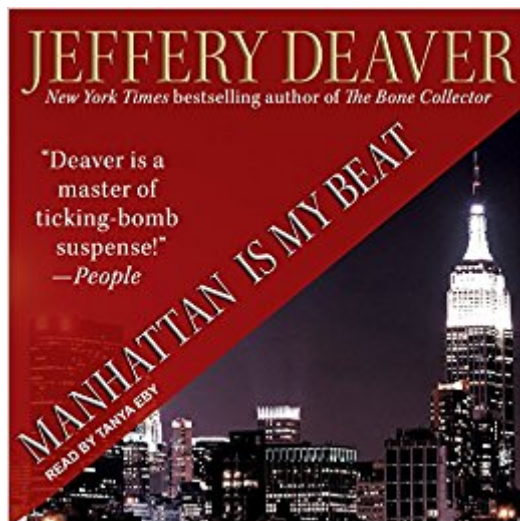


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Manhattan Is My Beat (Rune)



Synopsis

Five feet two inches of slick repartee, near-purple hair, and poetic imagination, twenty-year-old Rune hasn't been in Manhattan for very long. But she's crafty enough to have found a squatter's paradise in an empty TriBeca loft, and a video store job that feeds her passion for old movies. It's a passion she shares with her favorite customer, Mr. Kelly, a lonely old man who rents the same video over and over. The flick is a noir classic based on a real-life unsolved bank heist and a million missing dollars. It's called *Manhattan Is My Beat*. That's the tape Rune is picking up from Mr. Kelly's shabby apartment when she finds him shot to death. The police suspect a robbery gone wrong, but Rune is certain the key to solving the murder is hidden somewhere in the hazy, black-and-white frames of Mr. Kelly's beloved movie. But as Rune hits the mean streets of New York to find answers, she gets caught up in a dangerous adventure more chilling than anything Hollywood could dream up. As her story draws to its terrifying conclusion, Rune's final close-up may include the killer of a costar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jeffrey Deaver knows how to hook readers and keep them guessing with suspenseful, twisty plots. This early Deaver effort, originally published in 1988, will not disappoint fans dazzled by his subsequent, high-profile Lincoln Rhyme series (*The Bone Collector*, *The Coffin Dancer*, *The Empty Chair*.) *Manhattan Is My Beat* takes its name from the (invented) 1947 film noir watched obsessively by murder victim Robert Kelly. Our heroine, Rune, (a punk with a heart of gold) works for

Washington Square Video. On a routine pickup to retrieve *Manhattan Is My Beat*, she discovers Kelly just shot dead, the target of a professional hit. Rune and a woman jogger glimpse the presumed killer as he speeds off in a green car. While cops drag their heels in solving the mystery, Rune takes matters into her own hands, convinced that the motive for the murder is a missing suitcase stuffed with one million dollars--the subject, not coincidentally, of the film that Kelly and Rune both admired. An avid fan of fantasy novels and prone to see life through the prism of magic and quests, Rune takes up the challenge of finding the lost money and catching Kelly's killers. But the formidable hit team is intent upon destroying both possible witnesses to the murder, and their nimble crosses and double-crosses--some of which the reader sees, some of which are revealed at the end--make for fun reading. Plotting moves briskly in this novel, except for a slowdown in the story--Rune's ambiguous romance with downtown poseur Richard has little to do with catching killers. The conclusion, while neatly wrapped, is marred by the sudden appearance of a crucial detail that Deaver produces like a fancy dish under the waiter's silver dome. But the gimmick to offset the conclusion's predictability feels like a cheat rather than a revelation. All in all, however, the novel is excellent mind candy, a thrilling romp lead by an agile, street-smart heroine. --Kathi Inman Berens --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Deaver writes with clarity, compassion, and intelligence, and with a decidedly human and contemporary slant" ---Publishers Weekly

This is one of the author's earlier works, and while it is not one of his best efforts, it is still a cut above what is currently proffered by other writers of this genre. Jeffrey Deaver writes with a decidedly contemporary feel, his prose always spare and lean. While he does not dwell unduly on character development, it does not deter from the book, as it is wholly plot driven, with enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing until the last minute. It makes for a quick, enjoyable read. The book revolves around a decades old bank robbery in which the million dollars heisted was never recovered. This robbery was memorialized in an old *bete noire* film entitled "*Manhattan is My Beat*". Enter the story's unlikely heroine, twenty year old Rune of the purple hair, who works in a video store, squats in an abandoned loft that she calls home, and has an imagination that doesn't quit. When one of her video customers is killed execution style in his apartment, Rune is drawn into events of the past, as they converge upon the present. The now dead customer had repeatedly rented the film, "*Manhattan is My Beat*", and Rune firmly believes that there is a connection between his death and the age old bank heist. Her do-or-die resolve to discover why her customer was killed

leads the moxie endowed Rune on a merry and dangerous chase. It is one that keeps the reader fully engaged and entertained.

Someone or something I read recommended this book to me over 10 years ago. I just now got around to reading it. I can't imagine why I thought it would be good. I reread the review here to see if it would jog my memory, but no luck. I can't recommend this book. The plot is very twisty, that's true. Other than that, the characters seem as multi-dimensional as comic book heroes and villains and the dialog is ridiculous. Yes, the book is set in downtown NYC in the late 80's, but I was a frequent visitor at that time and had friends there. No one acted or talked like the people in this book. It's more like the view of someone who was a middle-aged suburbanite at the time and read an article in the Times about the East Village scene - and did no further research. Nearly every line of dialog clanged against my ears completely out of tune.

This very fast paced plot is easy to read and introduces a very attractive and quirky character, Rune, a very pleasant twenty year old girl full of dreams, instinct, passion and poetic creativity who works at a video store and starts by chance his own investigation about the murder of a customer whom she was very fond of Mr. Kelly. This tale is very original, consistent, well conceived, sweet and funny, has its own magic, keeps you guessing and wondering, delivers a lot of surprises and does not let you go until the very last page but having read many of the Deaver books and being the trickery his trademark, I was a little bit disappointed at how he employed some of his magic twists to solve some intricate situations because sometimes they came out all of a sudden and out of any logic (the same way Batman was set free of the bad guys traps in every chapter back in the 60's, or like Mr. Connelly did in *The Poet* near the ending), no cunning prior preparation, just the easy way (what a pity! no subtlety). Rune is a character that deserves a participation in other books like the legendary Lincoln Rhyme does. How about to put them together ??

I've been hooked on Deaver since I read *THE BONE COLLECTOR*. I was pleasantly surprised by *MANHATTAN*... I found it to be an excellent example of some of the basics that make Deaver novels so much fun. He has created one of the most enjoyable lead characters here in Rune, a somewhat kooky, plucky 20-year-old with a vivid imagination and romantic ideals. She meets up with even more interesting characters in Mr. Kelly, Tony (her boss), Stephanie, Raoul Elliott, Sandra, Haart, Zane, Richard, etc. This is a classic in-the-wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time story as Rune accidentally interrupts the murderer of her friend, Mr. Kelly. Throw in some assumptions about

the killing, some crime-solving techniques Rune has learned from movies, cops, bad guys and lusty roommates, and you have a formula for a light, fun mystery. And with most Deaver novels, you never really know who anyone actually is until the end. I truly enjoyed reading this novel. As an earlier Deaver work, it's not as polished as some we've seen more recently. However, I liked that this one seems to be all about the joy of writing a good story rather than the chore of writing for the masses. I recommend this one; it's quick and it's fun. I, for one, vote for a series starring the very loveable Rune.

The book is good and I generally love Deaver's final twists and turns towards the end but Rune is the most immature, annoying, stupid and obnoxious character I've read about. I have read all three books and feel that she is generally unsuitable as a lead character. All of Deaver's other 'heroes' are so clever and likeable, but Rune is just a careless person who reminds me of an annoying child who has no real skill as an investigator. All of the other characters in the book are really what keeps you going.

The story started out kind of slow, but later through the book it picked up & turned out to be another good book of Jeffery Deavers.

Watching paint dry would have been more exciting. I was just trying to go back and check out Jeffrey Deaver's older books. I know this book is the first of three. However, I won't read the other two.

I did not know that there was a Rune Trilogy. I did enjoy Manhattan is My Beat but found it less interesting than the Lincoln Rhyme series. I would however, be interested in knowing the titles and taking another look at Ms. Rune... .

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