I was walking every little step with all of the characters Some of the elements that were so charming in his earlier stories were beaten half to death to make sure we notice them I get that Banks likes music I don't need to know every tune that crosses his aural path I think Robinson needs to take a few steps back and let the story shine. A well done addition to this English Police Procedural series I have always liked Inspector Banks and have followed these books through his many changes The plot was pretty interesting and having part of the action take place in Estonia helped keep things fresh.

New Post

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