# SCARS OF THE PAST

**JACQUELINE NEW**

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284 pages, crime thriller / tartan noir, available in print, e-book, and audio

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# DESCRIPTION

**In the heart of Edinburgh, a killer leaves a trail of secrets carved in blood.**

As the leader of the Serious Crime Unit, DCI ‘Mac’ McNeill is no stranger to the city's darkest secrets. But when a body marked with Celtic symbols is discovered in a run-down tower block, the case challenges even his seasoned instincts.

With the victim's ties to the treacherous drug scene and a notorious crime lord complicating matters, Mac seeks the help of Dr. Clio Wray, an expert in ancient symbology.

But when a second body emerges, an unsettling connection is made to Mac himself.  
*The case spirals into uncharted territory.*

**The gripping first instalment in the DCI McNeill crime thriller series.**

# PITCHES & BLURBS

In the heart of Edinburgh, a killer leaves a trail of secrets carved in blood.

When the past is carved into the present, can one detective decipher the truth?

Scars of the Past: It takes the combined efforts of the head of Edinburgh's serious crime unit, and an expert in ancient symbology to hunt a killer. But an explosive challenge could cost them their lives.

DCI McNeill, at the helm of Edinburgh’s Serious Crime Unit, is accustomed to confronting the city's darkest secrets. However, a body discovered in an impoverished tower block, marked with Celtic symbols, propels him into a case that challenges even his seasoned instincts.

# PRAISE FOR SCARS OF THE PAST

“Scottish noir at its gritty, grizzly best. Highly recommended.”

- Kerry J Donovan, bestselling author of *Ryan Kaine* and *DCI Jones*.

5.0 out of 5 stars An Action-packed Thriller That Grabbed My Attention from the Start.

5.0 out of 5 stars My goodness, what a ride. This book outstanding.

5.0 out of 5 stars Mac made a fascinating lead character and the way his team was put together is credit to a superb plot.

5.0 out of 5 stars What a fantastic read

5.0 out of 5 stars Outstanding Edinburgh noir

5.0 out of 5 stars A great psychological thriller

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**JACQUELINE NEW**

Jacqueline New is the author of the popular DCI McNeill Scottish crime thrillers. A series featuring #1 books in the UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

Born in Yorkshire she worked in the world of art and design after qualifying as an interior designer.

Following ten-years writing historical and contemporary murder mysteries, in 2023 she introduced DCI McNeill of the Edinburgh Serious Crime Unit. Noir thrillers for readers who enjoy dark atmospheric police procedurals.

The series is published by Vinci Books and both audio and foreign editions are currently in the works.

Having lived and worked in various parts of the UK and abroad, she now resides in her home town in Yorkshire.

The DCI McNeill series is published by [Vinci Books](https://www.vinci-books.com/).

[**https://jacquelinenew.com/**](https://jacquelinenew.com/)

# THE DCI McNEILL CRIME THRILLERS Q&A

***What inspired you to create the character of DCI McNeill?***

Remarkably, Mac turned up almost fully formed during lockdown. There must have been something working in my subconscious during the night as I woke up the next morning with an almost complete character.  I made some notes and continued with other books, but I found myself scribbling plot points on the back of shopping lists and petrol receipts. The idea wouldn't leave me alone and basically grew legs. It percolated for a long time before I actually began to write and by that time much of the other cast members had appeared.

***Mac isn't a typical DCI. Can you tell us more about that?***

I wanted to explore a unique character who not only solves complex crimes but also navigates the world with the perspective of someone on the autism spectrum. His love for thrash metal adds depth to his personality, reflecting his method of coping with the high demands of his job. Mac often struggles with social cues and direct communication, which can complicate his interactions with colleagues and witnesses. However, his detailed-focused thinking enables him to see patterns and connections that others might miss, making him an exceptional detective.

***What are you working on at the moment?***

(At the time of writing) Book 4, Sins of the Fathers, has just been published, and book 5 The Price of Blood is in its final editing stage, with a release date of 29th May 2025. Mac finally returns to Skye to solve the murder of his sister. It's going to be an emotional ride for him. I’m also plotting out book 6.

***What can readers expect from upcoming books in the series?***

Readers can look forward to deeper explorations of McNeill's past and how it influences his present, more complex cases that test his abilities, and continued development of recurring characters who add richness to the overarching story. My favourite part of the writing process is the initial plotting where I get to lay out the pieces of the puzzle. There's a thrill in constructing an intricate web of clues and red-herrings which, hopefully, keeps the readers guessing.

***Where do you get your inspiration from?***

Everywhere. Snippets of overheard conversations at the supermarket. From the newspapers, the TV. People watching is a great pastime for an author, particularly how they interact with one another. I have ideas all the time and write down everything. Some of which will never see the light of day, but every so often there's one I know will really work. I also find research an incredible way to find inspiration. I've fallen down the rabbit hole many times while investigating a particular theme or place for my books, all of which spark additional ideas.

***Why did you choose to set your books in Scotland?***

Mac turned up with the McNeill name so, for me, he couldn't be anything but Scottish. A reader recently pointed out he could have been Irish, but with no personal links to Ireland it didn't cross my mind. Mac was definitely a Scot. Ireland colonised Scotland in part between 400 and 800 AD, so both countries have Celtic roots. There has been considerable population exchange between them over the millennia, so in all probability Mac does have historical generational links to Ireland. I spent many a holiday in Scotland when I was young, as my uncle was posted to Faslane Naval Base (HMNB - HM Naval Base Clyde,) where he worked on the Nuclear Subs. I've been back many times as an adult, although not recently, and Edinburgh is one of my favourite cities. The wealth of history and folklore is a gift to a writer. My gran's sister was a history teacher and traced the family tree back to Scottish royalty.