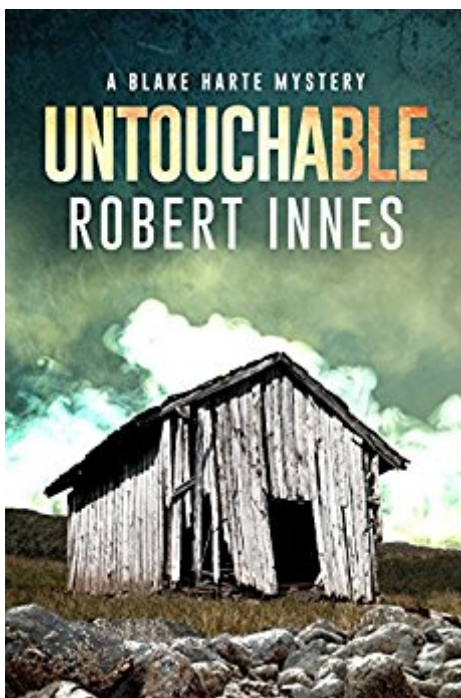


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Untouchable (The Blake Harte Mysteries Book 1)



Synopsis

Harrison Baxter lives on a farm with his parents, on the outskirts of the village of Harmschapel. It's picturesque, idyllic and tranquil – but Harrison is far from happy. His parents' marriage is strained to say the least and on top of that, his boyfriend, Daniel, has been mentally and physically abusing him for years. After he finds himself with one bruise too many, Harrison has had enough. But when he plucks up the courage to finally end his violent relationship, Harrison's life is changed forever when Daniel is found murdered in the most bizarre circumstances. Detective Sergeant Blake Harte has moved to Harmschapel after his own relationship ended in tatters. But moving to a quiet village after working his way up the ranks in a city brings its own set of problems and Blake soon finds himself at odds with new colleagues who aren't used to his style of policing. But when he is called upon to investigate the mysterious and impossible murder at Halfmile Farm, Blake finds himself facing the most challenging case of his career. So how can Daniel have been shot in a locked shed that nobody could possibly have escaped from? Is anybody really Untouchable?

Book Information

File Size: 3423 KB

Print Length: 200 pages

Publication Date: November 20, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N1IAVVP

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,044 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Mystery & Detective #16 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction #25 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery

Customer Reviews

This novel is a great first book from Robert Innes. I'll definitely read the next one. He creates interesting protagonists who are nicely developed, with plenty of opportunities to further develop them in future outings of this soon-to-be series. I did not see the resolution of the mystery coming until it was being delivered. American readers may find the grammar and some of the idiomatic expressions peculiar. Anglophiles and UK readers will not notice. A few copy editing errors jarred me, but there are fewer than in most Kindle books I've read. The book's a quick read I finished in an afternoon.

I always am a bit sceptical about a first book by any author. And this one was no different. But to my pleasant surprise it was very very good! A little rushed in spots, but overall very well written. Good character build up and believable. Excellent plot and plot twists! Very much worth the time to read. Will be looking forward to the next book.

I was not expecting this book to be as good as it turned out to be. The plot was interesting and the characters proved to be three dimensional. I actually cared about the characters. The ending where the main character and his biggest antagonist worked through their differences was quite well carried out. This was a quick read that left me wanting to read a lot more by this author. I highly recommend this book.

This is the first of Robert Innes's Blake Harte detective series. I liked it so much I bought the next two books immediately when I finished it. It is a fairly short novel, and there's the danger that this series will become like a bag of potato chips (or, as these are set in the UK, crisps); I may find myself devouring them all. The core premise is that Detective Harte has left the big-city police force of Manchester because of a broken heart. He finds himself assigned to a small country town called Harmschapel, where everybody knows who he is, and everybody knows what everyone else is doing. On Harte's very first day, a bizarre murder happens virtually in front of Harte and his fellow village policemen. It seems impossible, and Harte is challenged both with solving the mystery, and with finding his way into a new relationship with the men and women with whom he must work, his superior officer, and all those people who are now his neighbors. To make things more complicated, both the murder victim, Daniel Donaldson, and one of the chief suspects, Harrison Baxter, are gay. Innes's writing is plain, and there is a very consistent use of incorrect grammar that leads me to feel that there's a regional British dialect going on. Or, perhaps, just careless editing. Where

this book shines is in the careful characterization of the people we meet throughout the narrative. The intimacy of living and working in a small town is underscored by the way that everybody immediately refers to each other by their first names. Blake picks up on this right away. Blake is also the kind of detective who depends heavily on psychological understanding of all the players in the drama. He wants to know motivation as well as what sort of state of mind everybody is in. It is Blake's ability to see past the obvious, and get to people's emotional underpinnings that makes him so good at what he does, and makes the book so very engaging. The story is a stand-alone, but the town and its people are all set up for repeat performances as the series goes forward. Imagine Agatha Christie's Miss Marple as a thirty-year-old heartbroken gay man, and you'll have the idea. It's a good idea for a series and I so look forward to the next chapter.

This book was a pleasant read, though not particularly deep. Don't expect a lot of psychological drama, intensity, or emotion here. At the same time, the writing was clean and brisk and I think the series has some promise. A good editor is needed, though; some inconsistencies could stand to get fixed (like the length of Harrison's and Daniel's relationship, which fluctuated from 3 to 4 years several times) and misuse of words ("modicum" where I think the author meant "pinnacle"), and some other small things. Also, the solution to the mystery was a bit ridiculous. But overall, the book was enjoyable and I'm looking forward to the next installment.

Great story. Being set in the UK there were a few words and phrases I wasn't familiar with, but it wasn't hard to figure out. If you love reading an enjoyable murder mystery with a glass of wine, this is the book for you.

Sweet mystery of life at last I've found you...Interesting whodunit set in a little village in England, brings back memories of Midsommer Mysteries on PBS. Looking forward to reading the next book in this series. Definitely recommend this book.

I bought this because the author and I (almost) share a last name! I'm glad I did, though, it was a good read. Very sad. I loved the characters and the story was interesting, but it was sad.

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