



In the Cold Dark Ground

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The new Logan McRae novel from the No. 1 bestselling author of THE MISSING AND THE DEAD and A SONG FOR THE DYING.

Sergeant Logan McRae is in trouble...

His missing-persons investigation has just turned up a body in the woods – naked, hands tied behind its back, and a bin bag duct-taped over its head. The Major Investigation Team charges up from Aberdeen, under the beady eye of Logan's ex-boss Detective Chief Inspector Steel. And, as usual, she wants him to do her job for her.

But it's not going to be easy: a new Superintendent is on her way up from the Serious Organised Crime Task Force, hell-bent on making Logan's life miserable; Professional Standards are gunning for Steel; and Wee Hamish Mowat, head of Aberdeen's criminal underbelly, is dying – leaving rival gangs from all over the UK eying his territory.

There's a war brewing and Logan's trapped right in the middle, whether he likes it or not.

In the Cold Dark Ground Details

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Author : Stuart MacBride

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From Reader Review In the Cold Dark Ground for online ebook

Liz says

Another rollicking adventure with Logan McRae and Police Scotland – five shiny stars, five thumbs up, and high fives all around. What I love about these books: astonishingly dark at times, absolutely hilarious at others. No other author that I have read, NOT ONE, is able to meld these things together so perfectly.

MacBride has got such command of his characters, dialogue, and, best of all their Aberdonian Scottish vernacular... which I just adore. And now I'm going to spend the next fews days spouting off in the worst Scottish accent ever.

Kate says

What can I say? This book is absolutely flippin' fantastic - I missed bus stops reading it. With no doubt at all, the best crime fiction I've read this year, quite possibly in years. Even better than The Missing and the Dead - how is that possible?

Paromjit says

This is a superb addition to what is a stellar series. We are in Aberdeen, the weather can be relied on to be atrocious and there are bodies with their heads covered with bin bags that have been tortured and killed. So begins a twisted trail for the dynamic duo of the hard working put upon Logan McCrae and the iconic DCI Steele. Logan attends two funerals, the local gangster that is Wee Hamish Mowat, who bequeaths Logan his criminal empire and much of his fortune and a litany of problems. The second funeral is that of Logan's girlfriend in a coma, Samantha, whose life support he has to switch off.

The murderous psycho that is Reuban is continually trying in to kill Logan and pushes him into doing things that are outside his comfort zone and his character. The relationship between Logan and Steele is a sight to behold and cherish as it veers from hate to loyalty and affection which is a badge of dysfunctional families. Talking of families, an unexpected family member is revealed to Logan. The trail of the murders is a dangerous one that takes its toll on the police team. And oh yes, Logan is pushed to investigate Steele by Professional Standards. The black humour and comic timing is spot on although the slapstick comedic touches also work a treat.

What can I say? Stuart MacBride's other books and Ash series are merely okay. However, he makes up for all that in the magnificence of the Logan and Steele series. Here, he is nothing short of a genius and I am shocked that no-one has yet made a TV series of the books. If you haven't got round to reading this series, you are missing out. Can't wait for the next book in the series.

John Bohnert says

I've now read all ten novels in this police procedural set in Scotland.

Plum-crazy says

ARC received from goodreads - thank you

Bloody Brilliant MacBride indeed!

WOW!! There is so much I want to say about this book but there are so many shocks/surprises/ revelations - call them what you will - that I would hate to ruin the story for future readers. Its certainly a rollercoaster of a read & I've run the full gamut of emotions - there's been heartpounding tension, shuddering with the violence (& some stomach turning!) & gasps of astonishment as somethings were revealed, a lump in my throat & a tear nearly shed...& yet there's still room for a smirk at the delicious touches of humour....and, & I can't believe I'm going to say this. I even went "aw" as Steel showed her sympathetic side (albeit very briefly!)

Possibly my favourite of the series :o)

?tsukino? says

Ma perchè?

Perchè finire i libri così!

E adesso?

Ho visto che il prossimo libro esce in originale a maggio 2018, chissà quando in italiano.

A breve la recensione ^^

EDIT

Non me lo aspettavo ma questo decimo libro lo ritengo uno dei migliori della serie che, in è certo senso è cambiata. I primi libri erano molto più crudi, nel tempo questa caratteristica si è un po' attenuata.

Rimane l'ambientazione che adoro (la Scozia che ho visitato 3 volte) ci sono sempre elementi molto british (adoro l'umorismo di MacBride "«Hai una friggitrice, in casa?»

«No».

«Una padella per friggere?»

«No».

«Ma che razza di scozzese sei?». ") e un sacco di citazione delle cose che mi piacciono (si passa da Star Wars, a Doctor Who, a Godzilla, a Stephen King, etc.).

Logan è sempre lui, geniale, pasticcione, fortunato e sfigato.

Ultimamente aveva iniziato a darmi fastidio il fatto che ricevesse sempre pochi (view spoiler)) ma qui questo è passato in secondo piano tanti sono gli elementi nuovi presenti nel libro.

Mi sono commossa (view spoiler).

Mi sono sorpresa (view spoiler).

Ci sono rimasta male quando ha, per certi versi, tradito (view spoiler).

Finalmente è risolto il problema (view spoiler).

Con deduzioni logiche e botte di culo, riesce ancora una volta a risolvere il caso (e aveva quasi ragione fin dall'inizio)

Ma la domanda è: e adesso? Sarà andato da Napier per (view spoiler)?

Non so se sarò in grado di aspettare la versione italiana del libro successivo.

EDIT

Dopo aver finito Il ponte dei cadaveri, non ho resistito, ho dovuto rileggere il decimo per poter leggere più comprensibilmente The Blood Road, sì, perchè non ce la faccio ad aspettare ^^

Wendy says

Fantastic read as always. Can't fault Stuart MacBrides storytelling and who doesn't love Inspector Steel?!

Ed says

Another outrageous Tartan thriller from Stuart MacBride's Police Scotland detectives in Aberdeen and points north. DS Logan MacCrea is trying to stay one step ahead of a rogue crime boss trying to kill him while facing the reality of turning off life support for his comatose lover injured in the line of duty. DI Roberta Steel is back in the picture with her sarcastic wit in high gear and a new Superintendent with major attitude clouds the effectiveness of the Major Incident Team. This awesome crime fiction series rates 5 stars from me because the writing seamlessly moves from brutal crime scenes to very witty "cop humor" Police Scotland style with page turning energy. The characters are all exceptionally well written especially protagonist DS MacCrea and DI Roberta Steel who may be the funniest detective in the history of crime fiction. Very highly recommended.

Jen says

The wait has been long but it was worth it. Another stunning book from Mr MacBride. It has everything you want from a Logan McRae story, twists, turns and misdirections galore along with the wit and banter that you come to expect of any story featuring our hapless hero and DCI Steel.

So Logan is still out in the sticks, still running B division, still not quite having managed to finish repairs to his house. Compared to Aberdeen CID, the pace in the boondocks is frantic (is there a bigger police crisis known to man than the vending machine running out of chocolate?). Logan and his team are busy protecting the streets of Banff and Macduff and trying to prevent the Great Bacon & Cheese robbery, while also coordinating the search for a missing local businessman, a search which turns up something very unexpected in the woods. Enter stage left Steel and her Major Investigation Team including the ever odd Rennie, and the stage is set for another entertaining tale.

Throw in a Superintendent from Serious Crimes, who seems to take an instant dislike to Logan, the reason

for which you won't see coming, a tragic side tale many stories in the making, a healthy dose of double crossing, the rapidly ailing Wee Hamish Mowat and Logan's new 'bestest buddy' Reuben right at his throat (guts, face, back shoulder - anything is a fair target really...) and a cameo appearance by Malk the Knife, and the few short days the story is set over may well be some of the longest in Logan's life.

Honestly, I kind of want Logan to catch a break sometime, and the guy has more lives than a cat, deftly proven again in this story several times - they don't call him Lazarus for no reason. But then again, you kind of don't want him to have it easy, as it's almost more fun that way. With Steel's, how shall we say, unorthodox approach to policing under the spotlight from the Ginger Whinger Napier, it makes you wonder what the future holds for this unlikely pairing. The ending may surprise some, but I have to say it's left me wanting to read more and desperate to see what is next for the dear, battered and (apparently) big eared Logan McRae.

The writing is excellent, the descriptions of the characters and the setting are in MacBride's unique style (can't see the Banff & Buchan Tourist Board being thrilled with the way the weather is described - having been to Aberdeen and Banff in the dead of winter it's absolutely accurate but doesn't exactly say come up and see us sometime) and there were, for me at least, some real laugh out loud moments. Steel's obsession with food never diminishes and there is double crossing galore - you won't know who to trust.

If you love Logan and Steel as I do, you'll no' be disappointed by this tale. So grab yourself a dram of Sporran McGutRot (unless you've got £49k lying around and fancy a bottle of Glenfiddich 1937 Rare Collection), sit back and savour the moment.

Francesca Pashby says

I've grown to love this series ... wonderful human policing, but dark humour and poignancy ... not to mention great characters which burst off the page, full of life. Except the dead ones, like Samantha, which actually caused me to shed a tear. Love, love, love Logan though, and Roberta Steel just cracks me up ... I think she'd be immense to meet. Well done, Mr MacBride!

Karen says

Writing a long term series has to create some issues for authors that probably some of we fans rarely consider. All we want is the next book. IN THE COLD DARK GROUND is the 10th in the Logan McRae series from Stuart MacBride, and I'm really sorry about this but I want the 11th pretty well now. As in straight away.

It goes without saying that I've always been a huge fan of this series, and aside from the wonderful, strong, often slightly eccentric characters, the reason for that is the constant changes in circumstance that McRae, DCI Steel and those around them find themselves dealing with. Lives change in these books, not always in a good way, and IN THE COLD DARK GROUND everyone seems to end up dealing with some really hefty crap.

Whilst you'd think that the personal would be more than enough for McRae to be going on with, along comes the pain-in-the-neck upper echelon type in the form of a new Superintendent of the Serious Organised Crime

Task Force who muscles her way into his investigation of a missing person who turned up dead in very odd circumstances. Mind you, that's nothing compared to how close Professional Standards are getting to DCI Steel - close enough to find McRae doing a turn as a tightrope walker between a couple of particularly tricky snakepits. Mind you, nothing from the professional side of life compares to the bucket loads of grief that come to McRae when Wee Hamish Mowat dies leaving rival gangs eyeing his territory, and McRae in charge of his estate.

Needless to say, *IN THE COLD DARK GROUND* is exactly the sort of slightly manic action, pressure, personal complications, don't blink or you'll miss something roller-coaster that is a Logan McRae novel. There's always just enough to tweak the heart strings, more than enough to make a reader laugh, and the slightest feeling that everybody's gone a bit mad. As you'd probably do when the weather's always wet, cold and dank, the police house remains a dump, your colleagues are still a bunch of numpty's and what was already a really sucky personal life has just got a whole lot bloody worse.

As much as I'd love to say that if you're a new reader to this series than just get on with it, it's one that you really have to read in order. The personal / professional crossover is pretty complicated and there's so much history to McRae, Steel and the rest of the mad bunch that you're really going to have to know who is what, and how they all ended up in the middle of nowhere dodging Professional Standards, staring at some very odd home movies.

<https://www.austcrimefiction.org/reviews/in-the-cold-dark-ground/>

Steve says

Another fantastic volume in the DS Logan McRae series!

Stuart MacBride leaves nothing out in this gritty missing person mystery, and while the mystery itself is engaging, the personal story of Logan is what drives this one. He has to deal with the death of crime boss Wee Hamish Mowat, who has tagged Logan to take over his crime family. He has to deal with Reuben the Beast, who has been waiting to take over Mowat's crime syndicate, potentially setting off a turf war in Aberdeen with Malk the Knife and the Campbells. He has to deal with the decision to take long-time girlfriend Samantha off of life-support and allow her to pass on. Logan also has to deal with a new superintendent, professional standards poking around, and, of course, he has to deal with DCI Roberta Steel, who has been a thorn in his side for all ten volumes of this series.

As I write this out, it sounds like a really bad soap opera plot, but trust me, you **WANT** to read this!

There were some real surprises in this book, some that I never would have guessed in a million years. Logan is a good man who just can't seem to win, and yet, he's always able to scrap his way out of trouble, solve the crime/mystery, and live to see another day. Except this time, the book ends on a multi-point cliffhanger... Did he or didn't he? And what happens to Steel? (I did NOT see that one coming!)

Stuart MacBride is one of the few authors that's willing to do anything to keep his characters fresh, from promotions (and demotions), writing events in their lives that are so very heart-wrenching, and allowing plot points that actually hurt the characters both physically and emotionally. DS Logan has gone through so much over the years, one has to wonder how much more he can take.

One question that needs answered **RIGHT NOW**: When is the next book in this series being released?!

Gary says

This is the tenth book in the Logan McRae series by Stuart MacBride.

I have read all the previous nine books in this series and found them to be quite a mixed bag. I really enjoyed the early books but of late found the books a little bit stale and predictable. This one however was back to the series at its best. The main characters are funny in places and so well developed throughout the series that you can easily picture them in your mind as the story is told.

In this book bodies are found with their heads covered with bin bags, having been tortured and killed. Logan McCrae and the very funny DCI Steele investigate but they both have their own troubles. Logan attends the funeral of local gangster Wee Hamish Mowat, who has bequeathed his empire of crime and over 600k to Logan, which gives Logan severe problems to not only his safety but also to his moral conscience. This is all going on at the same time as is girlfriends life support is to be switched off.

Logan's problems are not eased by the murdering psycho Reuben who is determined to kill Logan. There are so many other subplots that it is almost impossible to mention them all without writing a short story.

Needless to say this book is full of laughs and crime and great comedy interaction between the characters. So glad I kept reading this series when I was beginning to doubt whether to carry on or not. Looking forward to the next one.

Liz Barnsley says

Bloody hell! (Yeah that was a bit good) - Full review to follow in the New Year. :)

Ginger says

DNF at 35%. I'm not sure if I'm in the right state of mind for this book this year or if the repetitive humor isn't working for me anymore. It's getting a bit same same.

I've read all the other books in this series and liked them so I'm not sure why this time, it's just not working for me.

Hope to revisit this book in the future.

Mary Gilligan-Nolan says

I don't know how to go about this review. No matter what I want to say, I run the risk of giving too much of the story away, so I feel I cannot really say what I want to. Now, I have read all the books in the Logan McCrea series and by and large, loved them. The violence can be a tad too much for me sometimes, as in this particular story, where I had to quickly scoot down a few lines to avoid being queasy. There is still some really witty, laugh out loud writing here, especially when it comes to Roberta Steele. However, this is becoming repetitive, more fiddling around in her bra, and some more and then, well, here it comes again. Also, the amount of times she rings Logan and he hangs up on her, mid-sentence. It gets written over and over in every book. Now, it was a good story, but I was very frustrated by it also. I don't know why exactly,

but I found myself becoming impatient at times at skim reading just to get past parts. Maybe they were just surplus to the story, a bit unrealistic, I don't know, but this book just did not do it for me, like the others. I also HATED the Steele/McCrae conclusion, I cannot say anything more, at the risk of giving too much away, but I felt at the end, like I could care less if I ever read another one of this series. Having said that, one may one day arrive in the shops/library and I will be unable to resist. Who Knows.

David Highton says

The only flaw for this book for a new reader would be that it makes much more sense if you read the earlier books in the series. This is much more than a police procedural, with very well drawn characters, and a maelstrom of emotion and pressure piling up in a week in Sergeant Logan McRae's life based in his police house in Banff. Violent in places, events move along to a tumultuous climax.

Roy says

I remember reading this on a plane ride after having bought it in the airport. This series was one I nearly gave up on as I felt throughout the middle some of the plot lines, characters and dialogue/humour just became repetitive. However, I always went back for more, so something was drawing me back. I'm glad I did. This latest entry was at its thrilling best. Great crime, some characters involved in a lot of the past novels passed away, a psychotic killer, investigations into the police force itself and a cliffhanger ending. I've always enjoyed MacBride's humour in his dialogue and I remember it shining through in this one. If you're new to MacBride, this series is great. Some of the middle novels suffer from middle book repetition syndrome but getting to this point in the series is worth the reads. However characters do lose their appeal as writers continue to draw upon what made them so special in the 1st place. I hope there comes a time where Logan is retired out, which would provide a great group of novels. I do believe at some stage characters develop an expiry date, however at this end point I do believe MacBride has some more left in Logan.

Siobhan says

In The Cold Dark Ground is the tenth novel in the Logan McRae series, and it's another fabulous addition to the series. For me, In The Cold Dark Ground brings together so many of the wonderful elements that have been reoccurring throughout the prior book, along with leaving us with so many questions regarding where the series will head. I know there is a Steel spinoff due to be released in the near future, but I think I speak for everyone when I say book eleven cannot come soon enough.

As with all of the prior books, In The Cold Dark Ground demonstrates why Stuart MacBride quickly became one of my favourite crime authors. Whilst there is one big mystery to be solved throughout this book, there are also a number of interconnected crimes that keep you guessing throughout the storyline. It's one of my favourite things to see in the genre, and I especially love it when Stuart MacBride does it. In particular, books nine and ten have been wonderful in that things have changed slightly. As with book nine, book ten tells the story with Logan in uniform – in addition to our one big crime, we're given daily life whilst out in uniform.

Even more fun, is the way in which so many elements come together in this one. I will not mention the

particular storylines, but a lot comes together. Things that have been building for a number of books are brought to a close in this one, individual arcs reaching a conclusion. With so much happening in this book, it is important you read the prior books in the series to ensure you get the best experience possible. I'm not saying this will not work as a standalone novel – you will easily enjoy the story without having read the rest of the series – yet the best experience will come about when you know all the little details that have been building throughout.

Now, whilst I say many things reach a conclusion, I do not mean this series is going to become dull. Far from it. There are many new elements introduced throughout this book. New storylines are opened up, and twists are added that will leave you curious as to what will come next. The ending in particular will leave you desperate to see what comes next – there really is no telling what will happen in the upcoming books.

Bringing together so many wonderful elements of the Logan McRae series, *In The Cold Dark Ground* is a brilliant read for any fan of the series. Filled with Stuart MacBride's usual humour, this one will leave you laughing as you beg to find out what happens next.

Rachel the Book Harlot says

3 - 3.5 stars
