



## SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT:

### THE BLOODY SCOTLAND CRIME BOOK OF THE YEAR

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival is delighted to announce the shortlist for the fourth annual Bloody Scotland Crime Book of the Year (formerly the Deanston Scottish Crime Book of the Year.) The award, which recognises excellence in Scottish crime writing, includes a prize of £1000 and nation-wide promotion in Waterstones and will be announced at a gala dinner on Saturday 12 September as part of the Bloody Scotland programme, bringing crime readers and authors together to celebrate the prize at the Stirling-based festival. The previous winners are Peter May with *Entry Island* in 2014, Malcolm Mackay with *How A Gunman Says Goodbye* in 2013 and Charles Cumming with *A Foreign Country* in 2012. The shortlist, which was chosen by an independent panel of readers from a longlist of 55 books, is as follows:

***Paths of the Dead*, Lin Anderson**  
***DM For Murder*, Matt Bendoris**  
***Dead Girl Walking*, Chris Brookmyre**  
***Thin Air*, Ann Cleeves**  
***The Ghosts of Altona*, Craig Russell**  
***Death Is A Welcome Guest*, Louise Welsh**

**Magnus Linklater**, journalist and former newspaper editor, writer and broadcaster **Sally Magnusson**, and **Caron Macpherson** of Waterstones Argyle Street in Glasgow form the 2015 panel of judges.

**Dom Hastings, Director, Bloody Scotland, said:** 'The Bloody Scotland Crime Book of the Year is increasingly prestigious, and this year's shortlist, replete with a number of very successful authors, is testament to the the strength, variety and diversity of crime writing in Scotland. Reading these books, you can travel from a misty midsummer night in Shetland to a high-security prison in the middle of an outbreak; experience the mysteries of a Druidic stone circle and the cut-throat anonymities of cyberspace, go on tour with a famous rock band or track down a long-lost killer. It's a bit of a spooky list this year, with several of the novels flirting with the supernatural; also, interestingly, four of the titles are anchored by long-standing protagonists, proving that innovation and excellence still flourish in ongoing series fiction. All in all, it's a phenomenally strong showing, demonstrating that crime fiction in Scotland is still in rude, bloody health.'

#### AUTHOR COMMENT:

**Lin Anderson:** 'I was speechless when I found out, which is unheard of! What an honour to be among such great Bloody Scotland writers.'

**Matt Bendoris:** Well, I was already really looking forward to Bloody Scotland, but now I can't wait! It's a genuine honour to be on the shortlist with some of the best writers in the business for such a prestigious award. You can't top that. Actually, maybe you can... #fingerscrossed #E2EG "

**Chris Brookmyre:** 'I knew it was a risk to bring back Jack Parlabane after seven years, but I feel like I can bring so much more to the character these days, so it is a massive, gore-spattered seal of approval to have made the Bloody Scotland shortlist.'

**Ann Cleeves:** 'I'm absolutely delighted that *Thin Air* has been shortlisted for the Scottish Crime Novel of the year. Thanks to the judges for considering it and to Bloody Scotland for organising the competition.'

**Craig Russell:** 'The crime novel in Scotland is evolving into something much broader and more varied than ever before and this is the most interesting time and place to be writing in the form—making it a huge honour for *The Ghosts of Altona* to have been shortlisted for the Bloody Scotland Crime Novel of the Year. Thanks so much for the nomination!'

**Louise Welsh:** 'Bloody Scotland know crime fiction inside out, so it's a special thrill to be included on this year's shortlist. I am in criminally good company!'

NOTES FOR EDITORS CONTINUED OVER

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

The **Bloody Scotland Crime Book of the Year Award** was founded in 2012 to recognise and reward excellence in Scottish crime writing. Crime fiction, crime non-fiction and anthologies of short crime stories are all eligible, provided that the author is domiciled or born in Scotland, or that the work is set in Scotland. Waterstone's will promote the prize and the shortlisted books, in stores across Scotland.

**Bloody Scotland** is Scotland's international crime writing festival, taking place in a number of historic venues in Central Stirling each September. Established in 2012, the festival aims to showcase the very best Scottish and international crime writing, nurture the next generation of writers through masterclasses and provide opportunities to highlight Scottish crime writing on an international stage. The 2015 Festival runs from 11-13 September 2015. Tickets for the festival, including tickets for the award dinner, are available from [www.bloodyscotland.com](http://www.bloodyscotland.com), by phone on 01786 27 4000, or in person from the Tolbooth Theatre Box Office, Stirling (phone and box office: Tuesday to Saturday 10am–6pm, closed Sunday and Monday). Authors at this year's festival include Ian Rankin, Martina Cole, Linwood Barclay, Arne Dahl and Lindsey Davis. Last year's winner, Peter May, will be in attendance to hand the trophy on to the 2015 winner. Shortlisted writers Lin Anderson, Chris Brookmyre and Ann Cleeves will all be taking part in events at the festival; Cleeves will also be taking a group of audience members on a tour round the Shetland of her books as part of the *Bloody Shetland with Ann Cleeves* holiday run by McKinley Kidd.

## ABOUT THE SHORTLISTED BOOKS AND AUTHORS

**Lin Anderson, *Paths of the Dead* (Pan Macmillan)** Lin Anderson has published several novels and one novella featuring forensic expert Dr Rhona MacLeod, which have been widely translated. Her short story *Dead Close* was chosen for the Best of British Crime 2011 and is currently in development as a feature film. *Paths of the Dead* sees Rhona MacLeod investigating a murder in spiritualist and Druidic circles.

### **Matt Bendoris, *DM For Murder* (Saraband)**

Matt Bendoris is a senior journalist with The Sun newspaper, and the author of *Killing With Confidence*. *DM For Murder* sees American cops and British journalists in a race to track down a Twitter killer. But they've got their work cut out... the victim is an arrogant television host who's received thousands of death threats over social media.

### **Chris Brookmyre, *Dead Girl Walking* (Little Brown)**

Since his award-winning debut novel *Quite Ugly One Morning*, Chris Brookmyre has established himself as one of Britain's leading crime novelists. *Dead Girl Walking* sees the long-awaited return of Brookmyre's much-loved protagonist Jack Parlabane, who at his lowest-ever ebb is asked to track down a beautiful and famous musician who has disappeared.

### **Ann Cleeves, *Thin Air* (Macmillan)**

Ann Cleeves is the author behind ITV's *Vera* and BBC One's *Shetland*. She has written over twenty-five novels, and is the creator of detectives Vera Stanhope and Jimmy Perez – characters loved both on screen and in print. *Thin Air* follows a group of old university friends, reuniting on Unst in Shetland for a wedding, which is held up when one of them disappears - as though into thin air...

### **Craig Russell, *The Ghosts of Altona* (Quercus)**

Craig Russell is the best-selling author of the Jan Fabel thrillers, set in Hamburg, and the Lennox thrillers set in 1950s Glasgow. *The Ghosts of Altona* sees Jan Fabel haunted by the discovery of a body from his first-ever case fifteen years ago, that of a beautiful student obsessed with the gothic.

### **Louise Welsh, *Death Is A Welcome Guest* (Hodder & Stoughton)**

Louise Welsh is the author of seven novels, including *The Cutting Room* (2002), *The Girl on the Stairs* (2012) and *A Lovely Way to Burn* (2014). She's also produced many short stories and articles and written for radio and the stage including a libretto for opera. *Death Is A Welcome Guest* is the second of her Plague Times trilogy, following comedian Magnus McFall through a post-apocalyptic Britain ravaged by a mysterious disease known as 'the sweats'.

**ENDS**

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