

Underbellyglasgow Underbelly Glasgows Streets Book 3

KILLERS, CROOKS AND CONS chronicles the astonishing crimes that horrified 20th-century Scotland. Taking each decade in turn, Reg McKay tells the true tales of the crimes that shook the nation, often the world. And these crimes will shock you still. From serial killers to armed mobsters and poisoners to cops who killed, KILLERS, CROOKS AND CONS takes you from Glasgow to Edinburgh, Aberdeen to Dundee and from the Highlands to the Borders. As well as well-known cases like the world's first serial killer Peter Manuel who was hanged for the murder of seven people, wealthy landowner Max Garvie whose kinky parties led to his murder and the strange case of the death of SNP activist Willie McRae, Reg McKay tells the story of many of Scotland's less well-known but equally fascinating cases - including a police showdown with armed members of the IRA, the murder of a wealthy socialite and a committed Christian who went to extraordinary lengths to cover up his part in the brutal murder of his wife. KILLERS, CROOKS AND CONS is Scotland's very own criminal record from a century of shame.

From bishops to battlefields, barrowboys to business tycoons, Nuala Naughton brings to life some of the characters and events that have shaped Glasgow's East End since the city's founder, St Mungo, first set eyes on the 'dear green place' This entertaining, lighthearted account looks at the legends behind the city's coat of arms and the foundation of the city as an ecclesiastic centre of excellence and respected seat of learning. It also offers a colourful insight into tenement life with anecdotes and interviews by born and bred Eastenders; the Battle of George Square in 1919 when Prime Minister Churchill waged war on unionized workers, the make-do-and-mend community and the story behind 'silk stockings' made from used teabags and an eyebrow pencil during the Second World War; the dancin', the saints, the sinners; the 'City of the Dead' and how the Barrowland ballroom came to the attention of the German high command and the war propagandist Lord Haw Haw. From medieval Glasgow to modern times, this fascinating book offers a pick 'n' mix of fact and fiction, myths and miracles surrounding the rich and sometimes turbulent history of Glasgow's East End. A violent drunk with a broken heart, Mackie looks for love in all the wrong places. When two hit men catch him with his pants down, he barely makes it out alive. Worse still, his ex-gangster uncle, Rab, has vanished, leaving him an empty house and a dead dog. Reluctant PI Sam Ireland is hired by hotshot lawyers to track Rab but is getting nothing except blank stares and slammed doors. As she scours the dive bars, the dregs of Glasgow start to take notice. DI Andy Lambert is a cop in the middle of an endless shift. A body washes up, and the city seems to shiver in fear; looks like it's up to Lambert to clean up after the lowlifes again. As a rampaging Mackie hunts his uncle, the scum of the city come out to play. And they play dirty. It seems that everyone has either a dark secret or a death wish. In Mackie's case, it might just be both.

Meet the hardest men from a country where the streets are the most dangerous and the gangsters and criminals are the scariest in Britain. These faces have seen it all: the guns, the knives, the fights and the toughest prisons. This book will take you deep inside the rough, mad, bad, drug-infested, cut-throat, back-stabbing world of the Scottish prison system, bringing to light the last fifty years of infamous incidents that have taken place behind bars in some of the highest security prisons. With a frightening in-depth look at the most notorious prisons and institutions and the most daunting and fearsome of inmates, this compulsive guide covers them all from murderers to armed-robbers, a female crime clan with a family feel to it and some of the most notorious cases in Scottish criminal history.

Johnny McGrath, 21, was the leader of the notorious Glasgow razor gang The Gorbals Cumbie. He feared no-one, but was feared by many. This book follows his trials and tribulations as he led his gang into open warfare against other Glasgow gangs like the Tongs. Apart from fighting, he was not only recognised to be a bit of a street icon but a sex symbol with the young ladies. We follow his incredible rise from a wild street boy to a top notch gangster. This novel is based on a conglomeration of Gorbals characters, many of whom are no longer with us, but some are. The gang's battle cry was "Cumbie ya bass!" and struck terror into the hearts of many of those who heard it. This is a true life novel with violence, sex, Glaswegian humour, and madness on every page. It is probably the best novel about Glasgow gangs ever written.

Armed Candy is the true story of one woman's struggle for survival on Britain's meanest streets. Kay has spent her whole life trying to escape. Sexually abused by her grandmother, she pleaded to return to her mother's care. But instead of finding a safe haven, Kay entered a world of drug abuse, swinging and dabbling in the occult. Although still a small child, she was soon buying drugs for her mother and being moved out of her bed as orgies ensued in her home. When she tried to escape, she ended up in a violent marriage, from which she fled in fear of her life. Turning to her mother for help, she was tricked into prostitution, her own mother acting much like a pimp. Kay became a high-class call girl, but then, through a chance meeting, she got involved with the most dangerous criminal gang in Glasgow. Women associated with such gangs are often seen as decorative arm candy, but Kay was admitted to the inner core, where she became involved in making decisions of life and death. She fell in love with the gang's equaliser, a young man feared throughout the country, and together they formed a formidable partnership. But they were too successful, and when they appeared to threaten some powerful interests they had to be taken out. The day that Kay's lover was gunned down in broad daylight saw the beginning of a reign of death in the city, as the organised crime world became paranoid and turned in on itself. For Kay, it was the beginning of her way out.

Glasgow is burning after a series of racially motivated murders, and it's up to Detective-Sergeant Lou Perlman to put out the fire in international bestselling

author Campbell Armstrong's riveting thriller First an Asian business owner falls to his death from his sixth-story apartment. Next an Indian woman, a kindergarten teacher, is shot dead. Meanwhile, Detective Perlman grieves quietly for his brother, killed in a hail of gunfire, and wrestles with his attraction to his sister-in-law, Miriam. There is no rational motive for the killings—none except pure racially driven hatred. With the emergence of a group called White Rage, fear ripples through the city and Perlman has to get answers fast. As he looks beneath the bright surface of the city where he was born, he finds longtime enemies, dangerous businessmen, and ancient connections that will disturb and threaten the wrong people when their secrets are finally revealed. White Rage is the 3rd book in the Glasgow Novels, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

"Malcolm Mackay has created his own world." --The Sunday Times [UK] "A sharp-edged morality play delivered with the relentless intensity of machine gunfire."--Library Journal Oliver Peterkinney and Alex Glass, two friends from Glasgow's desperate fringes, become involved in one of the city's darkest and most dangerous trades: debt collection. While one rises quickly through the ranks, the other falls prey to the industry's addictive lifestyle, accumulating steep debts of his own. Meanwhile, the three most powerful rivals in the business--Marty Jones, ruthless pimp; Potty Cruickshank, member of the old guard; and Billy Patterson, brutal newcomer--vie for prominence. And now Peterkinney, young and darkly ambitious, is beginning to make himself known. Before long, violence will spill out onto the streets, as those at the top make deadly attempts to out-manuever one another for a bigger share of the spoils. Peterkinney and Glass will find themselves at the very center of this war; as the pressure builds, each will find their actions--and inactions--coming back to haunt them. But it is those they love who will suffer most . . . The Night the Rich Men Burned is a novel for our times, and Mackay's most ambitious work to date, proving that in Glasgow's criminal underworld, there's nothing so terrifying as money.

This chilling and disturbing memoir tells the story of one of Glasgow's most notorious criminals. In his own words, William Lobban tells how he was born in Exeter Prison to a violent, schizophrenic mother. His upbringing in the East End of Glasgow was just as bleak, and he ended up in care, destined for a life of violence and insecurity. Aged only 15 he masterminded a daring break-in to a Glasgow pub, and many years of armed robberies, dealing class A drugs and gang fights followed. When he wasn't causing mayhem on the streets, Lobban was serving terms in various young offenders' institutions and prisons, where he was involved in some of the most serious prison riots of recent years. In the course of his criminal career Lobban became closely associated with the infamous Paul Ferris, who was later to incriminate him as the murderer of fellow gangster Arthur Thompson Jr. Police also believed that Lobban was the man behind the brutal double killing of Bobby Glover and Joe 'Bananas' Hanlon, but none of these charges was made to stick. Finally released from prison in 1998, Lobban decided to walk away from a life of crime, but at first it proved impossible for him to break the

way of life that had moulded him, and only in recent years has he found a measure of peace and stability. In this searing expose of the Glasgow underworld he reveals the true facts behind those crimes which he really committed, and those of which he is falsely accused

It's easy to kill a man. It's hard to kill a man well. A twenty-nine-year-old man lives alone in his Glasgow flat. The telephone rings; a casual conversation, but behind this a job offer. The clues are there if you know to look for them. He is an expert. A loner. Freelance. Another job is another job, but what if this organization wants more? A meeting at a club. An offer. A target: Lewis Winter, a necessary sacrifice that will be only the first step in an all-out war between crime syndicates the likes of which hasn't been seen for decades. It's easy to kill a man. It's hard to kill a man well. People who do it well know this. People who do it badly find out the hard way. The hard way has consequences.

Meet Davie McCall - not your average henchman. Abused and tormented by his father for fifteen years, there is a darkness in him searching for a way out. Under the wing of Glasgow's Godfather, Joe 'the Tailor' Klein, he flourishes. Joe the Tailor may be a killer, but there are some lines he won't cross, and Davie agrees with his strict moral code. He doesn't like drugs. He won't condone foul language. He abhors violence against women. When the Tailor refuses to be part of Glasgow's new drug trade, the hits start rolling. It's every man for himself as the entire criminal underworld turns on itself, and Davie is well and truly caught up in the action. But an attractive young reporter makes him wonder if he can leave his life of crime behind and Davie must learn the hard way that you cannot change what you are. Blood City is a novel set in Glasgow's underworld at a time when it was undergoing a seismic shift. A tale of violence, corruption and betrayal, loyalties will be tested and friendships torn apart.

Davie McCall is tired. Tired of violence, tired of the Life. He's always managed to stay detached from the brutal nature of his line of work, but recently he has caught himself enjoying it. In the final instalment in the Davie McCall series old friends clash and long buried secrets are unearthed as McCall investigates a brutal five-year-old crime. Davie wants out, but the underbelly of Glasgow is all he has ever known. Will what he learns about his old ally Big Rab McClymont be enough to get him out of the Life? And could the mysterious woman who just moved in upstairs be just what he needs?

Glasgow is no different from any other city when it comes to crime, and in particular, murder. In this remarkable collection of lesser-known murder stories from both sides of the Second World War, Donald M. Fraser has trawled the public records, newspapers and court proceedings of the day to bring to life a Pandora's Box of killing in and around the city. The cases start in 1919 in the East End with the murder of a policeman and conclude with the Glasgow Green and Queens Park murders from 1958-60. He also brings to life the Clydesdale Bank murder which took place in Clydebank in 1931 and reveals, for the first time, the identity of the person responsible for the crime. The despicable killing and dismemberment of a mother is revealed in the Agnes Arbuckle case of 1927 when she was murdered for a ?100 insurance claim. Her son was hanged for his trouble. The Carragher murders of 1938 and 1946 show the trail of havoc wrought by one man who was convicted of two murders, seven years apart and amongst the unsolved crimes are the triple murders on Glasgow Green between 1958 and 1960 and the murder of little Betty Alexander in 1952. Many of these murders have only been

made public through the newspaper reports of the day and are previously unpublished in book form. This is grim, gritty murder writing set against the backdrop of the 20th-century Glasgow that was mean and moody, before it was made over into a modern city that is now feted around the world.

On the 28th of August 2002, Brian Birt lost his much-loved son, Darren, aged just 22. Some 16 years on, this book tells the harrowing story of his continuing fight for justice, his tangible (and understandable) frustrations with the flawed Scottish legal system, and his determination to see his son's murderers pay for their heinous crime. As he says, four lives were lost the day Darren died, not just his. *The Forgotten Murder - Justice for Darren* isn't just about a father's unsurmountable grief and his family's heartbreak, it's also a moving memoir which begins with his earliest memories as a young boy in Glasgow. As the third eldest child (of eleven) of Bingo Annie (a protestant) and his father, The Fighting Irish, (a staunch Catholic) he has an eclectic mix of anecdotes and memories to share - which he does with honesty and relish. He also touches on the devastation that mental health struggles have on families, and the barbaric way in which those struggling were dealt with in the latter half of the 20th century. What also makes this book such a thought-provoking and memorable read is the author's presentation of his Catholic faith and his struggles with his relationship with God during some of the darkest times of his life. This very candid and forthright insight into the author's life will evoke a whole range of emotions for anyone who reads it, and it will linger in one's mind for a long time after too.

"CJ delivers the mouthwatering scrumptiousness every time. Her dishes are delectable. And I am a connoisseur of all things delicious." -Jack Black Tired of forking over hundreds of dollars for entertaining her friends and family, Christiane Jory made a decision. She challenged herself to create more than 100 gourmet recipes for appetizers, side dishes, main courses, and desserts—solely with items she found at 99¢ Only Stores! In this delightful, practical cookbook, Jory serves up delectable dishes, including: Artichoke Spinach Bake on Homemade Pizza Bread Green Beans Au Gratin Chicken Tetrazinni Pinot Noir Poached Pear Tart This handy guide is filled with sample menus, a glossary of cooking terms, and space for creating recipes of your very own. Each recipe includes an estimated cost and helpful kitchen hints, such as uses for recycled milk cartons and how to freeze egg whites. Never again will finances be an excuse for not entertaining with pizzazz. With *The 99¢ Only Stores Cookbook*, feeding a family, playing host to five or six, or even simply cooking for one at home needn't cost a small fortune ever again!

Glasgow's mean streets just got meaner. Can Davie McCall survive? Meet Davie McCall. Beaten, bloody... brutal. Irrevocably damaged by the barbaric regime of an abusive father, and haunted by memories of his mother's murder, there is a darkness inside him. Enter Joe the Tailor. A sophisticated crimelord with morals, he might be the only man in the city Davie can trust. But then the bodies begin to mount...In 1980s Glasgow, the criminal underworld is about to splinter. Battle lines are drawn, and the gap between friend and enemy blurs as criminals and police alike are caught in a net of lies, murder and revenge that will change the city forever. Scotland's foremost true-crime author. *THE SCOTSMAN* The city's dark underbelly complete with knives, razors, guns and gangs... *DAILY MAIL* You follow the plot like an eager dog, nose turning this way and that, not catching every single clue but quivering as you lunge towards a blood-

splattered denouement. DAILY EXPRESS The Glasgow of this period is a great, gritty setting for a crime story, and Skelton's non-fiction work stands him in good stead... he's taken well to fiction... the unexpected twists keep coming. THE HERALD

Gerard Gallacher served as a police officer in Glasgow over three decades, from the 1980s onwards. It was the time when drugs seized hold of the city and a new set of ruthless criminals were threatening to take control. There was still the usual violence of the city to deal with, including domestic violence, gang warfare and robbery but it was the huge increase in drug use that defined the times and led to many of the most notorious incidents in the city's criminal past. And Gerry Gallacher was in the thick of the action. As a detective, Gallacher knew and dealt with all the major criminals of the times, including Arthur Thompson and his son Arthur Jnr, Tam McGraw, Paul Ferris, Joe Hanlon and Bobby Glover. He gave evidence at Ferris's murder trial, reveals how he discovered that Arthur Thomson was a Security Services asset and was the first detective on the scene when Hanlon and Glover were murdered. He delivered the police warning to notorious criminal Frank McPhie to tell him that his life was in danger, a warning that went unheeded. Gallacher was also involved in countless other high profile investigations, including the notorious drugs feud between former friends Tony McGovern and James Stevenson which ended in assassination.

The real story of the Glasgow Ice Cream Van Wars, Tam McGraw was on a mission. He wanted to destroy Marchetti. However, first, Tam had to test the waters. So he started with Carntyne one of Marchetti's most lucrative routes. McGraw went for the jugular right from the start. He knew Marchetti would not give in easily, They would defend their territory, but they were about to suffer brutality and destruction that they could never have imagined in their wildest nightmares. McGraw planned to be the Ice Cream King of Scotland, and Carntyne is where he would lay the foundations of his throne. Nothing or no one would stand in his way. Written in a broad Glaswegian dialect with a lot of swearing, the author writes as he speaks. This book might not be suitable for those who prefer perfect grammar and proper English.

'Tough, uncompromising and insightful . . . Russell has brilliantly captured post-war Glasgow and the vulnerability of those left to pick up the pieces' Michael Robotham 'A crime story that transcends the genre. . . This is storytelling at its very best!' Michael Connelly Glasgow, 1953: the war may be over but the battle for the streets is just beginning. Three crime bosses control the murky streets, but a small-scale con is trying to invade their territory. The balance is shifting. Lennox, a hard man in a hard city at a hard time, finds himself caught in the middle - a dangerous place to be. One night, a body is discovered on the road, his head mashed to pulp, and Lennox is in the frame for murder. The only way of proving his innocence is to solve the crime - but he'll have to dodge men more deadly than Glasgow's crime bosses before he gets any answers. The first in a unique and memorable crime series, Lennox is gritty, fast-paced, mordantly funny and totally compelling. Praise for award-winning writer Craig Russell:

'Another brilliantly sharp, witty and tough take on a hard city at a hard time . . . a former cop, Russell is Britain's rising crime-writing star' Daily Mirror 'Through his humorous lens, time and place become razor-sharp ... The lightness of touch is a breath of fresh air in this most crowded of genres . . . This is tartan neo-noir at its most entertaining' Sunday Herald

I Am Raymond Washington is the only authorized biography of the undisputed founder of the Crips and provides an unprecedented look into Raymond Washington's life. If you're looking for stories of gang violence and crimes committed by gang members, that's been done before, and this book isn't for you. But if you're looking for a factual and intuitive look into what made Raymond Washington unique in the mean streets of Los Angeles, this is the book you want to read. Filled with stories, many never-before-seen photographs, as well as interviews and eyewitness accounts of those who knew Raymond, what he represented, and how and why the Crips were formed-and why his name is still spoken on the streets of Los Angeles today with hatred, fear, awe, and reverence. Entering the world of Raymond Washington with an open mind was difficult for me; however, the story of who Raymond Washington was as a leader, warrior, tactician, and mentor became clear. Learn why the gang was so successful and how an unremarkable fifteen-year-old kid in the fall of 1969 sat down with his best friend and formed what later became one of the most successful, and yet feared and hated gangs in the world-the Crips.

Robert Jeffrey, author of the bestselling Barlinnie Story and other true crime books, now tells the remarkable story of the infamous Peterhead Prison in Scotland's far north-east. Built in the 1880s as part of an ambitious humanitarian plan to use convict labour to construct a 'harbour of refuge' on the town's wild, storm-battered coast, it became what some call Scotland's gulag. A cold and brutal place, it has held down the years some of Scotland's most violent criminals and most infamous prisoners, convicted of the most heinous of crimes. In the early days, convicts were controlled by men as hard as their charges. The wardens carried swords and were quick to use them if necessary. And when convict labour was used to build the harbour, they worked with rifles trained on them at all times. Peterhead's wardens were clearly not to be crossed.

Throughout the history of the prison, riots and breakouts have made headlines, with the SAS involved in restoring order at one point. Peterhead also had the reputation of being so secure that escape was impossible, with the notable exception of Johnny Ramensky, the safeblower turned war hero who went back to his criminal ways and spent more than forty years of his life in prison, many of them in Peterhead. He became the first inmate to escape and repeated the exercise four more times, often for his own satisfaction and amusement, each time being recaptured after a short taste of freedom.

Lennox is a man balanced between the law and those who break it - a dangerous place where only the toughest and most ruthless survive. When Jimmy 'Small Change' MacFarlane is bludgeoned to death with a bronze statue of Danny Boy,

his best greyhound, Lennox is drawn into hunting MacFarlane's killer and discovers that 'small Change' was into a lot more than dog racing....

This is the explosive story of what happened as the Daniel - Lyons feud spiralled out of control and engulfed a whole community.

In the 1960's a 26-year-old schoolmaster at a Scottish reformatory (List D) School, under the alias of James Patrick, went undercover with the help of one of his pupils to study the often violent behaviour of the teenagers in a gang in Glasgow. He managed to conceal his identity and motives and during the course of a four-month assignation in 1966 he observed closely the gang members and concluded that the boys were 'afraid of fighting other gangs but more afraid of not fighting them.' Ultimately it was 'the struggle between identification with the boys and abhorrence of their violence that forced me to quit.' This book became the first published observation of a Glasgow gang and as such has stood the test of time as a number of factors that Patrick identified as contributing to the growth of gang culture still remain in existence today, most crucially poverty, grim housing conditions and unemployment. This is a portrait of gang culture before the drug barons moved in and created another level of violence and as such it deserves its cult status. Now fully indexed with a new Preface from the author whose whereabouts remain known only to the publishers. The republication of the book follows Peter Mullan's highly rated film 'Neds' which portrays a Glasgow gang in the 1970s.

'Immensely exciting and atmospheric' ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH 'Move over Rebus' Daily Mail 'Exciting, pacy, authentic' ANGELA MARSONS 'Convincing Glaswegian atmosphere and superior writing' The Times Don't miss Alex Gray's latest novel - WHEN SHADOWS FALL is out now in paperback It doesn't matter whether you've read them all or whether you're discovering this bestselling series for the first time, this Lorimer mystery is the perfect winter read to cozy up with _____

When three young women are discovered strangled and mutilated in a Glasgow park, it is up to DCI Lorimer to find their killer. Frustrated by a lack of progress in the investigation, Lorimer is forced to enlist the services of Dr Solomon Brightman, psychologist and criminal profiler. Together they form an uneasy alliance. But when a homeless man is brought in for questioning the investigation takes a bizarre turn. Soon Lorimer has to scratch the surface of the polished Glasgow art world and reveal the dark layers hidden beneath... Alex Gray's new novel BEFORE THE STORM is available to pre-order now _____ ***PRAISE FOR ALEX GRAY***

'Convincing Glaswegian atmosphere and superior writing' The Times 'Brings Glasgow to life in the same way Rankin evokes Edinburgh' Daily Mail 'Exciting, pacy, authentic' Angela Marsons 'Sums up everything that is golden and enthralling about a good book' Fully Booked

Includes fascinating stories about Billy Fullerton, leader of the Billy Boys, featured in the latest series of BBC's Peaky Blinders 'A new type of criminal is in our midst - a dangerous, ruthless, well-armed man, who will stick at nothing, not even murder. He is introducing into this country the gangster methods of Chicago and New York... Trade depression has thrown into unemployment thousands of unskilled youths who have

nothing to do but lounge about the street corners of our slums in gangs.' John Bull weekly newspaper, 1932. During the 1920s and 1930s, Glasgow gained an unenviable and enduring notoriety as Britain's gang city - the 'Scottish Chicago'. Now Andrew Davies, author of the acclaimed *The Gangs of Manchester*, brings to life the reign of terror exerted on Glasgow by gangs like the Billy Boys, the Kent Star, the Savoy Arcadians and the South Side Stickers. Out of the most dilapidated and overcrowded tenements in Britain, stepped young men and women dressed like Hollywood gangsters and their molls. On the city's streets, they took centre stage in dramas of their own making, fighting territorial battles laced with religious sectarianism and running protection rackets modelled on those of the American underworld. Drawing on fifteen years of original research, Andrew Davies provides compelling portraits of legendary figures such as 'Razor King' John Ross and Billy Fullerton, leader of the Billy Boys - described as the 'Al Capone' of the city's East End. He sheds new light on the way the city's police and judiciary dealt with the gangs and reveals the fascinating role played by the media in creating myths of the underworld. During what the *Daily Express* described as 'The War on the Gang', Glasgow's police were led by Chief Constable Percy Sillitoe (who later became head of M15), determined to maintain the image as a tough, gang-busting cop he had forged in Sheffield during the 1920s. This dramatic story, played out against the backdrop of the most volatile of Britain's cities, provides a new window onto the most turbulent period in modern British history and a timely reminder of how deprivation, unemployment and religious bigotry are a toxic cocktail in any era.

Walter Norval was a man marked by destiny to be a career criminal in one of Britain's hardest cities. As a boy he grew up in a world of illegal betting, violent canal bank pitch-and-toss schools, sleazy dance halls, brothels and bars where the denizens of the slums in the north side of Glasgow slaked gargantuan thirsts and plotted murder and mayhem. Before he had reached his teens, close relatives had died as blood was spilled in the streets. As a youngster he ran 'messages' for the toughest gangsters in the city and stood guard over the pots of cash in illegal gambling schools. It was a remarkable apprenticeship, dangerous and sometimes deadly. It honed a latent toughness and a talent for lawbreaking that saw him emerge in the Seventies as the first of a succession of Glasgow godfathers. Dressed in pinstriped style, he controlled his foot soldiers with fearsome fists and planned robberies with the attention to detail of a military general. He organised various Glasgow fighting factions into a single gang, which pulled off a spectacular series of robberies. But, unlike his successors, he abhorred drugs and drug-dealing. And, in a remarkable twist, he joined the anti-drugs war in later life. His story - told by the best-selling crime historian Robert Jeffrey - provides a fascinating insight into the making of a criminal mastermind, from boy to man.

'I doubt I'll read a better book this year' Val McDermid 'Compelling, immersive and brimming with life' Graeme Macrae Burnet Auctioneer Rilke has been trying to stay out of trouble, keeping his life more or less respectable. Business has been slow at Bowery Auctions, so when an old friend, Jojo, gives Rilke a tip-off for a house clearance, life seems to be looking up. The next day Jojo washes up dead. Jojo liked Grindr hook-ups and recreational drugs – is that the reason the police won't investigate? And if Rilke doesn't find out what happened to Jojo, who will? Thrilling and atmospheric, The

Second Cut delves into the dark side of twenty-first century Glasgow. Twenty years on from his appearance in *The Cutting Room*, Rilke is still walking a moral tightrope between good and bad, saint and sinner.

The armed guards and Alsatians stayed put as the prison gates slammed shut. 'I'm going straight,' Paul Ferris announced to the press, then sped off in a waiting car. Before he'd reached the first corner, the journalists were after him. And they weren't the only ones . . . Paul Ferris ruled crime in Scotland. He had links to London firms, Manchester gangs and Liverpool faces. He'd been accused of murdering The Godfather's son, Fatboy, and found not guilty. Some cops talked of killing him. Now he was telling the world that he was walking away from his life of crime. But would they let him? *Vendetta* tells the astonishing inside story of what happened next to Paul Ferris. And it's a story of international gangsters, hit contracts, murders, bank scams, Essex-boy torturers, corrupt politics, crackhead hitmen, knife duels, terrorists and more. In *Vendetta*, Paul Ferris slashes open the underbelly of Britain's streets and exposes the dark forces that police them as well as revealing the truth about what really happened to him and about the conspiracies and corruption that won't leave him alone. For years, new enemies and old foes have tried to silence Paul Ferris. But it's Ferris who's here to tell the tale while many of them are not. And some tale it is.

Glasgow, 1932, is a city in the grip of dance-fever. Public ballrooms and backstreet dancehalls are thronged every night and competition for professional titles is fierce. Even after the sudden death of one of last year's hopefuls there are plenty willing to take his place, and few who stop to wonder why he died. In the melting pot of the Locarno Ballroom in Sauchiehall Street, a debutante rubs shoulders with denizens of Glasgow's meanest streets, her respectable fiancé oblivious, her parents dismayed. When she starts receiving threats from a rival, they grow frantic enough to call on Dandy Gilver to save their precious daughter from harm. But as Dandy and her sidekick, Alec Osborne, begin to unravel the secrets of the dancehall, they soon discover that the rot goes much deeper than rivalry and there's more at stake than a silver cup. Despite the pretty frocks and dancing shoes, this apparently glittering world is a darker place than they've ever been before . . .

For more than 100 years the poverty and desperation of Glasgow's slums fuelled the violence of the gangs. But some men were bigger than any gang. Men like Arthur Thompson, Walter Norval and Paul Ferris - brutal and remorseless - came to cast a shadow of fear over the whole city. But the gangsters and criminals were not Glasgow's only hard men. The other side of the fight had its share too. Glasgow's crimefighters - from cops on the beat to chief constables and high court judges - were also tough. Tough and determined that those who would terrorise the city should not go unpunished. *Glasgow's Hard Men* is the story of both sides, the good and the bad, and the pitched, bloody battle between the two.

An unprecedented investigation into the shocking realities of gun crime on Britain's streets. *Guns and Gangs* lifts the lid on a hugely important modern-day problem - an expensive problem both in terms of money and young lives. After terrorism, the single greatest worry for law enforcement agencies is gun crime, and in particular 'black on black' shooting. McLagan has had exclusive access to police files and case histories. Alongside his findings from these records are interviews with police officers, victims and their families, witnesses, lawyers and perpetrators of gun crime. The result is a unique,

fascinating and horrifying exposé of the disturbing truth behind this plague on our streets.

Sharp-suited gang members hiding swords down the panelling of trendy Italian scooters Police wearing specially designed leather neckbands to deflect knife attacks Mounted police wielding sabres For more than 100 years Glasgow was known worldwide for its gangsters and villains. This book traces the history of the city's gangland violence from the bloody turf wars, extortion and religious battles to the rise in drug dealing today. A powerful read.

In the twenty-first century, Glasgow is still a city living down a fearsome reputation for crime. And for some citizens of the Dear Green Place, brawling is in the blood and gang warfare is a way of life. The stinking deprivation of the Gorbals and the East End, deprivation that helped spawn pre-war gangs like the Billy Boys, the Norman Conks and the Redskins, is largely gone, but in each era new gangs have risen to take their place. Battles over turf and control of the drugs trade still regularly make the headlines. Now newly updated, *Gangs of Glasgow* takes an in-depth look at the gripping evolution of the city's gangs from the days of the Penny Mob, through the extortion, slashings and street fighting of the Thirties to the smart-suited men of violence of the modern day.

First in "a crime trilogy so searing it will burn forever into your memory. McIlvanney is the original Scottish criminal mastermind" (Christopher Brookmyre, international bestselling author). The Laidlaw novels, a groundbreaking trilogy that changed the face of Scottish fiction, are credited with being the founding books of the Tartan Noir movement that includes authors like Val McDermid, Denise Mina, and Ian Rankin. Says McDermid of William McIlvanney: "Patricia Highsmith had taken us inside the head of killers; Ruth Rendell tentatively explored sexuality; with *No Mean City*, Alexander McArthur had exposed Glasgow to the world; Raymond Chandler had dressed the darkness in clever words. But nobody had ever smashed those elements together into so accomplished a synthesis." In *Laidlaw*, the first book of the series, readers meet Jack Laidlaw, a hard-drinking philosopher-detective whose tough exterior cloaks a rich humanity and keen intelligence. Laidlaw's investigation into the murder of a young woman brings him into conflict with Glasgow's hard men, its gangland villains, and the moneyed thugs who control the city. As the gangsters running Glasgow race Laidlaw for the discovery of the young woman's killer, a sense of dangerous betrayal infests the city that only Laidlaw can erase. "From the opening chapter of *Laidlaw*, I knew I'd never read a crime novel like this." —Val McDermid, international bestselling author "It's doubtful I would be a crime writer without the influence of McIlvanney's *Laidlaw*." —Ian Rankin, New York

Times—bestselling author "Laidlaw is a tough novel, with an exciting ending, and it is superbly written. You should not miss this one." —The New York Times "A classic of the genre." —The Guardian

It used to be thought that no single person could rule the mean streets of Glasgow. Arthur Thompson proved this to be wrong. From an ordinary working-class family, Thompson started out as a bouncer and minder. Hard yet bright, he learned quickly. Cross him and you'd be scarred. Cheat him and he nailed you to the floor, crucifixionstyle. The gangsters of Glasgow thought it couldn't get any worse - it did. For forty years, Thompson ruled Glasgow and there came a time when his capacity for violence became so boundless that people would pray to be crucified. This fully revised edition of *The Last Godfather* visits places no law-abiding person has been. The gunrunning, murders, drug dealing and torture are all still there but there's much more - atrocities like how he improved on crucifixion as a means of revenge, how he created Europe's Tartan Mafia, how he invented concrete boots as a failsafe way of disposing of enemies' corpses. Then there are the ways he has had an impact on the lives and, more importantly, deaths of others - one man killed by a sniper, another kidnapped in London and tortured for days in Glasgow. Thompson died of natural causes but his influence didn't stop at his grave - which, incidentally, was deliberately left unmarked in case someone he'd had a run-

in with decided to dig him up and wreak some kind of horrible revenge. This new edition includes previously unexplored aspects of Thompson's legacy and investigates the reasons there could never be another gang lord as all-powerful as Arthur Thompson - why he was destined to become The Last Godfather.

A blackly comic heist novel set in Glasgow's famed underworld, reminiscent of early Christopher Brookmyre. Boddice, a crime lord looking over his shoulder for good reason, has assembled an unlikely band of misfit crooks. Their job is to steal a famous diamond worth millions, known as The Dark Side of the Moon. Despite the odds, the crew's self-serving squabbles and natural incompetence, the plan progresses. As events build to an explosive climax no one really knows who is playing who. Full of twists and turns and laugh-out-loud moments, this is a hugely enjoyable romp from entirely the criminal's point-of-view, with not a single cop in sight. 'Neds, drug dealers, gangsters, molls, jakes, crazy old bag ladies, racketeering, and the biggest jewel heist ever seen in the UK. Welcome to Glasgow. No Mean City meets The Italian Job in this hilarious comic noir debut, as the dark underbelly of the city's crimeland is spewed onto the page. With razor-sharp dialogue, superbly venal characters and a finely-tuned plot, The Dark Side of the Moon builds to an explosive firecracker of an ending.' Douglas Lindsay, author of The Legend of Barney Thomson and Song of the Dead 'Mix Irvine Welsh with Ocean's Eleven. Set in Glasgow and BANG! Dark Side of the Moon is a fun and thrilling read with moments that will have you reflecting on life, and moments when you will be giving it LOLs. A boom-bastic read. Loved it.' Michael Malone, author of Beyond the Rage and Bad Samaritan

Finalist for the Edgar Award: "McCoy is so noir he makes most other Scottish cops seem light grey." —The Times An up-and-coming footballer has met an untimely end—and in a spectacularly gruesome fashion, topped off with the words Bye Bye carved into his chest. Harry McCoy knows this kind of violence indicates a personal, passionate motive, and since the footballer's future father-in-law is a notorious local gangster, that's where Harry starts his investigation. The case will take him into the seamy, drug-drenched underworld of 1970s Glasgow, and into his own dark childhood memories, in this intense crime thriller from Alan Parks, considered in "the top class of Scottish noir authors" (The Times). "Dissects a city where cops and crooks depend on one another to maintain order." —The Wall Street Journal "Riveting . . . The macabre and morally ambivalent February's Son is not one that will be quickly or easily forgotten." —The National "McCoy's Glasgow is a dark, brooding city, where the line between the police and the underworld is frequently blurred." —Herald

When a teenage boy shoots a young woman dead in the middle of a busy Glasgow street and then commits suicide, Detective Harry McCoy is sure of one thing. It wasn't a random act of violence. With his new partner in tow, McCoy uses his underworld network to lead the investigation but soon runs up against a secret society led by Glasgow's wealthiest family, the Dunlops. McCoy's boss doesn't want him to investigate. The Dunlops seem untouchable. But McCoy has other ideas . . . In a helter-skelter tale – winding from moneyed elite to hipster music groupies to the brutal gangs of the urban wasteland – Bloody January brings to life the dark underbelly of 1970s Glasgow and introduces a dark and electrifying new voice in Scottish noir.

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