

BOOK REVIEWS – DECEMBER 2018

In a House of Lies by Ian Rankin. (Published by Orion, October 2018). I had been looking forward to this latest book coming out, Ian Rankin's 22nd Rebus book, and wasn't disappointed. Rebus, Clarke and Fox, all together again, what's not to enjoy? You certainly wouldn't know the man is retired, he has lost very little of his agile mind, his dry sense of humour and slight mischievousness. He is slightly slower due to ill health, COPD, and is now constantly chewing gum to help stop him smoking, but, that doesn't stop him getting involved in an old case with Siobhan Clarke. The problem from the start is that Rebus had worked on the original case regarding a missing Private Investigator. Now his body has been discovered all these years later, it has him questioning if it was properly investigated at the time. There had always been suspicions over how it had been handled, now Rebus has a chance to solve the mystery. Well paced with lots of twists and turns. Recommended.

Past Tense by Lee Child. (Published by Transworld, November 2018). Another favourite author of mine and in this the 23rd Jack Reacher book I couldn't wait to get started. I found it interesting that Reacher decides to visit the town where his father was born. The mystery begins when he discovers no one named Reacher has ever been heard of. No records, no old neighbours. Meanwhile a young couple on their travels have broken down and find themselves stranded at a motel, not far from where Reacher has landed. Sinister happenings at the motel have the couple trying to escape but get caught up in all kinds of mysterious happenings. Slow paced to begin with but, soon catches up and turns into a good thriller. Good read.

The Man I think I know by Mike Gayle. (Published by Hodder & Stoughton, April 2018). A very moving emotional book which I loved from the start. James has a brain injury, but he wants to live independently from his family. We learn of his frustration, of trying to make himself understood and his sense of humour. Danny, who becomes his carer, has also had a lot of tragedy and grief in his life. The two together make a rather unlikely friendship work. An emotional read but with warmth and humour as they work together through misunderstandings, fall outs, but each with the same goal to see James live his own life against all the odds. Recommended.