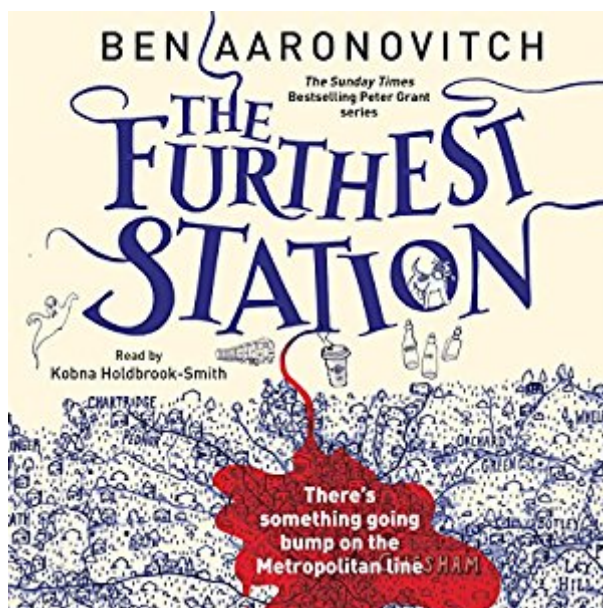


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The Furthest Station: A PC Peter Grant Novella



Synopsis

A stunning PC Peter Grant novella continues this best-selling series with commuting ghosts, a kidnapping, and a superb new London mystery! PC Peter Grant is heading west. The Furthest Station is Ben Aaronovitch's first PC Grant novella...and there's something going bump on the Metropolitan line. And when commuters start reporting encounters with ghosts up and down the track - encounters which they forget entirely within minutes - Peter Grant gets a call to investigate. And the very first interview leads to a ghost-hunting expedition.... The first ever Peter Grant novella, this is a fantastic London-based mystery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ben has done it again! Here's a Police procedural mystery, and a British Constable mystery- which is also Urban Fantasy. Again we meet PCI Peter Grant and his mysterious "governor" Nightingale. Peter grant is a London Metropolitan Constable, given to cool jazz and hot curries, Here he is teamed up with his very precocious cousin, one Abigale- who is already talking to foxes and so needs to be taken in hand. There is a ghost- well several ghosts- haunting London's underground, The Tube. While solving the mystery we run into a young godling, a princess locked in a dungeon, and of course quite a few ghostly apparitions. Who ya gonna call? PCI Peter Grant! Full of wry and typically black English humor, lots of local references (a few footnotes are scattered for us yanks) and of course a well done Police procedural, we have another great entry in this series. This offer is a little shorter than others- maybe a long novella at 144 pages. Still a great read, I finished it in one sitting because I couldn't put it down!

Very nice little treat of a story- just don't be disappointed by the length. Despite having the cover design of one of the novels this book is more similar in size to a graphic novel. Liked the story quite a bit and got to see more of the precocious Abigail!

This novella is shorter than the full-length books in Aaronovitch's Rivers of London series, but it has a full measure of the things that I and many others have come to love about the series, particularly Peter Grant's wry comments on the difficulties of being both a police officer (assigned to investigate all the "weird stuff" and an apprentice magician. (The combination is only slightly less intense or annoying than what Bob Howard and his friends encounter in Charles Stross's Laundry Files books.) We also get to meet an even newer apprentice, Peter's sassy teenage cousin Abigail, and a new river godlet as well. Naturally there is a mystery to solve, or rather two: one involves ghosts appearing to riders in some of the more far-flung parts of the London Underground, and another involves the disappearance of a living young woman in, suspiciously, the same area. Of course the two prove to be related, and they are solved but the main fun is in the characters and Peter's comments. It helps if you're familiar with the other stories in the series, but this tale does a better job of standing on its own than most of the other books. Indeed, it could serve as an introduction for someone who has not yet explored the full-length books but wants to get a feeling for the flavor of the series. Once you've had a taste, I think you will probably want more.

In which very little happens for fully the first half of this book. Officer Grant is studying for a promotion when reports of odd disturbances on the underground (British train system) are brought to his attention. The events show signs of being ghostly by nature. Hence the slow wind up where a relaxed watch is kept by Peter and non magical operatives of the railway. It is fully halfway through the book when a little ghost girl manages to convey to Peter that there might be a princess in danger. This sets off a round of methodical police work that is designed to unearth a missing woman. The interplay between boring routine and magic is the heart of the story. I admit I was so underwhelmed with the first half of this book that I almost stopped reading, but kept on because I have really enjoyed the Folly (Britain's magic policing practitioners) in the past. I am very glad I persevered. For those of you who have been following these tales there is a notable absence of

Lesley, Peters former coworker who seemed to have gone over to the dark side, and the absence of the faceless man who hung over previous books like a foul smell creates a change in tone.

There were things that I liked and disliked about this story, but by and large I liked it better than the last full-length entries in the series. First, I was so glad to have a story without Lesley and the faceless man! Second, I really like Peter's young cousin as an addition to the team at the Folly. She is fun and precocious and her training will be a good addition to the next stories. The main plot line in this novella was new and different with ghost hunting and communications from ghosts to help with a modern crime. The main weakness was its length. It was too short. Consequently, the mystery was solved very quickly. The resolution also left too many unanswered questions to be fully satisfying. Still, overall, I thought this book was a move in the right direction for the series so I restoring a star.

Peter, our favorite wizard in the Met, investigates some ghostly disturbances on the tube trains, along with Inspector Nightingale and young Abigail. A short version of the usual novel, The Furthest Station only lacks length, not adventure, clever dialog, Latin quotes, or magical goings ons. A wonderful, albeit quick, dip into the otherworldly which the very special branch is tasked with policing. Sets the stage for Abigail's future without any cliffhangers. A complete case, including (as typical), a few side stories. Excellent writer, interesting story well thought out. A pleasure to read, but like an appetizer is meant to do, only whetted my zeal for the next novel.

Peter Grant is the most fun young detective in fantasy literature, and his tongue in cheek commentary is always a hoot. The Furthest Station is a pleasure to read, and while I agree that I wish it were longer (I want everything connected to this series to be longer -- in fact, I just want more, more, more - though not graphic novels), it perfectly filled all the spaces it needed to. Not every story or storyline has to come to an end in one book. Some stories can wind on for a very long time. But we learned everything we needed to know, we know more is coming, and I, for one, cannot wait to know more in the next novella or novel -- keep writing, Ben, and make it snappy!

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