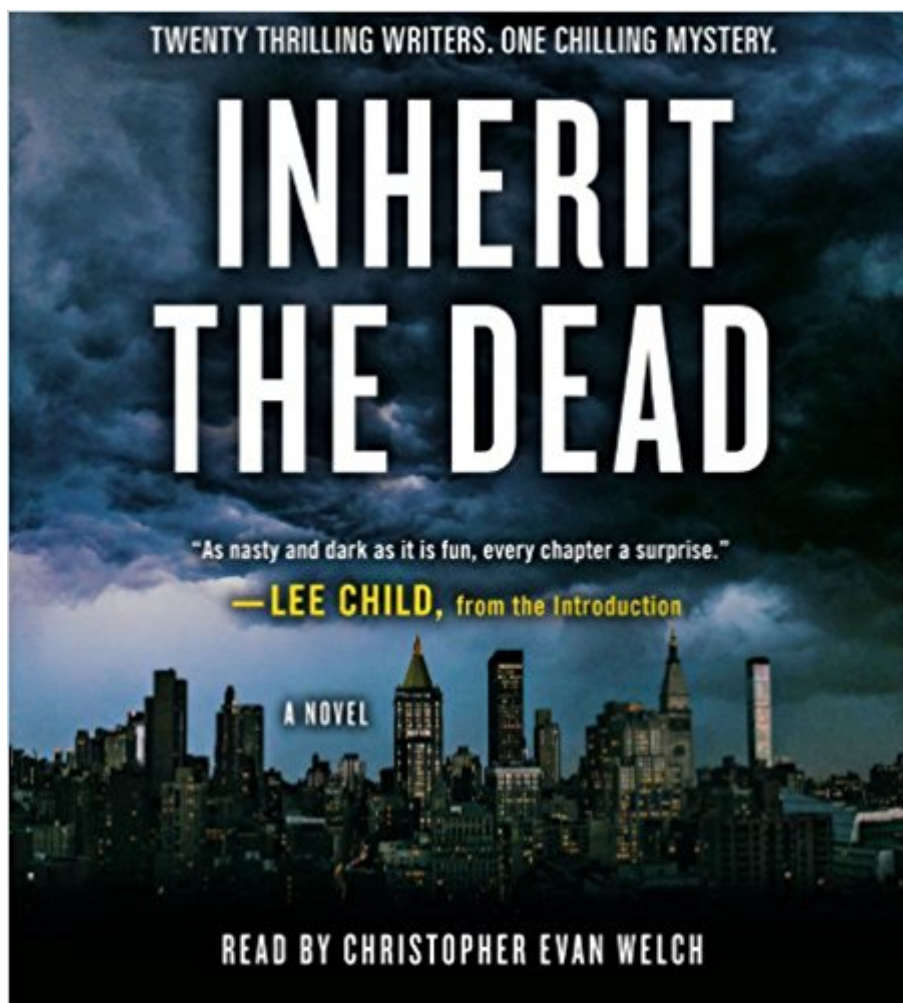




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Inherit The Dead: A Novel



Synopsis

Twenty thrilling writers. One chilling mystery. Pericles Perry Christo is a P.I. with a past. A one-time NYPD homicide cop, Perry has been struggling since he lost his badge, and his marriage, in a notorious corruption scandal. So when wealthy Upper East Side matron Julia Drusilla calls him one cold February night, he jumps at the chance to work what seems to be a straightforward (and lucrative) case. Julia needs Perry to track down the whereabouts of her beautiful yet aimless daughter, Angelina, who is about to become a very wealthy young heiress. But as Perry digs deeper, he discovers there's much more to the story of the lovely "Angel." Her father, her best friend, her boyfriend—they all have agendas of their own. This classic noir tale twists and turns down New York's mean streets and around Hamptons beaches and back roads, during a bitterly cold and gray winter where nothing is as it seems and everyone has something to hide. Told in the same "serial novel" format that made 2011's *No Rest for the Dead* such a commercial and critical success, *Inherit the Dead* is a collaboration among twenty of today's bestselling mystery and thriller authors—each taking a chapter of the narrative and infusing it with their signature style. The editor, Jonathan Santlofer, has arranged to donate any royalties in excess of editor and contributor compensation to Safe Horizon, a leading provider of services to victims of violence and abuse, making this a worthy and winning accomplishment that showcases today's finest writers at their very best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Despite the usual serial-novel pitfalls, C.J. Box, Lawrence Sanders, Mary Higgins Clark, Charlaine Harris, Val McDermid, and the 15 other distinguished crime authors who each contribute a chapter to this team project succeed in fashioning an engaging and cohesive plot. Each author maintains his or her distinctive style and storytelling approach. Marcia Clark's offering is a mini-legal thriller, for example, while Heather Graham's is heavy on the romance. Wealthy Julia Drusilla hires former NYPD homicide cop Pericles Perry Christo to find her missing 20-year-old daughter, Angelina, who's set to inherit a fortune. The trail to Angel, as her family calls her, twists from Manhattan's Upper East Side to the Hamptons and Brooklyn. Everyone in Angel's life has an ulterior motive, including her father, boyfriend, and best friend. The chapters move seamlessly as clues and storylines set up by one author are expanded by the next. Royalties in excess of editor and contributor compensations go to Safe Horizon, America's largest provider of services for domestic violence victims. (Oct.) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although it's not a sequel to 2011's *No Rest for the Dead*, this novel-by-committee is a very good follow-up. Twenty writers--among them such notables as Billingham, Box, Bruen, Connolly, and McDermid--combine forces to tell the story of private investigator Perry Christo, a former NYPD homicide cop who's hired by a society woman to find her missing daughter, Angel, who doesn't know that she's about to become a fabulously wealthy heiress. But that will only happen if Angel signs some documents on her twenty-first birthday, which means Perry is operating on a short deadline. Adopting a conventional PI format, the book makes a few nods to classics of the genre (a character named Elisha Hook, for example, is a clear reference to actor Elisha Cook, Jr., who appeared in *The Maltese Falcon*). There are some stylistic variations between the 20 authors--John Connolly doesn't sound like Charlaine Harris--but, for the most part, the story moves as though there were a single hand on the tiller. Not merely a genre curiosity, the book is a well-told mystery that stands on its own two (or 40) feet. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

> I added a note to my wishlist (where I place almost everything before purchase)

DO NOT BUY! a collaborative novel, warning myself not to purchase this POS. But, nevertheless recommends *Inherit the Dead* to me at every opportunity (because I've purchased every previous Lee Child novel). I must have been sleepy or not paying attention that day when I saw what I thought was a

Lee Child / Jack Reacher novel.> This ain't Jack Reacher. It isn't even Lee Child. Child only wrote the introduction -- and I thought that even that was lame.> What this is, is a serially collaborative novel in which 20 authors write one chapter each, in a predetermined order. The adjective "serial" means that the authors didn't work (collaborate) together, but instead they just took their turn when it came up.> If you want to see what sort of mess 20 authors can make of a game of "pass the secret", you'll enjoy "Inherit the Dead". Actually, for such an experiment, it isn't too bad. I've actually read several other collaborative novels which were worse. Hard to imagine, but true.> If you just want to read a good novel of Lee Child's quality, "Inherit the Dead" is a great disappointment. If character development is your thing, you'll love "Inherit the Dead". "Inherit the Dead" is all about it, it's nothing but character development because every author redevelops every character in every chapter. The plot wanders around aimlessly.> None of the authors pay more than passing attention to the chapters which preceded their "turn". New plot threads pop up, others vanish. A tangled, unsatisfying, mess -- plain and simple> Click on "Stoney" just below the product title to see my other reviews, or leave a comment to ask a question.

Very well done. Editor and the skill of the TWENTY authors maintained the voice of the story in an interesting manner. However, each author stayed true to his/her vision twists in the plot. Thus, it was not a story of prediction. Some authors give away too much and I know who done it half way through if not sooner. Excellent plot twists and surprises. As a writer/fan, I loved it. Great suspense by skilled authors. Want more like it. Esther of Kent

Although the proceeds of this book go to a good cause, this is the first book I have ever read to the end that I can truly say is "exploitative." The hero, Perry, drives back and forth and back and forth between NYC and the Hamptons in his beat up Datsun. Or is it a supercharged Datsun? With every passing chapter each character is recharacterized (is that a good word?). Some chapters I had to skip the descriptions and just read the dialog. When I was a kid, I attended Pittsburgh Pirate games at Forbes Field. We sat in the 99th left field bleacher seats. That's where the ending of this book came from.

Smooth and seamless shifts from writer to writer. Interesting to read and fun to see how other authors write. I bought the book because Dana Stabenow had a chapter. I looked up her chapter's placement but read from cover to cover without cheating. The story pulled me along. Only after I finished did I check Dana's contribution. Then, in truth I laughed. You see Dana added some humor starting her chapter. Mentally, I'd laughed. Looking back it showed what a strong writer could do with less than ten pages to leave a memorable line or two. Still she moved the book forward. It is for a good cause. Buy the book.

When I first looked at the book, because it was by Lee Childs, who is so at the top of my list, I was wondering if he was starting a new series. But when I read how this came about, and all the other top name authors, I just had to try it. It was amazing at first glance that such a large and impressive list of authors could collaborate on a novel... and make it so totally seamless! There were some very little differences in wording and style, but it just made you want to keep reading. It never seemed disorganized or anything, if anything, more alluring in wanting to go on and on to see the outcome. In retrospect, even though you may initially think 'egos' of these very famous authors, you realize how good and professional they are to make this such a great read. And that is not even taking into account the why they did this. That is a very special message all in itself... It is well worth the money to buy this and experience something very special.

Liked the character descriptions . Found the ending less convincing than it should have been. Good pacing and a good time reading it.

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