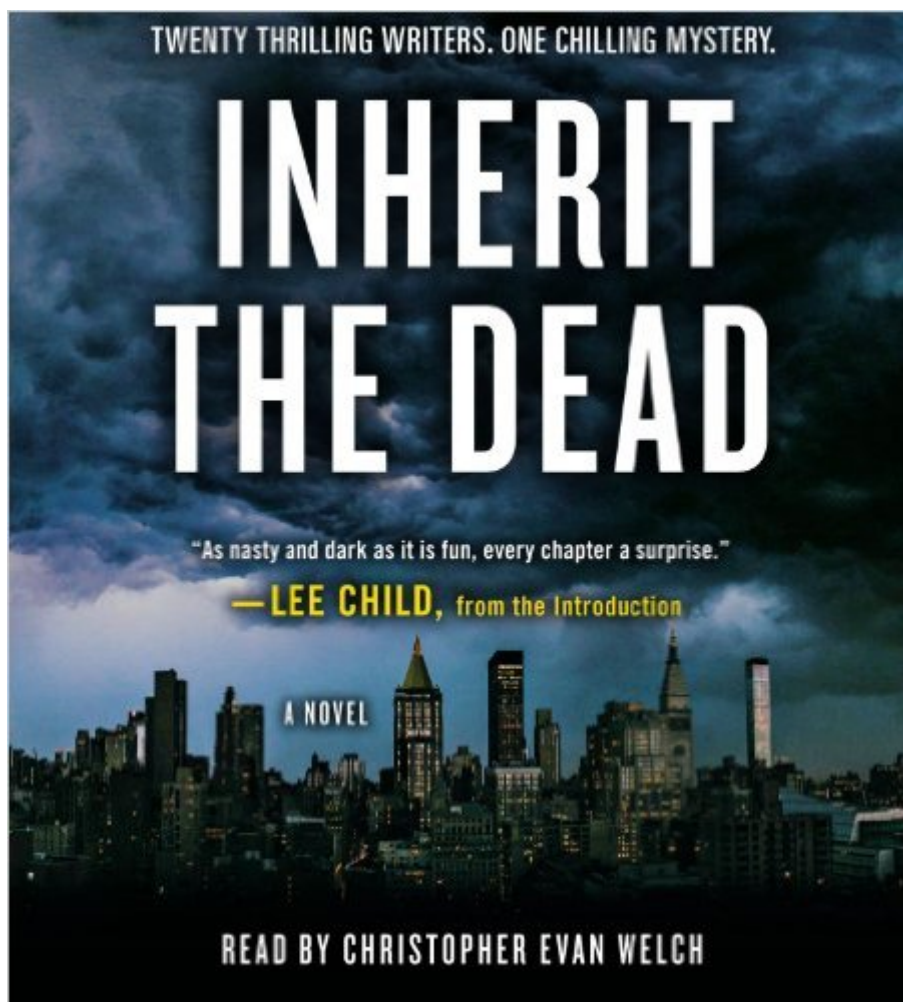


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Inherit The Dead: A Novel



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.

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Customer Reviews

When twenty writers each contribute a chapter to a novel, the result can be fun or a disaster. Inherit

the Dead is a little of both. Seeing how each writer adds his or her spin and comparing different writing styles is an enjoyable way to read a novel. Serial novels are more entertaining when each writer adds plot twists that are meant to challenge the writers that follow, although the resulting story often lacks coherence. This isn't that sort of novel. The writers were "following a plan" which I assume means a plot outline, and most of them did little more than that. Inherit the Dead has few twists of any kind, leaving the impression that none of the writers wanted to add a complication that would make the project more difficult for writers of subsequent chapters. More distressing is that few of the writers tried to imprint the story with a personality, resulting in a book that has none. Inherit the Dead is a remarkably bland novel -- not a disaster, not really bad, but nothing to be excited about. Chapter 1 by Jonathan Santlofer sets up an ordinary premise: Ex-cop turned private detective Perry Christo is asked to find Angel, Julia Druscilla's missing twenty-year-old daughter. If Angel doesn't sign some trust documents on her twenty-first birthday, her share of a sizeable trust will be forfeited to Julia. Christo was booted off the police force for misconduct that remains unspecified until chapter 2's writer fills in the details, but we're given to believe that the accusations were false, making Christo a typical wronged-cop-turned-PI. Santlofer also appends a first-person narrative to the end of the chapter, voiced by someone who is following Christo. Some of the other writers do the same, but that aspect of the novel is largely abandoned by its midway point.

Wow, this one of the most boring books I have ever read, considering the top name authors who each contributed to it, it should have been one of the best. Inherit the Dead was written in a round robin, pass the incomplete story to the next person and each author writes a chapter then the next one picks up where they left off. If you've never picked up this style of short story or even novel before, think back to your school days when you probably participated in an exercise like this with everyone in the class writing a paragraph then passing the paper to the person sitting next to them who wrote the next paragraph, passed it to the next person and so on until everyone in the class had contributed to each of the 30 or so stories. You no doubt had a lot of fun with it trying to twist different classmates work so far into your own ideas, such as introducing elements to characters to change the previous image of them, killing some off and putting something weird in there for the conservative kid next to you to deal with. The finished work of your class' 30 or stories would have each been more exciting than Inherit the Dead. It's not the round robin writing style that makes this a boring read, it's the quality of the writing. A book like this needs to start well in setting up the premise, and the editor Jonathan Santlofer of this one, decided to go with, well himself to do that. His situation was pretty average, and nothing unique, a washed up ex cop now PI desperate for a

case to pay the bills gets a phone call from a rich woman that her daughter is missing. Her daughter by the way is an adult, and doesn't actually live with her. PI Perry Christo also couldn't be any more boring if he tried. He's just your another hard crime noir leftover guy in a trench coat with no personality.

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