



His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae

From Contraband

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His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae From Contraband

A Man Booker Prize Finalist A New York Times Editors' Choice Named a Best Book of 2016 by Newsweek, NPR, The Guardian, The Telegraph, and The Sunday Times A brutal triple murder in a remote Scottish farming community in 1869 leads to the arrest of seventeen-year-old Roderick Macrae. There is no question that Macrae committed this terrible act. What would lead such a shy and intelligent boy down this bloody path? And will he hang for his crime? Presented as a collection of documents discovered by the author, His Bloody Project opens with a series of police statements taken from the villagers of Culdie, Ross-shire. They offer conflicting impressions of the accused; one interviewee recalls Macrae as a gentle and quiet child, while another details him as evil and wicked. Chief among the papers is Roderick Macrae's own memoirs where he outlines the series of events leading up to the murder in eloquent and affectless prose. There follow medical reports, psychological evaluations, a courtroom transcript from the trial, and other documents that throw both Macrae's motive and his sanity into question. "The clever tale is told through a collection of historical documents, including Roddy's written confession, interviews with villagers and a report by a criminal psychologist. The ingenious structure provides for a unique sociological study couched in a chilling true crime investigation. The period language and poetic descriptions of place will enthrall readers of historical fiction. For fans of Iain Pears and Umberto Eco." ? Bill's Bookshelf Selector, Bill Kelly

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Editorial Review

Review

"Spellbinding ... Riveting, dark and ingeniously constructed." - Edmund Gordon, Sunday Times. "The book's pretence at veracity, as well as being a literary *jeux d'esprit*, brings an extraordinary historical period into focus, while the multiple unreliable perspectives are designed to keep the audience wondering, throughout the novel and beyond. This is a fiendishly readable tale that richly deserves the wider attention the Booker has brought it." - Justine Jordan, The Guardian. "An astonishing piece of writing... a voice that sounds startlingly authentic." - Jake Kerridge, The Telegraph. "Gripping, blackly playful and intelligent, it deserves a space on the shortlist. It's one of the few that may set the heather - and imagination - ablaze." - Robbie Millen, The Times. "Graeme Macrae Burnet's His Bloody Project is a gripping crime story, a deeply imagined historical novel, and gloriously written - all in one tour-de-force of a book. Stevensonian - that's the highest praise I can give." - Chris Dolan, Book of the Year, The Herald. "The Man Booker judges got it right: this really is one of the most convincing and engrossing novels of the year." - David Robinson, The Scotsman. "A real box of tricks... a truly ingenious thriller as confusingly multilayered as an Escher staircase." Jake Kerridge, Express. "A historical revenge tragedy and courtroom drama... [are] at the heart of this masterful psychological thriller." Ian Stephen "Masterful, clever and playful. It is every inch the riveting second novel I had hoped for." Louise Hutcheson, A Novel Bookblog.

About the Author

Graeme Macrae Burnet is one of Scotland's brightest literary talents. Born and brought up in Kilmarnock, he spent some years working as an English teacher in Prague, Bordeaux, Porto and London, before returning to Glasgow and working for eight years for various independent television companies. He has degrees in English Literature and International Security Studies from Glasgow and St Andrews universities respectively. His first novel, *The Disappearance of Adele Bedeau* (Contraband, 2014), received a New Writer's Award from the Scottish Book Trust, was longlisted for the Waverton Good Read Award and was a minor cult hit. Set in small-town France, it is a compelling psychological portrayal of a peculiar outsider pushed to the limit by his own feverish imagination. His second novel, *His Bloody Project*, has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016. He is currently working on another novel featuring Georges Gorski, the haunted detective in *The Disappearance of Adele Bedeau*.

Users Review

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