

# **In the Company of Books with Val McDermid and Nicola Sturgeon this Christmas**

**Edinburgh's Christmas is pleased to announce that book lovers Val McDermid and Nicola Sturgeon will bring a special festive edition of their in-conversation event, In The Company of Books, to Edinburgh's Christmas this year.**

This special edition of In The Company of Books reunites the two friends to discuss all things literary, following a number of sold-out, acclaimed in-conversation events across the UK in recent years.

Joined by special guests yet to be revealed, Val and Nicola will explore the joys of reading alongside a few glasses of mulled wine and a lot of festive cheer.

Val McDermid has sold more than 19 million books to date across the globe and has been translated into more than 40 languages. She is perhaps best known for her Wire in the Blood series featuring clinical psychologist Dr Tony Hill and DCI Carol Jordan, She is the recipient of six honorary doctorates and is an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Nicola Sturgeon is the MSP for Glasgow Southside constituency, and the former First Minister of Scotland – the longest-serving and first woman First Minister.

Val McDermid and Nicola Sturgeon said: “Books are magic. Portable magic, according to Stephen King. And like magic, books build bridges. In our case, an improbable friendship between a passionate politician and Scotland’s queen of crime. Our love of books is what first drew us together and it remains the mainstay of that friendship. Every conversation we have eventually meanders round to the books we are reading, what we’ve been enjoying, what has been making us laugh or cry, or keeping us on the edge of our seats.

“And now we want to share the love. First up, festive fun at Edinburgh’s Assembly Rooms with two stellar mystery guests; then off to the Glasgow International Comedy Festival where we’ll be joined by two top names from the comedy world. We’ll be interrogating our guests about the books that shaped them and why they love reading. Revelations galore await as we explore the love and laughter between the covers.”

In The Company of Books joins a newly announced stellar line-up of performances taking place at **Assembly Hall** as part of Edinburgh’s Christmas this year. These include the enchanting and inspiring children’s show **The Bubble Show**; brilliantly funny stand-up comedy from Jason Byrne in **Jason Byrne: No Show**; the award-winning, critically acclaimed burlesque and drag parody show **Swamplesque**. For further information and to buy tickets, please go to [edinburgh-christmas.com](http://edinburgh-christmas.com)

**Sunday 15 December | 4pm | 60 minutes at Assembly Hall, New College, Mound Place EH1 2LU**



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Val McDermid pictured alongside Message From the SKies on the Scotsman Steps Photo Martin P McAdam



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