

Authors on the shortlist for the McIlvanney prize

Edinburgh writers including Val McDermid, Kim Sherwood and D V Bishop have been shortlisted for the prize for the best Scottish crime book of 2024.

They are joined by two more leading crime writers in Abir Mukherjee and Chris Brookmyre on the shortlist for the McIlvanney Prize.

The winner of Scotland's most prestigious award for crime fiction will be announced on the opening night of the Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival in Stirling on 13 September.

The prize, sponsored by The Glencairn Glass, is dedicated to the late William McIlvanney, dubbed "the father of Tartan Noir".

The winner will receive a Glencairn Crystal Decanter, £1000 and nationwide promotion in Waterstones.

Previous McIlvanney Prize winner Brookmyre is shortlisted for his thriller "The Cracked Mirror" (Sphere), while "Queen of Crime" McDermid got the nod for her latest Karen Pirie novel "Past Lying" (Sphere).



D V Bishop photographed at Bloody Scotland, Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival in Stirling PHOTO Paul Reich

Bishop is shortlisted for the latest book in his acclaimed Cesare Aldo series "A Divine Fury" (Pan Macmillan) while Mukherjee's novel for "Hunted" (Vintage) is set in the run up

to the US presidential election and Sherwood's "A Spy Like Me" (HarperCollins) has been described as "Fleming for the 21st century".

The shortlist was selected by judges, BBC Scotland presenter Bryan Burnett, Category Manager for Waterstones Angie Crawford and Journalist and Editor Arusa Quresh.

Brookmyre, whose 30th crime novel will be published next year, won the inaugural McIlvanney Prize with *Black Widow* in 2016. *The Cracked Mirror* is described as a cross-genre hybrid of Agatha Christie and Michael Connelly.



**'PRETTY MUCH
FLAWLESS'
LEE CHILD**

**'A RIP-ROARING
THRILLER'
STEVE CAVANAGH**

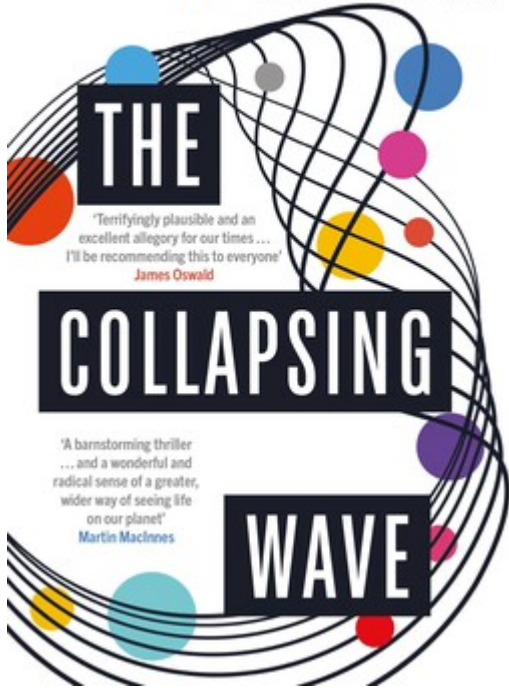
HUNTED

**You can't save your kids.
But can you stop them?**

ABIR MUKHERJEE

DOUG JOHNSTONE

AS SEEN ON BBC TWO'S BETWEEN THE COVERS



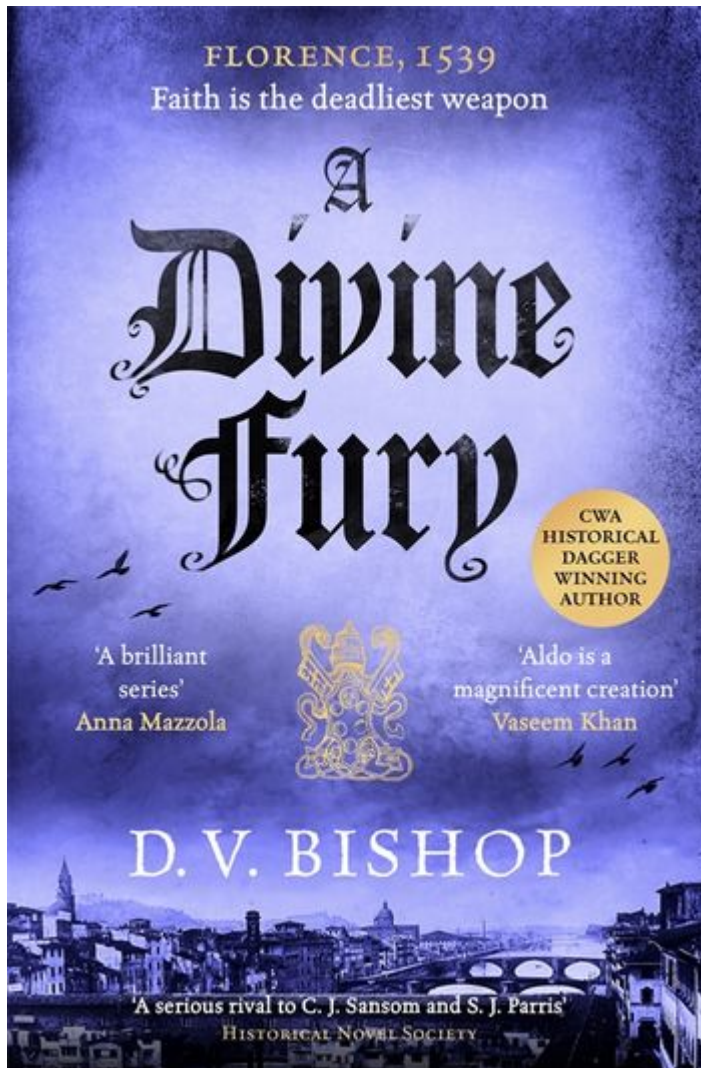
THE

'Terrifyingly plausible and an excellent allegory for our times... I'll be recommending this to everyone'
James Oswald

COLLAPSING

'A barnstorming thriller... and a wonderful and radical sense of a greater, wider way of seeing life on our planet'
Martin MacInnes

WAVE



FLORENCE, 1539

Faith is the deadliest weapon

**A
Divine
Fury**

CWA
HISTORICAL
DAGGER
WINNING
AUTHOR

'A brilliant series'
Anna Mazzola



'Aldo is a magnificent creation'
Vaseem Khan

D.V. BISHOP

A serious rival to C. J. Sansom and S. J. Parris'
HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY



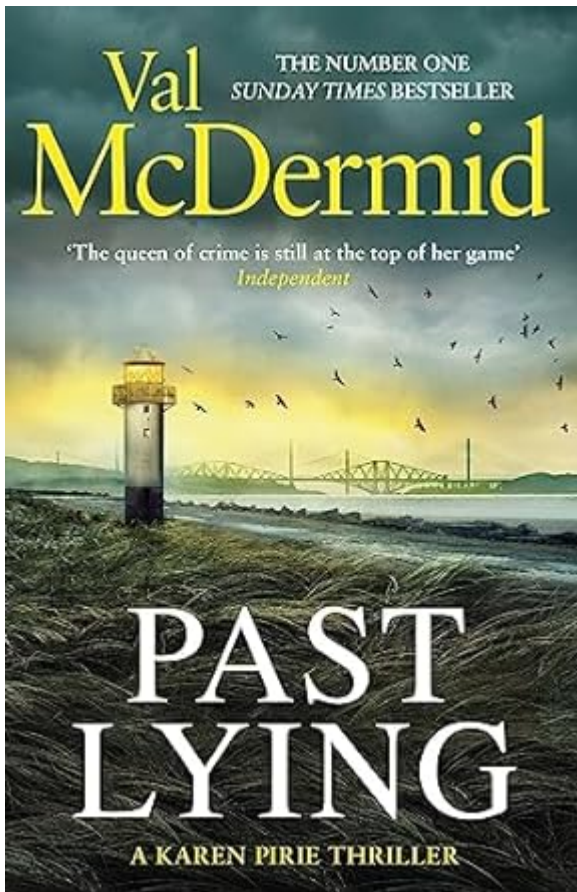
Six days. Three agents.
One chance to find **JAMES BOND**.

A Spy Like Me

A DOUBLE O
NOVEL

KIM SHERWOOD

Author of Double or Nothing



The judges said: “A truly original idea, executed with skill and imagination. The combination of Perthshire and Los Angeles shouldn’t work but it does.”

McDermid is one of the most revered crime writers in Scotland. Past Lying is the new novel featuring Karen Pirie, the first of which is now a major TV series.

The judges said: “A welcome return for the much-loved Karen Pirie in this satisfying novel which contains a few in-jokes for lovers of Scottish crime writing.”

D V Bishop got his first big break at Bloody Scotland when he won Pitch Perfect with his first book in the Cesare Aldo series. A Divine Fury is the fourth. Originally from New Zealand, he teaches creative writing at Edinburgh Napier University.

The judges said: “A pungent and complex slice of intrigue set 16th century Florence. A brilliant historical novel which

feels strangely contemporary and a worthy addition to this series.”

Mukherjee was brought up in Hamilton near Glasgow and now lives in Surrey. *Hunted* is a timely thriller set in the run up to the US election.

The judges said: “An excellent, topical thriller with verve, pace and style aplenty and something completely different for this author. A kind of British *Baldacci*.”

Sherwood is a novelist and lecturer in creative writing at the University of Edinburgh. In 2019 she was shortlisted for the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. Described as a “Fleming for the 21st Century”, *A Spy Like Me* is the second in a trilogy of Double 0 novels expanding the James Bond universe.

The judges said: “An exciting addition to the Bond canon which brings a fresh new set of characters brilliantly to life.”

Bloody Scotland is unique in that it was set up by a group of Scottish crime writers along with the prize for Scotland’s best crime book of the year.

In 2016, the award was renamed after William McIlvanney, the novelist, short story writer and poet regarded as “the father of Tartan Noir” who died aged 79 on 5 December 2015.

