

An abstract landscape painting featuring layered, mountain-like shapes in shades of blue, yellow, and brown. A small silhouette of a church with a steeple is visible on the right side, nestled within the layers. The overall style is expressive and textured.

POLYGON

New Titles | 2021



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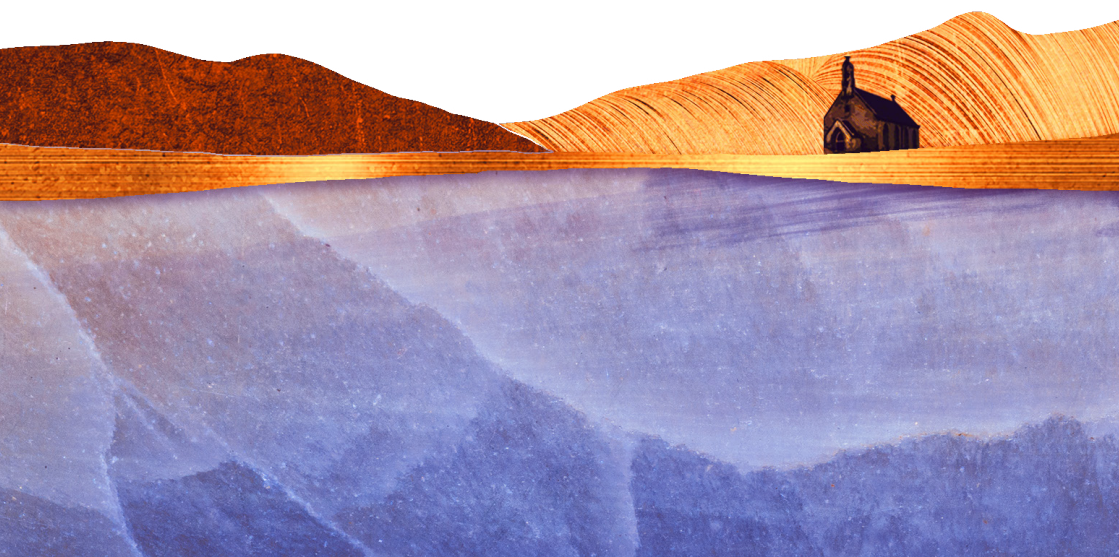
4 HIGHLIGHTS

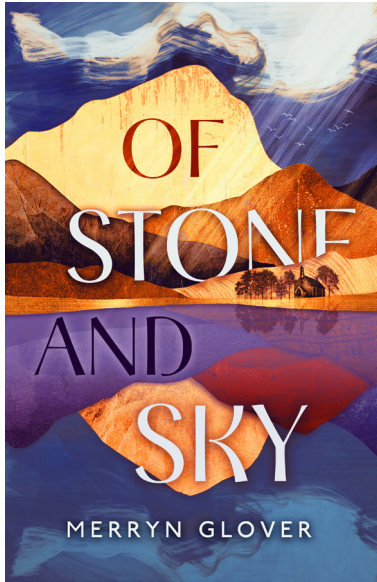
6 CRIME & MYSTERY

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MERRYN GLOVER was born in a former Rana palace in Kathmandu and grew up in Nepal, India and Pakistan. Her first major work was a stage play, *The Long Way Home*, which was broadcast on Radio Scotland. She has written three further radio plays for Radio 4 and Radio Scotland. In 2019, she was appointed the first Writer in Residence for the Cairngorms National Park.

ISBN: 9781846975653
Price: £16.99
Publication: 06 May 2021
Format: 216 x 138mm Demy Hbk
Extent: 352pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853767
Rights: World All Languages

Of Stone and Sky

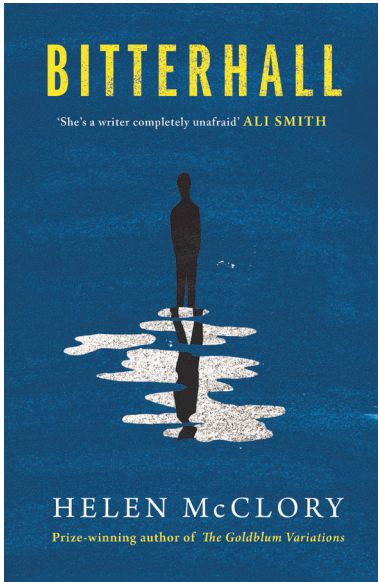
After Highland shepherd Colvin Munro disappears, a mysterious trail of his possessions is found in the Cairngorm mountains. Writing the eulogy for his memorial years later, his founding-sister Mo seeks to discover why he vanished. Younger brother Sorley is also haunted by his absence and driven to reveal the forces that led to Colvin's disappearance. Is their brother alive or dead?

Set on a farming estate in the upper reaches of the River Spey, *Of Stone and Sky* follows several generations of a shepherding family in a paean to the bonds between people, their land and way of life.

Deftly deals with the notion of bond: between people, their land and way of life in this epic novel

This story also addresses some controversial issues including land reform, environmental protection and social justice

Will appeal to fans of Kate Atkinson's *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* and Graham Swift's *Waterland*



HELEN McCLOERY is a winner of the Saltire First Book of the Year award. Her short stories have been listed for distinction in The Best of British Fantasy (2018), The Best of British and Irish Flash Fictions (2018/19), and nominated for the Pushcart prize. She is a part-time lecturer at the University of Glasgow and co-founder of writing retreat Write Toscana.

ISBN: 9781846975493
Price: £9.99
Publication: 01 April 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 368pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853750
Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth (exc. NA)

Bitterhall

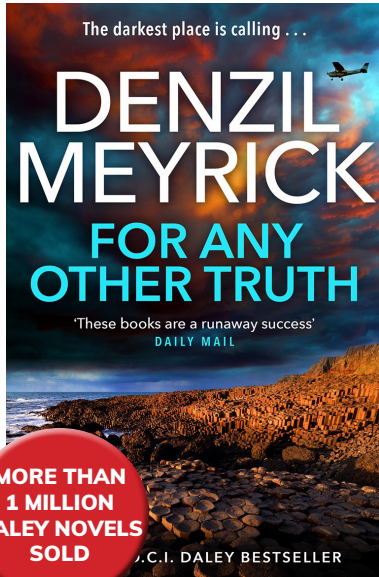
**‘Shiny dark liquorice mind candy: nothing quite like them’
- Margaret Atwood on *The Goldblum Variations***

Bitterhall is a story of obsession told between three unreliable narrators. In a darkening season in a northern city, Daniel, Órla and Tom narrate the intersections of their lives, from future-world 3D printing technology to the history of the book, to a stolen nineteenth-century diary written by a dashing gentleman who may not be entirely dead.

Bitterhall reveals the ways in which our subjectivity tampers with the notion of an objective reality, and delves into how we represent – and understand – our muddled, haunted selves.

McCloery has been recognised as an incredible talent by some of the most successful and respected authors in the world

***Bitterhall* is set to join the canon of Scottish masterworks about duality, identity and obsession**



For Any Other Truth

A D.C.I. Daley Thriller

'In high demand across the globe ... A runaway hit' – Daily Mail

When a light aircraft crash-lands at Machrie airport, Daley and Scott rush to the scene. But it soon becomes clear that both occupants of the plane were dead before take-off . . .

Soon Daley and Scott find themselves battling retired terrorists and radical climate-change activists as the action spills across the North Channel to County Antrim – all under the scrutiny of the Security Services. Faced with so many questions, how will Daley uncover good from bad, right from wrong? The search is on for any other truth.

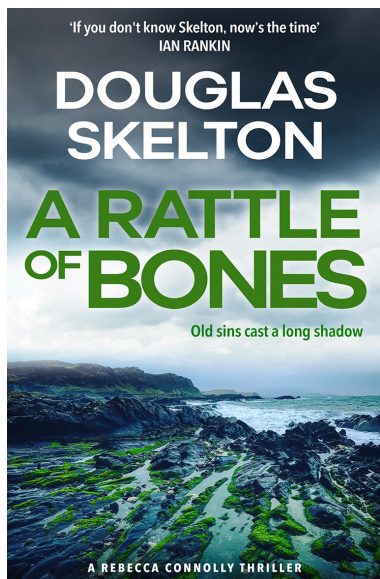
Ninth instalment in the bestselling DCI Daley series, with over 1 million copies sold worldwide

A thrilling mystery where retired terrorists, radical environmental groups and the secret service violently collide

Filled with authentic police procedure alongside Meyrick's trademark plot twists and gritty humour

DENZIL MEYRICK worked as a police officer, distillery manager, freelance journalist, and company director. He is originally from Campbeltown in Argyll, but now lives with his wife Fiona on Loch Lomondside.

ISBN: 9781846975714
Price: £8.99
Publication: 03 June 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 400pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853866
Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth (exc. NA)



DOUGLAS SKELTON has written eleven true crime and Scottish criminal history books but now concentrates on fiction. His novel *Thunder Bay* (2019) was longlisted for the McIlvanney Award. Douglas has investigated real-life crime for Glasgow solicitors and was involved in a long-running campaign to right the famous Ice-Cream Wars miscarriage of justice.

ISBN: 9781846975639

Price: £8.99

Publication: 05 August 2021

Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk

Extent: 288pp

Illustrations: n/a

ePub: 9781788853835

Rights: World All Languages (exc. NA)

A Rattle of Bones

A Rebecca Connolly Thriller

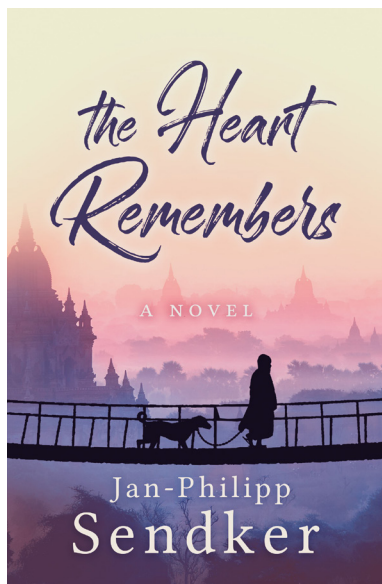
'Skelton's growing legion of fans will avidly await brave, dogged Rebecca's next outing' – *Publisher's Weekly* (US)

In 1752, Seamus a'Ghlynn, James of the Glen, was executed for the murder of government man Colin Campbell. He was almost certainly innocent.

When banners are placed at his gravesite claiming that his namesake, James Stewart, is innocent of murder, reporter Rebecca Connolly smells a story. The young Stewart has been in prison for ten years for the brutal murder of his lover, lawyer and politician Murdo Maxwell, in his Appin home. As Rebecca delves into the case, she uncovers a web of lies that spreads across the past and present.

Third book in the acclaimed Rebecca Connolly mystery series – with rights to previous books in the series sold in the US, Germany and Denmark

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Scottish Highlands, *A Rattle of Bones* is a tale of injustice and mystery, and the echo of the past in the present



JAN-PHILIPP SENDKER was the American correspondent for Stern from 1990 to 1995, and its Asian correspondent from 1995 to 1999. He has travelled extensively in China and Burma and has an in-depth knowledge of the people and culture. In 2000 he published *Cracks in the Great Wall*, a non-fiction book about China. Global bestseller *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* was his first novel.

ISBN: 9781846975820

Price: £8.99

Publication: 06 May 2021

Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk

Extent: 304pp

Illustrations: n/a

ePub: 9781788854474

Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth exc. NA

The Heart Remembers

Twelve-year-old Ko Bo Bo lives with his uncle U Ba in Kalaw, a town in Burma. An unusually perceptive child, Bo Bo can read people's emotions in their eyes. This acute sensitivity only makes his unconventional home life more difficult.

Everything changes when Bo Bo discovers the story of his parents' great love, which threatens to break down in the whirlwind of political events, and of his mother's mysterious sickness. Convinced that he can heal her and reunite their family, Bo Bo decides to set out in search of his parents.

This is the long-awaited final book in the trilogy that began with *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*

A unique story of hope and love set against a backdrop of political and family turmoil, perfect for fans of Elizabeth Gilbert and Nicholas Sparks

ALSO AVAILABLE





The Pavilion Above the Clouds

A beautifully atmospheric novel set in 1938 in idyllic grounds nestled in the hills of Ceylon. But all is not as serene as it seems. Bella is suspicious of her governess Miss White's intentions. Her distrust sparks off her mother's imagination, and before long, a confrontation results in a gunshot that rings out through the valley.

Years later, Bella, now at university in St Andrews, is faced with her past. Will she find out what happened between her Father and Miss White? Will the guilt she has lived with all these years be reconciled with long over-due apology?

ALEXANDER McCALL

SMITH is the author of the highly successful No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series and has seen his various series of books translated into over forty-six languages and become bestsellers throughout the world. These include the 44 Scotland Street novels, the *Isabel Dalhousie* novels, the Von Igelfeld series and the *Corduroy Mansions* novels.

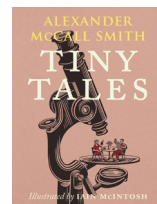
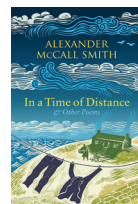
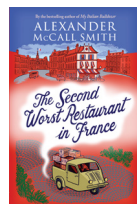
A new stand-alone novel set in Sri Lanka and Scotland

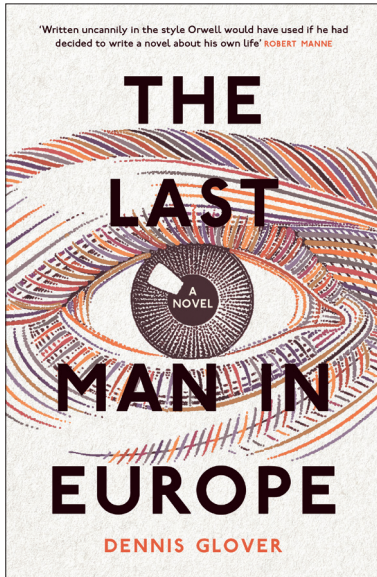
Descriptions of the Sri Lankan countryside come alive with McCall Smith's enchanting prose

A story of love and mystery at home and abroad

ISBN: 9781846975899
Price: £14.99
Publication: 05 August 2021
Format: 216 x 138mm Demy Hbk
Extent: 224pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788854627
Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth exc. NA

ALSO AVAILABLE





The Last Man in Europe

'Rivetingly told ... a terrifically assured hybrid of fiction and life-writing'
– **New Statesman**

1947. In a damp, run-down farmhouse on the island of Jura, George Orwell is embarking on his greatest work: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. This book is his legacy – the culmination of a career spent fighting to preserve the freedoms which the wars and upheavals of the twentieth century have threatened.

DENNIS GLOVER grew up in Doveton, Australia, before studying at Monash University and King's College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a PhD in history. He has worked for two decades as an academic, newspaper columnist, political adviser and speechwriter.

In this novel Dennis Glover explores the creation of Orwell's final work, which for millions of readers worldwide defined the twentieth century. Simultaneously a captivating drama, a unique literary excavation and an unflinching portrait of a beloved writer, *The Last Man in Europe* will change the way you understand *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and George Orwell himself.

Simultaneously a captivating drama, a unique literary excavation and an unflinching portrait of a beloved writer

A page-turning novel despite its chilling resonance and relevance these days

ISBN: 9781846975349
Price: £8.99
Publication: 07 January 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 256pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853170
Rights: UK Only



1984

The Jura Edition

The novel that defined a generation, written on the isle of Jura, introduced by Alex Massie.

The year is 1984 and war and revolution have left the world unrecognisable. Great Britain is ruled by the Party, led by Big Brother. Mass surveillance is everything and The Thought Police are employed to ensure that no individual thinking is allowed.

GEORGE ORWELL is one of Britain's most famous writers and social commentators. He is the author of the classic political satire *Animal Farm* and the dystopian masterpiece *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He is also well known for his essays and journalism, particularly his works covering his travels and his time fighting in the Spanish Civil War.

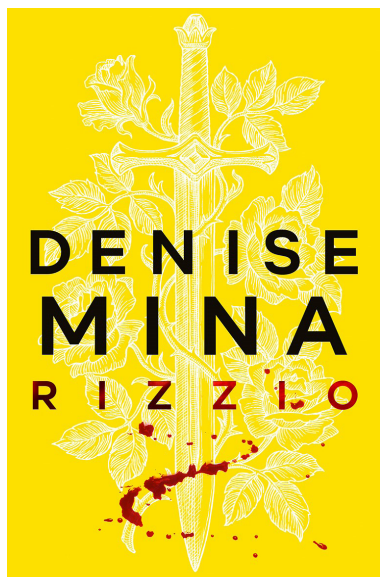
A dystopian masterpiece, *1984* is the powerful and prophetic novel that defined the twentieth century and is still frighteningly relevant today, more than 70 years after it was written.

The novel still sells hundreds of thousands of copies every year and is studied throughout the world

This edition has a new, specially commissioned introduction by Alex Massie

Massie's Introduction is the first to recognise the importance that Barnhill, Orwell's home on the Island of Jura, had on the writing of this classic

ISBN: 9781846975769
Price: £7.99
Publication: 07 January 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 368pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853804
Rights: WAL (non exclusive)



DENISE MINA is the author of many novels including *The End of the Wasp Season* and *Gods and Beasts*, both of which won the prestigious Theakstons Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year Award in consecutive years. She also writes short stories, and in 2006 wrote her first play. She is a regular contributor to TV and radio.

ISBN: 9781846975677
Price: £9.99
Publication: 02 September 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Hbk
Extent: 144pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9781788853477
Rights: World All Languages

Rizzio

A Novella

'The cream of the crop, an author who pushes the crime novel in new and exciting directions' – Ian Rankin

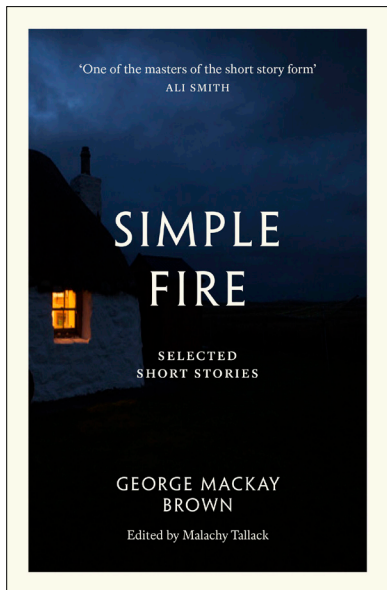
On the evening of 9 March 1566, David Rizzio, the private secretary of Mary, Queen of Scots, was brutally murdered. Dragged from the chamber of the heavily pregnant Mary, Rizzio was stabbed 56 times by an 80-strong party of assassins.

This breathtakingly tense novella dramatises the events that led up to that night, telling an infamous story as it has never been told before.

Denise Mina has delivered a radical new take on one of the darkest episodes in Scottish history

Denise Mina's most recent novel, *Conviction*, was selected as a Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick

The launch title in the specially commissioned Darkland Tales series from the absolute best of Scotland's contemporary writers



MALACHY TALLACK has written for the *New Statesman*, the *Guardian*, the *Scottish Review of Books*, *Caught By the River* and many other publications, online and in print. He won a New Writers Award from the Scottish Book Trust in 2014, the Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship in 2015, and is the author of the acclaimed *Sixty Degrees North* and *The Un-Discovered Islands*.

ISBN: 9781846975172

Price: £12.99

Publication: 03 June 2021

Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk

Extent: 208pp

Illustrations: n/a

ePub: n/a

Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth (exc. NA)

Simple Fire

Selected Short Stories

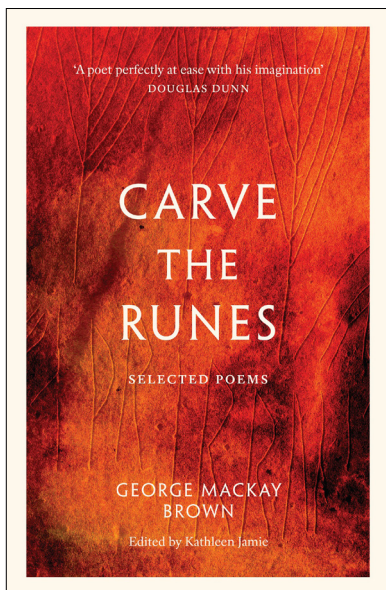
George Mackay Brown was a master of the short story form and produced a steady stream of short fiction collections, starting with *A Calendar of Love* (1967) and include *A Time to Keep* (1969) and *Hawkfall* (1974), as well as his poetry collections and novels.

In this selection, edited and introduced by Malachy Tallack, we explore the author's Orkney and the ups and downs of the crofters and fishermen there. These magical stories, drawn from ancient lore and modern life, strip life down to the essentials.

Published to celebrate George Mackay Brown's centenary year in 2021

This is the first new selected short story collection

George Mackay Brown is a seminal figure in Scottish literature and was part of the Literary Renaissance in Scotland



KATHLEEN JAMIE is a poet and essayist. Her 1995 collection *The Queen of Sheba* won the Somerset Maugham Award and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. In 2016 Kathleen won both the Saltire Poetry Book of the Year and the overall Saltire Book of the Year for her collection *The Bonniest Companie*.

ISBN: 9781846975165
Price: £12.99
Publication: 03 June 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 208pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: n/a
Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth (exc. NA)

Carve the Runes Selected Poems

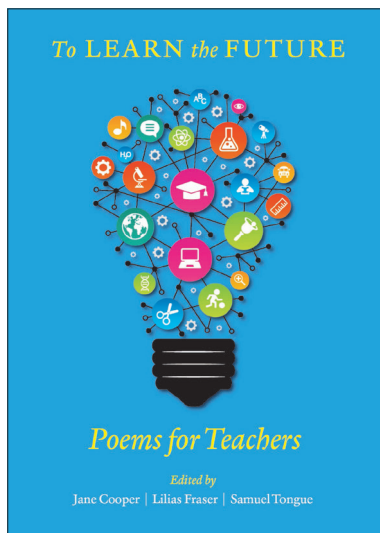
In this new Selected Poems, Kathleen Jamie explores the multi-faceted world of George Mackay Brown's Orkney, the poet's lifelong home and inspiration. George Mackay Brown's concerns were the ancestral world, the communalities of work, the fables and religious stories which he saw as underpinning mortal lives.

Brown believed from the outset that poets had a social role and his true task was to fulfil that role. This is not the attitude of a shrinking violet, tentatively exploring his 'voice'.

This is the first new selection of George Mackay Brown's poetry for over 25 years

This collection is published to celebrate the poet's centenary year in 2021

Chosen by Kathleen Jamie, one of the most acclaimed and successful Scottish writers of the 21st century



To Learn the Future Poems for Teachers

To Learn the Future is a selection of poems that will grip at first reading – perfect if the only time you have is five minutes in a rushed lunch break. The choice of poems includes insight for days when teachers need to find extra courage, compassion and commitment, as well as celebration of the inspirational, the funny and the reflective.

With these poems to hand, for the good days and the tough moments, no teacher is ever alone.

The previous volume in this series, *Tools of the Trade*, has now sold over 5000 copies

Features poems by Roger McGough, Jackie Kay, Liz Lochhead, William Letford and many more

Publishing in May in time to be the perfect graduation gift for a new generation of teachers

LILIAS FRASER worked at the Scottish Poetry Library on reader development and engagement projects.

JANE COOPER taught English in Edinburgh high schools for 26 years and mentored many student and newly-qualified teachers.

SAMUEL TONGUE is project co-ordinator at the Scottish Poetry Library, focussing on poetry as a resource for mental health and wellbeing.

ISBN: 9781846975547

Price: £6.99

Publication: 06 May 2021

Format: 148 x 110mm Pbk w/flaps

Extent: 98pp

Illustrations: n/a

ePub: n/a

Rights: World All Languages

To Mind Your Life


Poems for Nurses & Midwives

This book is a companion of poems intended to provide encouragement and consolation to those on the frontline of our care sector. The poems themselves explore the meaning of nursing, midwifery and compassion in order to promote new nurses' and midwives' self-care and wellbeing.

The poems in this selection demonstrate the empathy and benevolence crucial to the profession, and include works on the relationship between nurse and patient, as well as the meaning and fulfilment of nursing for those who have chosen that career.

***To Mind Your Life* is a charming and thoughtful collection of poems to provide support, comfort and inspiration for nurses and midwives**

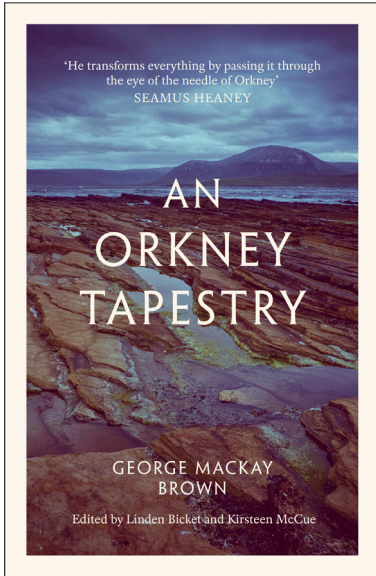
The poems are grouped into five themes to provide resilience, compassion and well-being



MARTI BALAAM was born in Glasgow in 1951. Between 1978 and 1982 he was editor of *The New Edinburgh Review*. He is the author of *Invisible Country: A Journey Through Scotland* and *Gate Fever: Voices from a Prison*. He lives in London and works for the *Times Literary Supplement*.

ISBN: 9781846975875
Price: £6.99
Publication: 06 May 2021
Format: 148 x 110mm Pbk w/flaps
Extent: 98pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: n/a
Rights: World All Languages

An Orkney Tapestry



GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

was one of the twentieth century's most distinguished and original writers. His lifelong inspiration and birthplace, Stromness in Orkney, moulded his view of the world, though he studied in Edinburgh and later at Newbattle Abbey College. His novel, *Beside the Ocean of Time* (1994) shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the Saltire Book of the Year.

ISBN: 9781846974809

Price: £8.99

Publication: 03 June 2021

Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk

Extent: 256pp

Illustrations: line drawings throughout

ePub: n/a

Rights: World All Languages

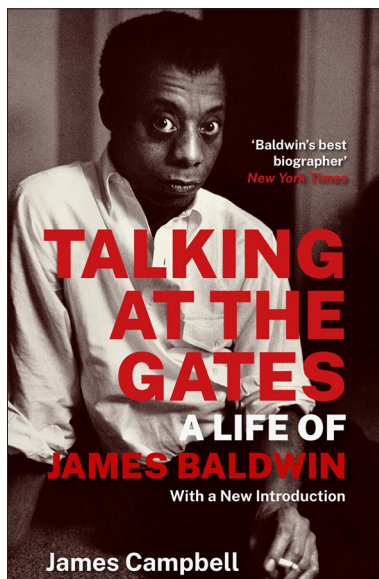
First published in 1969, *An Orkney Tapestry*, George Mackay Brown's seminal work, is a unique look at Orkney through the eye of a poet and a celebration of Orkney's people, language and history.

Made available again for the first time in over 40 years, this new edition sits alongside Nan Shepherd's *The Living Mountain* as an important precursor of environmental writing by the likes of Kathleen Jamie, Robert Macfarlane, Malachy Tallack and, most recently, Amy Liptrot.

Unavailable for many years, this new edition has a specially commissioned Introduction written by Kirsteen McCue and Linden Bicket

This edition reproduces Sylvia Wishart's beautiful illustrations, commissioned for the original hardback

Published to celebrate 50 years since its first publication and also the George Mackay Brown centenary in 2021



JAMES CAMPBELL was born in Glasgow in 1951. Between 1978 and 1982 he was editor of *The New Edinburgh Review*. He is the author of *Invisible Country: A Journey Through Scotland* and *Gate Fever: Voices from a Prison*. He lives in London and works for the *Times Literary Supplement*.

ISBN: 9781846975660
Price: £12.99
Publication: 04 February 2021
Format: 216 x 138mm Demy Pbk
Extent: 320pp
Illustrations: 16pp b/w plates
ePub: 9781788853811
Rights: UK Only

Talking at the Gates

A Life of James Baldwin

James Baldwin was born into the squalor of a Harlem tenement and transcended an early life of setbacks and racism. He was a great drinker and socialiser with wild periods of gregariousness and monastic retreats during which he wrote feverishly. By the time he died in 1987, many of his books had become modern classics.

Elegantly written, candid and original, *Talking at the Gates* is a comprehensive account of the life and work of a writer who believed that 'the unexamined life is not worth living'.

The definitive biography of James Baldwin (1924–1987), one of America's finest and most influential writers

Discusses the writer's turbulent relationships with Norman Mailer, Richard Wright and Marlon Brando, as well as his friendship with Martin Luther King

James Campbell was a close friend of Baldwin for 10 years and is regarded as his best biographer

HEY AMERICA!

BLACK MUSIC AND THE WHITE HOUSE*



STUART COSGROVE was media editor with the NME and a feature writer for a range of newspapers and magazines. In 2012 he won numerous awards including a BAFTA and Royal Television Society award, and the second book in his soul trilogy, *Memphis 68*, won the Penderyn Music Book Prize.

ISBN: 9781846975844

Price: £17.99

Publication: 01 October 2021

Format: 234 x 156mm Royal Hbk

Extent: 288pp

Illustrations: b/w throughout

ePub: 978178885XXXX

Rights: World All Languages

Hey America! Black Music and the White House

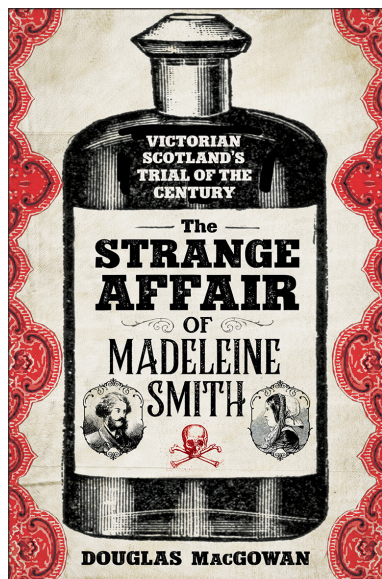
Hey, America! unearths the untold story of how successive presidents and their most senior aides recruited pop, rock and soul musicians to campaign for their election and help shape and represent public policy (often with disastrous consequences).

It reveals a remarkable roller-coaster of social change and shifting attitudes to teenage music: from the moral backlash against fifties rock 'n' roll and, later, rap and heavy metal to the explosion of soul music in the civil rights era.

An informed, intellectually stimulating book which will appeal to fans of music and politics alike

Explores the cataclysmic shift of public attitudes through which African-American music triumphed over the many forces that had held it back

Features previously unseen photography



DOUGLAS MacGOWAN was born in Chicago in 1963 and has lived in California since 1968. He received a Bachelor of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco in 1988 and has contributed articles to the *Scottish Journal*, *The Scotsman* and *Celtic Heritage*.

ISBN: 9781846975806
Price: £9.99
Publication: 02 September 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 208pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9780857902726
Rights: World All Languages

The Strange Affair of Madeline Smith

Victorian Scotland's Trial of the Century

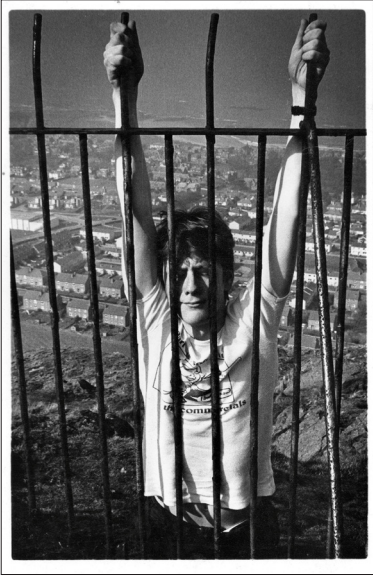
It was a case that rocked Victorian society. Emile L'Angelier was a working-class immigrant from the Channel Islands who began a clandestine affair with prominent Glasgow socialite Madeleine Smith. Six weeks after Emile threatened to show Madeleine's father their passionate letters, on 23 March 1857, he was found dead from arsenic poisoning.

Douglas MacGowan's vivid account reads by turns like a thriller, a love story and a courtroom drama.

For fans of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, true crime and whodunit lovers, Victoriana enthusiasts and those interested in Scottish legal history

An engrossing insight into the suffocating world of Victorian women and the great divide between social classes

The most complete picture to date of the events, characters and aftermath of Victorian Scotland's sensational trial of the century



ALASTAIR McKAY is a journalist living in London. He grew up in North Berwick, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. He currently writes for the *Evening Standard* in London, and *Uncut* magazine.

ISBN: 9781846975813
Price: £12.99
Publication: 07 October 2021
Format: 234 x 156mm Trade Pbk
Extent: 256pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 978178885XXXX
Rights: World All Languages

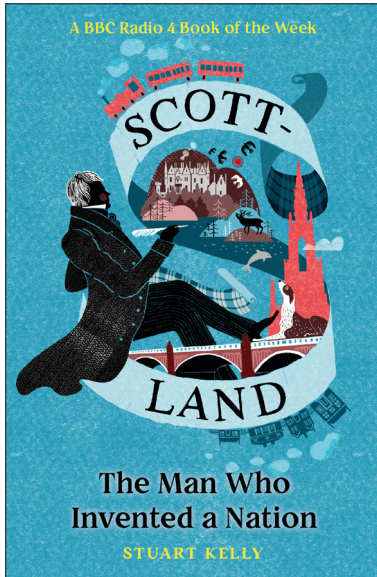
Alternatives to Valium

How punk rock saved a shy boy's life

The book is a warmly nostalgic memoir of growing up in North Berwick, a fading seaside town, in the 1970s, a tale of how an exceptionally shy boy used writing to find his voice and become an award-winning journalist; sharing a limousine with Kate Moss, meeting Iggy Pop at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, following Shirley Manson around California, meeting Dolly Parton in Dollywood and Willie Nelson in his tour bus.

A fascinating and uplifting memoir, telling a story of overcoming adversity to find one's voice in the world

The book will appeal to readers of Karl Ove Knausgaard's *My Struggle*, Deborah Orr's *Motherwell*, Damian Barr's *Maggie & Me*, Pete Paphides' *Broken Greek* and Amy Liptrot's *The Outrun*



STUART KELLY was raised in the Scottish Borders and studied English at Balliol College Oxford, gaining a first class degree and a Master of Studies. He was the Literary Editor of *Scotland on Sunday* and is now a freelance critic and writer.

ISBN: 9781846975646
Price: £6.99
Publication: 03 June 2021
Format: 198 x 129mm B-Pbk
Extent: 304pp
Illustrations: n/a
ePub: 9780857900210
Rights: EL UK & Commonwealth exc. NA)

Scott-Land

The Man Who Invented a Nation

**‘the best book on Scott, indeed, since Edwin Muir’s *Scott and Scotland*’
– Andrew O’Hagan**

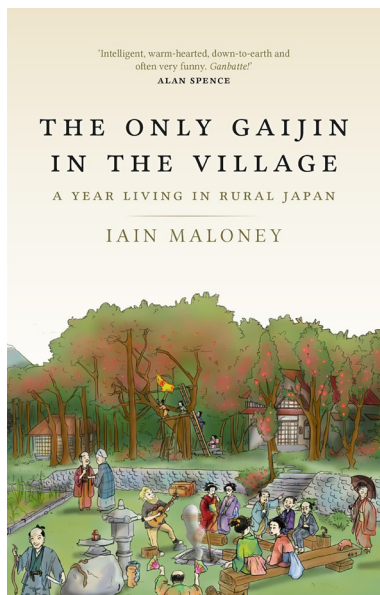
His name and image are everywhere - from Bank of Scotland fivers to the bizarre monument in Edinburgh’s city centre.

Scott-land presumes that the reader will have only a hazy awareness of Sir Walter Scott, and, although Stuart Kelly will offer insights into Scott’s works and biography, this is emphatically not a conventional literary biography, nor is it a critical study.

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2021 will see many events and celebrations to mark the anniversary, continuing over 2 years

A Radio 4 Book of the Week when first published, and now regarded as a seminal work on Scott and his impact on the nation



IAIN MALONEY is an editor and lectures on writing in Japan. He has degrees in English (Aberdeen) and Creative Writing (Glasgow) and has published three novels and a haiku collection. He reviews regularly for a number of publications including the *Japan Times*.

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