

# Shelf Life

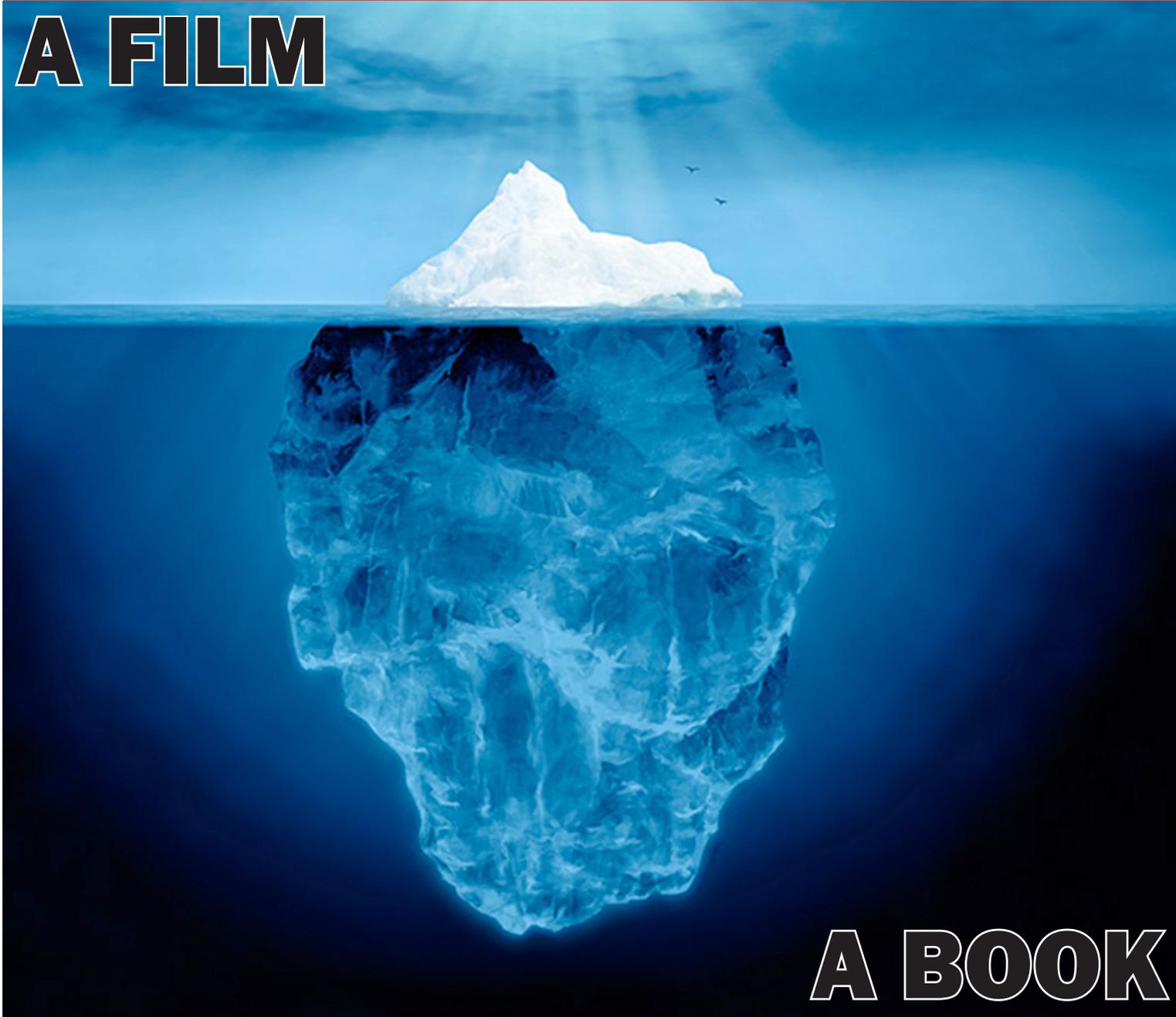


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LIBRARY  
DISTRICT

LIBRARIES  
AOTEAROA

Issue Eleven April 2016

## A FILM



## A BOOK

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## Shelf Life goes to the Movies

This month's edition of Shelf Life has a focus on film, television, and (as always) books, and the cover is derived from a popular Internet meme designed to convey the commonly held view that books contain a great deal more than films. While many of us will maintain that film adaptations of books are often a let-down, it can also be argued that films, particularly through special effects and compelling performances by actors, have their own strengths that books can't match - read the article on pages 4 and 5 for examples of film adaptations that are (arguably) better than the book. Also included is the ongoing appeal of Thunderbirds, some movies and television programmes you may not have known were based on books, and a look at a pioneering Wairarapa filmmaker Ramai Hayward by Wairarapa archivist Gareth Winter.

There is a profile of popular Scottish crime novelist Ian Rankin and our usual 'What's On in the Library' feature. One of the highlights this month will be the launch of **The Crossing** by local artist and author Michelle O'Connell, here at the library at 11am on the 2nd of April. The story was inspired by the marches over the Rimutaka Hill by soldiers bound for Europe in the First World War and the commemorative re-enactment of their crossing in September last year.

This issue won't help end the debate on books versus films, but may give you some ideas of films or television programmes you might want to see having read the book, or books you might want to read having seen the film. The really great thing is that most of these (books and DVDs) are available for you to borrow, either from the Masterton Library or from one of the other SMART Libraries.



## From your Library...

*Library Manager, Sandy Green*

This edition of **Shelf Life** focusses on television and movie adaptations of books. Not all books adapted for the screen were best sellers before being filmed, but in our experience they have definitely become popular as a result. My personal experience of adaptations is that I am often disappointed by them and will only either watch the movie or read the book, not both.

My first remembered experience of this was the television adaptation of John Jake's novel **North and South**. I had already read this and was absolutely incensed that a well-researched novel about the American Civil War and its effects on the lives of the young men and their families was sidelined by the portrayal of a love affair. I also felt betrayed by the changes made for television, including the damage to a leg that was replaced by damage to an arm.

Our DVD collection focuses on providing you with copies of movies and television series that are based on books. The television series that have grown out of books are numerous and there are also examples where sequels, and even prequels, have been created that share the setting or has references to existing characters. Examples of this are **Lewis** and **Endeavour** which were both derived from **Inspector Morse** starring John Thaw. This itself was based on the detective novels by Colin Dexter, and all have gone on to achieve a great following and longevity.

All the television series and movies we make available from the Library have been released in Region 4 or All Regions, and have been classified by the New Zealand Office of Film and Literature Classification (with a genuine rating sticker applied to the item). This means that there are programmes that have never been released in Region 4 or All Regions, that we are unable to supply, and from those that have, there are occasionally series, or parts of series, that have never been classified for use in New Zealand.

An example of this is **When the Boat Comes In**. This four part series has been released in Region 4, and the first 3 series have been classified by the New Zealand Film and Literature Classification, but sadly not the 4th. Even though it has been classified and released in Australia we are unable to use Australian classifications.

There are a number of Masterton people waiting for the 4th series but we cannot justify the cost of purchasing a copy from Australia, sending it to the Classification Office and paying between \$250 -\$300 to have it classified, and paying for all the postage. Once a movie or television series has been classified and listed it is possible to just apply for the genuine labels to attach. We will continue to source as many of the television series as we are able to, and endeavour to only stock those that we can access all of the parts of the series. This should ensure that you are not frustrated by missing the end or any part of the series.

# Better than the Book?

**Many movies are based on, or at least inspired by, a successful novel, but often receive the comment “It wasn’t as good as the book”. It may seem heresy for a Librarian to ask, but is it possible for the movie to be better than the book? Here are 10 examples of films that have been described (by some reviewers) as better than the book that inspired them. In all these examples the book and the film are both available through the SMART Network, enabling you to judge for yourself. Incidentally research of internet sites Goodreads and IMDB indicates that books do in fact receive a higher rating than their film adaptation 74 per cent of the time.**

## To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee’s debut, and for many years only, novel is rightly described as a classic. Gregory Peck’s powerhouse performance in the 1962 film of the same name however brings a new dimension to the character of Atticus Finch.



## One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher stole the show with their Oscar-winning performances as McMurphy and Nurse Ratched, so much so that it is impossible to imagine anyone else in the role when reading Ken Kesey’s novel.



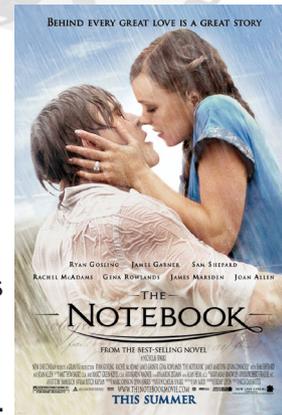
## Jurassic Park

While there is no substitute for the power of the imagination, the moment we see the dinosaurs for the first time is jaw-dropping. Director Steven Spielberg also edited out a great deal of the more scientific information contained in the Michael Crichton’s book, making for a tighter story.



## The Notebook

Nicholas Sparks excels at sentimental, romantic dramas, and *The Notebook* is probably the most successful adaptation of his work. The excellent paring of Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling as the star-crossed lovers tones down the melodrama and allows viewers to focus on the authentic and touching love story.



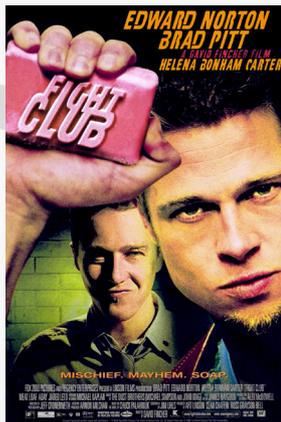
## Julie & Julia

Based on *Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously* (originally a series of blog entries) by Julie Powell and *My Life in France* by Julia Child, *Julie & Julia* combines two books into one satisfying whole. A warm and charming movie, enhanced by the sterling performances of Amy Adams and Meryl Streep.



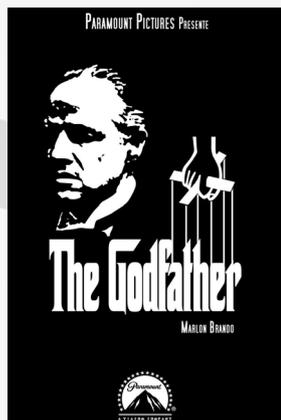
## Fight Club

The movie delivers moments of cinematic magic that the book can't offer, it also connected plot lines, enhanced the romantic qualities between Tyler and Marla, and featured great performances by Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. Author Chuck Palahniuk reportedly loved the film adaptation.



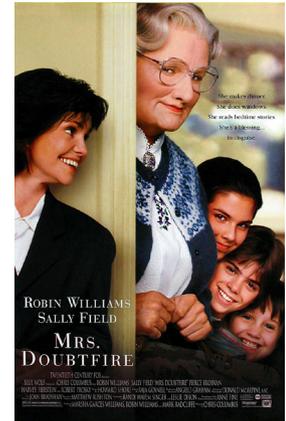
## The Godfather

Author Mario Puzo was involved in the writing of the film adaptation and the result is a slicker plot that does away with the novel's (few) weaker moments and sub plots. It also has a grittier finale that exposes Michael's ruthlessness to even greater effect.



## Mrs Doubtfire

Anne Fine's charming *Madam Doubtfire* was short-listed for a number of prizes. The film version has become a comedy classic thanks to impressive make-up effects, a strong supporting cast (Sally Field and Pierce Brosnan), but mostly due to a hilarious, whirlwind performance by the inimitable Robin Williams.



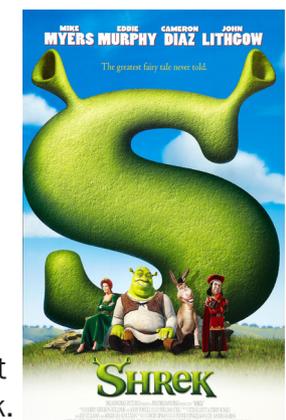
## Gone With the Wind

Margaret Mitchell's 1936 novel and the 1939 movie of the same name are both epic in scale. Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh's pairing as Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara made for one of cinema's greatest ever romantic couples and the film, which won ten Academy Awards, has become an all-time classic.



## Shrek

The children's picture book *Shrek* by William Steig tells the story of an ogre who rescues a princess, the movie gives us so much more! Featuring the vocal talents of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz, *Shrek* the movie is hilarious, full of pop culture references, state-of-the-art animation, and a killer soundtrack.

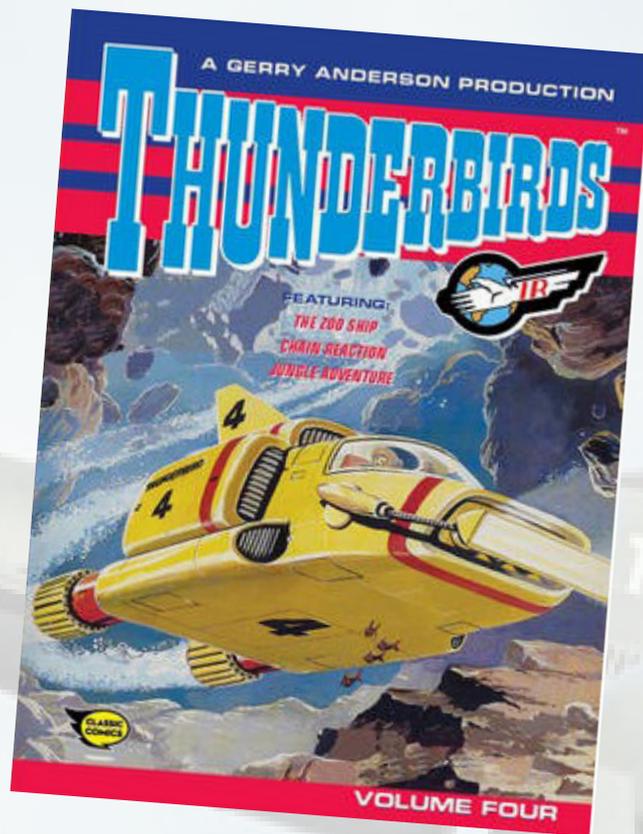


# Thunderbirds Are Go! (Still!)

**Thunderbirds was first broadcast in Britain in 1965 and its unique blend of marionette puppetry and scale models (dubbed ‘Supermarionation’) became a world-wide hit, eventually screening in 66 different countries. Crucially, however, the US market proved impenetrable resulting in only two series being made, comprising a total of 32 episodes. Despite this Thunderbirds has gone on to achieve cult status and some 50 years after its first release a new series Thunderbirds Are Go was released, a co-production between ITV Studios in the UK and New Zealand’s own Pukeko Pictures.**

**Thunderbirds: the Comic Collection, is a series of five comic books held by the library that reprint Thunderbirds adventures from comics originally published in the 1960s and 70s. These capture the look and feel of the original TV series and can be found in our Junior Graphic collection. Each volume contains several adventures and are sure to appeal to Thunderbirds fans, young and old.**

**The latest incarnation of Thunderbirds, Thunderbirds Are Go, features a combination of scale models and computer generated animation. The Library has Vol.1 and Vol.2 of this series available for borrowing on DVD, and a future series is in the pipeline. So if you’re new to Thunderbirds, or re-living fond childhood memories, Thunderbirds are go at the Masterton Library.**



# From The Wairarapa Archive...

## RAMAI HAYWARD - Pioneering Maori Filmmaker

When you think of Wairarapa-based film-makers the more recent arrivals – Sir Peter Jackson and James Cameron – spring to mind, but there have been Wairarapa natives who have succeeded in the cinema. Vincent Ward, from Greytown has carved out a niche as producer of interesting films grounded in New Zealand culture, while the late Barry Barclay, Masterton-born, directed the well-received television series *Tangata Whenua*, as well as the feature films *Ngati* and *Te Rua*.

Both these men were walking in the footsteps of the remarkable Ramai Hayward (Ngai Tahu, Ngati Kahungunu), the first Maori film-maker. Born in 1916, the daughter of Roihi (Rose) Te Miha and Fred Mawhiney of Martinborough, Ramai trained as a photographer and worked for the Frenchman Henry Harrison in Wellington. In the 1930s she moved at Auckland and opened her own studio.

In the late 1930s she was cast in the female lead in Rudall Hayward's remake of his 1925 silent classic *Rewi's Last Stand*, this time with sound. They married in 1943, then moved to Britain, making newsreels and documentaries, before returning to make a documentary on Opo the dolphin. They also made a series of films in China.

Their last feature film was the New Zealand's first feature-length drama shot in colour, *To Love a Maori*, about Tama, a young East Coast man, who moves to Auckland and falls in love with a pakeha girl. The film explored society's prejudice against interracial marriage.

Rudall Hayward died in 1974. Ramai continued working on both sides of the camera. She was appointed a member of the New Zealand order of Merit in 2006. She died in July 2014.



# What's on in the Library

(and the wider Wairarapa)

**Book Launch: The Crossing / Michelle O'Connell**  
Masterton District Library  
Sat. 2 April, 11:00am

**Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme**  
Masterton District Library  
Wed. 6 and 13 April, 10:30am

**Book Bugs Book Club (ages 10-13)**  
Masterton District Library  
Wed. 6 April, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**Copthorne Glistening Waters Jumping**  
(Equestrian Sport New Zealand series finals)  
Solway Showgrounds  
Fri. 8 - Sun. 10 April

**Lifestyle Auction**  
Clareville Complex  
Sat. 9 April, 10:00am

**Masterton Library Book Club**  
Masterton District Library  
Mon. 18 April, 1:00pm

**Masterton Library School Holiday Programme**  
Author & illustrator Michelle O'Connell  
Mon. 18 April, 10:30 - 11:30  
Craft Sessions, Wed. 20 & 27 April, 10:30 - 11:30

**Vintage Aviator Flying Weekend**  
Hood Aerodrome, Masterton  
Sat. 23 - Sun. 24 April

**Seniors Celebrate**  
Masterton District Library  
Tue. 26 Apr, 2:00pm

**25th Anniversary Wairarapa Green Dollar Market**  
Senior Citizens Hall, Carterton  
Sat. 30 April, 9:30am

**Check the Library Noticeboard for more Wairarapa events.**



[facebook.com/mstnlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/mstnlibrary) Like us to WIN!!

**Follow us on facebook and WIN!!! We have lunch vouchers from Taste Cafe next to the library and Ice Choc vouchers from Trocadero cafe. Plus many more prizes to be won this month! Be the first to know about events on in the library.**

THE DIVISION OCLUS RIFT VS VIVE THE CLIMB

# EDGE

THE FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT

# DOOM

ID'S BRUTAL RETURN  
TO THE FPS THAT  
STARTED IT ALL

## REVIEWED

THE WITNESS  
FIREWATCH  
XCOM 2  
DARKEST  
DUNGEON  
OXENFREE  
GEMINI:  
HEROES REBORN

## BEYOND BURNOUT

THE CREATORS OF  
THE LEGENDARY RACER  
TAKE UP... GOLF?

#290

MARCH 2016

Edge magazine, the world's most respected multiformat videogame magazine is now available from Masterton Library via the Zinio eMagazine portal. Edge combines intelligent writing with stunning design and features extensive news, interviews and previews. Edge was launched in 1993 and has been satisfying the information needs of gamers over 290 issues. If you haven't signed up to Zinio yet, its easy, all you need is an email address and your Masterton Library card. Just ask a member of staff if you need any help.

# That Used to be a Book?

Many film adaptations of popular books are well known, but some are a bit more obscure. Can you match these films to the book that inspired them. Answers below.



There has been a steady stream of superheroes characters that have made it from print to film - Batman, Superman, Spiderman, and Iron Man to name just a few. There have, however, been many other comic books and graphic novels adapted for the screen, that may not be so obvious. Did you know that the following films and television shows were all derived from graphic novels or comic strips? **Men In Black, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, The Mask, The Addams Family, Sabrina the Teenage Witch, Over the Hedge, V for Vendetta, Weird Science, Constantine, A History of Violence, Road to Perdition, 300, Ronin, Annie, Wanted, Ghost World, The Walking Dead.**

**ANSWERS: Blade Runner - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?; Die Hard - Nothing Lasts Forever; Homeward Bound - The Incredible Journey; Mean Girls - Queen Bees and Wannabees; Field of Dreams - Shoeless Joe; Slumdog Millionaire - Q & A; Dr Strangelove or : How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb - Red Alert**

# Featured Author: Ian Rankin

Scottish author Ian Rankin is one of today's most popular crime writers, known in particular for his Inspector John Rebus series. Rankin was born in Cardenden, Fife in 1960, the son of a grocer and school canteen lady. His parents were apparently horrified when Rankin chose to study Literature at University rather than take up a trade, and after graduating he worked in a number of jobs including grape-picker, swineherd, and journalist for a Hi-Fi magazine, before his success with the Rebus novels. After a number of years spent living in England and France, Rankin now lives in Edinburgh with his wife and two sons in a neighbourhood that also houses J.K. Rowling, Alexander McCall Smith, and Kate Atkinson (Rankin appears as a character in McCall-Smith's 2004 book **44 Scotland Street**)

The John Rebus series began in 1987 with **Knots and Crosses** and the twentieth and most recent addition to the series, **Even Dogs in the Wild**, was published in 2015. John Rebus has been described as a curmudgeon, a flawed but humane detective who drinks, smokes, and delights in flouting



authority. He is however a hugely popular character, the Rebus books have been translated into 22 different languages and ten of the novels were adapted for a television series. The Rebus novels are largely set in Edinburgh and were not originally meant to be a series. In the first draft of **Knots and Crosses** Rebus died at the end, but in the editing process Rankin decided to give him a reprieve.

The Rebus novels would seem to place Rankin with the 'Tartan Noir' genre, a form of crime fiction that draws on traditions of Scottish Literature that question the duality of people, combined with the hard-boiled crime writing of the US from the 1930s and 40s. Tartan Noir typically features main characters that tend to be cynical, world-weary, and are often going through some personal crisis. While Rebus is unquestionably Rankin's best known work, he has also produced three thrillers writing as Jack Harvey, two featuring Internal Affairs investigator Malcolm Fox, several stand-alone novels, numerous short stories, a play, and a graphic novel, **Dark Entries**.



***They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.***

*The Library will be closed on ANZAC Day, April the 25th.*