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Witch Hunt: A Novel

By Ian Rankin

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Witch Hunt: A Novel By Ian Rankin

She is an ingenious assassin, with as many methods as identities, a master of disguise with an instinct for escape.... She is Witch, and she makes for alluring prey, teasing her pursuers as she eludes them, hunting her victims with breathtaking creativity, beguiling the most powerful men in the world with her dark beauty and cunning. Witch is wanted by the world's most elite police agencies, doggedly pursued by three very different detectives - one woman and two men. Two are at the beginning of their careers, one is staking a lifetime's experience on tracking Witch down, and all three display a professional determination that veers dangerously close to obsession. Working with and against one another, crossing paths and crossing swords, the detectives on her trail must stop her before she pulls off her most daring and ingenious assignment yet, a killing whose repercussions will reverberate throughout the world. The intricate deceptions and confidences that lead Witch to her latest target inspire an elaborate chase, but no matter how fast her pursuers track her, no matter how expertly they anticipate her every move, Witch always remains one step ahead of the game. With time growing short, it seems she will elude authorities again - but an unexpected link to her own mysterious past may upset her streak of calculated terror. Edgar Award winner Ian Rankin delivers a novel of espionage that rivals the classics of the genre, confirming his stature as one of the modern masters of suspense.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this rather tepid thriller, Britain's security services are thrown into a tizzy thanks to the mysterious female superassassin known as Witch, who changes disguises and personae at the drop of a hat, carrying out hits and gravitating ominously toward the vulnerable heads of state at a London summit. Witch should be a potent femme fatale, combining female penchants for dressup and masquerade, social infiltration and sexual manipulation with male tendencies toward violence and lone-wolf alienation. But Rankin's attempts to get inside her head fall a bit flat. Glamorous on the outside, this lady assassin is dull on the inside; Witch has a touch of feminist outrage but spends most of her time dourly mulling over the details of upcoming hits. The novel often ditches her to take up the richer psychologies of the detectives tracking her, the incessant bureaucratic infighting and turf battles among various police and intelligence agencies, and a knockabout romance between an English spy-bloke and a French spy-gamine on Witch's trail. Rankin (*Resurrection Men*, etc.) is more comfortable with drawing-room mystery than spy thriller here; much of the action is interior, revolving around probing interviews and crossword-puzzle clues, and the terrorist-spectacular plot eventually deflates into a family melodrama. Rankin piles on lots of absorbing assassin and police procedural sleuthing, but it's all in pursuit of a routine case.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Witch Hunt, a combo police procedural and spy thriller, may or may not live up to Edgar Award-winning Rankin's reputation, depending on who's doing the writing. The *Providence Journal* offers up high praise, complimenting Rankin on his intricate backdrop, inventive plots, and insight into "bureaucratic skullduggery" and "policies of protocol and inter-agency hierarchies." *The Washington Post*, by contrast, compares *Witch Hunt* to works by John le Carré "in his glory days"—but without le Carré's literary finesse and sense of history. Until Rankin returns to his unparalleled form, here is a tepid thriller that, at least, won't inspire terrorist nightmares. See our profile of Rankin's *Inspector Rebus* series in "Great Mystery Series" on page 34.

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From [Booklist](#)

Creator of the Inspector Rebus novels and the number-one-selling mystery author in Great Britain, Rankin features a fresh dossier of detectives in this gritty, multilayered yarn about an ingenious femme fatale. When two ships sink on the same night—one near Folkestone, England, the other off Calais, France—retired intelligence technician Dominic Elder fears the return of his former nemesis, Witch, a crafty, cold-blooded assassin who slips in and out of foreign countries without a ripple of evidence in her wake. Rankin displays his knack for crackling dialogue as Scotland Yard Special Branch detectives Doyle and Greenleaf and neophyte intelligence technician Barclay compete for clues to Witch's whereabouts. Information from an irascible lorry driver, an edgy French cartoonist, and a Dutch terrorist leads the detectives (joined by spirited French internal security agent Dominique Herault) ever closer, as the assassin works out the details of her deadly—and deeply personal—plan. Though the Edgar-winning Rankin is best known for vividly portraying the criminal underbelly of Edinburgh (he's friendly with a cadre of Scottish law-enforcement officials), this time he tries his hand at rendering the nefarious in England, Germany, and France. Regardless of locale, Rankin's hard-boiled tales are compelling, original, and chilling as a Scottish mist. *Allison Block*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Velma Stuart:

The book Witch Hunt: A Novel gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book Witch Hunt: A Novel being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open up and read a reserve Witch Hunt: A Novel. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Sarah Luis:

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Nora Mickey:

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Sheila Whitley:

The book untitled Witch Hunt: A Novel contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your ex idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

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