



# Dying Light

By Stuart MacBride

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Detective Sergeant Logan MacRae has been bumped to D.I. Roberta Steel's "Screw-up Squad" after a raid he led on a warehouse rumored to be full of stolen property ended with no arrests and one officer critically injured. The backstabbing, limelight-stealing, laziest D.I. on Aberdeen's police force, Steel's team is made up of the "no-hopers," the most worthless or inexperienced members of the homicide department, and Logan will do anything to prove he doesn't belong there. Including working overtime on two baffling cases: the murder by arson of six people, and the beating to death of a prostitute down by the docks, not a high priority compared to the fire. At least not until another prostitute ends up dead.

Although both cases seem simple on the surface---turns out the fire's victims are part of a drug dealer's inner circle, and what fate is to be expected for working girls in Aberdeen's red-light district? --- in Stuart MacBride's hands, what's going on in this rainy Scottish city is bound to be much more complicated than it appears.

A detailed authenticity combines with a dark Scottish sense of humor and a lively cast of characters in MacBride's unputdownable second novel, confirming his status as a rising star of crime fiction.

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## **Dying Light By Stuart MacBride Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this savage, darkly comic second American outing for the newest member of the "Scottish noir" school, the action begins with a particularly gruesome crime: a madman has sealed up a squatter's apartment and set it—and the six people partying inside—afire. That same evening, a prostitute is found beaten to death, and Det. Sgt. Logan MacRae, the ambitious star of *Cold Granite* (2005), is on the case. But his star has fallen; after a botched raid, MacRae has been demoted to the "Screw-Up Squad," led with a droll lack of enthusiasm by one Inspector Steel. Several characters from *Cold Granite* reappear, but newcomers won't have any trouble parsing this thriller, though some may be unsettled by the jarring but witty contrast between MacBride's wry tone and the story's brutal violence. The city of Aberdeen figures as one of this well-written novel's main characters, a portrait that will warn readers away from its mean streets. (Aug.)

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From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** In Aberdeen, Scotland, it doesn't just rain, it pours. The climate perfectly suits surly Detective Sergeant Logan Lazarus McRae, recently demoted to the Grampian Police's "Screw-Up Squad," after a sting operation he was manning left a senior officer dead. Desperately seeking professional redemption, McRae finds himself straddling two grisly cases: the savage murder of a prostitute and a suspicious fire that claimed six lives. Being a detective is grim, often thankless, work, and McRae and his fellow, foulmouthed officers numb themselves with a host of less-than-healthy substances: nicotine, dark ale, bacon sandwiches ("butties"), and greasy chips. There's little rest for McRae, as he navigates a world of sleazy journalists, drug-dealing grandmothers, and slick corporate financiers. But he does manage to slip in time between the sheets with fellow officer Jackie Watson, while trying to steer clear of ex-girlfriend Isobel, a forensic pathologist whose personality is just a few degrees warmer than her specimens in the morgue. Fans of Ian Rankin and Denise Mina will enjoy the mordant MacBride, whose second novel is every bit as dark and riveting as his debut, *Cold Granite* (2005). *Allison Block*  
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## Review

"MacRae is an interesting and subtle detective, and his investigation is both inventive and imaginative."  
---*Dallas Morning News*

"Unbelievably assured and accomplished . . . MacBride is starting at the very top with his first book, which approaches the level of Michael Connelly's best work.... MacBride's writing is so good here that it's hard to believe it's not a sign of staying power."  
---*Flint Journal*

"Tartan Noir has a fresh new voice with an Aberdeen brogue in Stuart MacBride, whose first mystery, *Cold Granite*, bids well to keep up with Ian Rankin and Denise Mina.... *Cold Granite* is never as dark and dangerous as the work of Mina and Rankin.... The police procedural gains a warmth and camaraderie that tougher and more cynical novels lack."  
---*Rocky Mountain News*

"Logan---a troubled man but blessedly not a suicidal booze hound like other Scots coppers of recent and current memory---does his job with skill and humanity."

---*Chicago Tribune*

"Newcomer Stuart MacBride joins an illustrious roster of Scottish crime writers.... By tangling together a half-dozen competing plotlines, MacBride keeps readers off-balance, even those who think they can see the tripwires."

---*Houston Chronicle*

"MacBride introduces a very likable and human protagonist.... A suspenseful and compelling mystery, this is strongly recommended."

---*Library Journal* (starred review)

"MacBride's impressive first outing has plenty of atmosphere, subversive humor, and a sinuous plot reminiscent of fellow countryman Ian Rankin."

---*Booklist* (starred review)

"*Cold Granite* is a powerful reminder that the best contemporary crime fiction is coming out of Scotland. Ferocious and funny, this is Tartan Noir at its best."

---Val McDermid, author of *The Torment of Others*

"Atmospheric, dazzling, and completely compelling, *Cold Granite* marks the debut of an amazing new voice in crime fiction. Scotland's Stuart MacBride is one of the best writers to come out of the U.K. in a long time."

---Deborah Crombie, author of *In a Dark House*

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