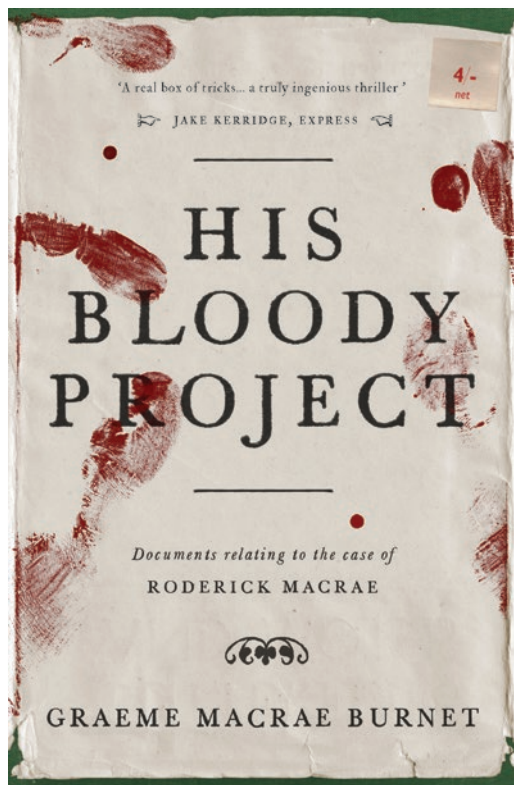


Reader's Guide



Other books by Graeme Macrae Burnet
The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau (2014)

His Bloody Project Graeme Macrae Burnet

Contraband

www.themanbookerprize.com

#FinestFiction



About the author	Graeme Macrae Burnet was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, and now lives in Glasgow. He has previously lived and worked in the Czech Republic, Portugal, France and London. In 2013 he won a Scottish Book Trust New Writer's Award. His first novel, a psychological thriller set in small-town France, <i>The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau</i> , was published by Saraband's mystery and thrillers imprint Contraband in 2014. <i>His Bloody Project</i> is Graeme's second book.
About the book	<p><i>His Bloody Project</i> is the story of a brutal triple-murder in a remote Scottish crofting community in the 1869. The question is not who did it – seventeen-year-old Roddy Macrae freely admits to the killings – but why did he do it?</p> <p>The novel immerses the reader in a claustrophobic village community in which Roddy's family is persecuted by the mean-spirited village constable, Lachlan Mackenzie. Roddy is a bright – if eccentric – boy trying to make sense of events over which he has no control.</p> <p>Graeme Macrae Burnet recounts the story of the murders and the subsequent trial with the aid of Roddy's prison memoir, along with court transcripts, medical and psychiatric reports, police statements and newspaper articles.</p>
Discussion points	<p>Roddy Macrae's fate at trial hinges on the question of his sanity. How has our understanding of insanity changed since Victorian times?</p> <p>What do you think Roddy's true motivations for the murders are? To what extent do you accept his version of events?</p> <p>What roles do the various secondary characters – Lachlan Mackenzie, Jetta, John Macrae, Flora Mackenzie – play in the lead-up to Roddy's murders?</p> <p>The novel is presented as a series of 'found documents'. How does this format affect your understanding of the characters and story?</p> <p>The novel explores the social hierarchy of the Scottish Highlands in the nineteenth century. What impact do these structures have on the lives and actions of the characters?</p> <p>What role is played in the novel by religious and other superstitious beliefs?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Fyodor Dostoyevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> James Hogg <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i> James Hunter <i>The Making of the Crofting Community</i></p>
Useful links	<p>https://twitter.com/GMacraeBurnet</p> <p>https://graememacraeburnet.wordpress.com/</p> <p>http://www.guttermag.co.uk/review-his-bloody-project-by-graeme-macrae-burnet/</p> <p>http://www.thenational.scot/culture/book-review-his-bloody-project.10027</p>