



# VAL MCDERMID

## BROKEN GROUND

*Published by Little, Brown in hardback, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018,  
£18.99*

***Bestselling Queen of Crime Val McDermid returns with her brand new Karen Pirie thriller.***

***2018, Wester Ross, Scotland and a Highland peat bog gives up a secret that has lain buried for seventy years.***

*When a young couple arrive in search of treasure left buried in the Highlands by an ancestor stationed in Wester Ross during the Second World War, they discover more than they bargained for. Their tattered and crumbling map leads them to the resting place of something far more sinister. Is this a body that has been in the ground for seventy-two years? The corpse's footwear tells a different story... one that needs DCI Karen Pirie and her Historic Cases Unit to understand what the past is trying to explain. But Karen has other cases on her mind, with equally useful reminders that the past has a habit of catching up with us all eventually...*

*Moving seamlessly between 1944 and the present day, Val McDermid weaves an intriguing tale of atmospheric suspense and suspicion.*

***Dubbed the Queen of psychological thrillers, Val McDermid has sold over 15 million books to date and is translated into over 40 languages. She is perhaps best-known for her *Wire in the Blood* series, featuring clinical psychologist Dr Tony Hill and DCI Carol Jordan, which was adapted for television starring Robson Green. She has written three other series: private detective Kate Brannigan, journalist Lindsay Gordon and, most recently, cold case detective Karen Pirie. She has also published several award-winning standalone novels, two books of non-fiction and a children's picture book, *My Granny is a Pirate*.***

*Val's achievements in the past year have included judging the Booker Prize, writing a Radio 4 play, writing two stage plays, creating a ground breaking art installation as part of Hogmanay which featured a short story written by Val projected onto the walls of iconic Edinburgh buildings, chairing numerous events with cultural superstars at the Edinburgh Festival, guest editing Radio 4's Front Row, appearing as a guest on BBC 1's Have I Got News For You, touring the country as part of her band 'The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers' and writing her biggest selling book in nearly ten years, *Insidious Intent*.*



*She is an experienced broadcaster with regular and hugely popular appearances on TV and radio. A regular with BBC Radio, Val has written dramas and presented programmes on BBC Radio 4 and was also a huge success on the evergreen *Desert Island Discs*. In early 2017 Val's Radio 4 play, *Resistance*, aired to great acclaim. It was produced in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust and Val was Chair of the 2017 Wellcome Book Prize. She has fronted several features for BBC Two's *The Culture Show* and appeared several times as a panellist on *BBC Question Time*. In 2012 she became a *Celebrity Mastermind* champion and to further add to her broadcasting credentials, in late 2016 she captained the winning *University Challenge* alumnae team!*

*She has won countless awards internationally, including the CWA Gold Dagger for best crime novel of the year, the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger, the Grand Prix des Romans D'Aventure, the Lambda Literary Foundation Pioneer Award in 2011 and the LA Times Book of the Year Award. In 2016 she received the Outstanding Contribution to Crime Fiction award at the Theakston's Old Peculiar Harrogate Crime Festival and was elected a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.*

*Val was born in Kirkcaldy, a coastal town in the heart of the Scottish mining community. She graduated in English at St Hilda's College, Oxford - the first from a Scottish state school to do so - before going on to be an award winning journalist for sixteen years. Her first novel was published in 1987. She is a lifelong Raith Rovers Football Club supporter and in 2011 was appointed as a Director on the board. She is the current home shirt sponsor. Val's other loves in life include walking, music, gaming and cooking. She writes full time and divides her time between Edinburgh and Cheshire.*

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***Praise for previous Val McDermid novels:***

***'What superlatives are there left to describe the phenomenon that is the multi award-winning McDermid?' *Daily Mail****

***'the new Queen of Crime is still at the top of her game.' *Independent****

***'McDermid's expertly juggled plotlines and masterful handling of pace and tension tick all the best boxes.' *Guardian****

***'McDermid remains unrivalled . . . Brilliant' *Observer****

***'So gripping it puts your life on hold' *The Times****

***'As intelligent and chillingly good as ever' *Good Housekeeping****

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***'The real mistress of psychological gripping thrillers; no one  
can plot or tell a story like she can'  
Daily Express***

***'McDermid is a dab hand at creating enough plausibility to make her contributions to the  
genre intensely readable.'* Sunday Herald**

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[@valmcdermid](https://twitter.com/valmcdermid) on twitter.**

**Val is available for profile interviews and review copies are available on request. For more  
information please contact [Laura.Sherlock@littlebrown.co.uk](mailto:Laura.Sherlock@littlebrown.co.uk) | 07919 324882**