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Scotland Street Series-Alexander McCall Smith

44 Scotland Street

First published in 110 episodes in *The Scotsman* newspaper, 44 Scotland Street is the first of this trilogy and revolves around the comings and goings at No. 44 Scotland Street, a notorious building in a real street in the author's home city of Edinburgh.

In McCall Smith's hands such characters retain charm and novelty, simultaneously arousing both mirth and empathy. 44 Scotland Street is vintage McCall Smith, lacking issues of trust and honesty, snobbery and hypocrisy, love and loss, but all with great lightness of touch. Clever, elegant and funny, this is a novel that provides huge entertainment but which is underplanned by the moral dilemmas of everyday life and the characters' struggles to resolve them.

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325pp

Espresso Tales

In *Espresso Tales*, Alexander McCall Smith returns home to Edinburgh and the glorious cast of his own tales of the city, the residents of 44 Scotland Street, with a new set of challenges for each one of them. *Espresso Tales* features further escapades from the fringes of the New Town. This novel is the second of a trilogy and gives Scotland Street aficionados a chance to catch up with the occupants of what must surely be Edinburgh's most well-known literary address, and to meet more of the inhabitants of this unique corner of the city.

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320pp

Love Over Scotland

Love Over Scotland is the third in this series and revolves around the many colourful characters that come and go at No. 44 Scotland Street. McCall Smith handles the characters with his customary charm and deftness: the stalwart Tory chartered surveyor, the pushy mother and, most importantly in this novel, the Italian-speaking prodigy, Berdie. This is vintage McCall Smith - clever, witty and entertaining.

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368pp

The Silver Chanter and other Piper Tales
Stuart McLardy

This informative 226 pg. book celebrates Scotland's national instrument with piping tales from all periods and parts of the country. A mix of true and fictional tales all reflect the central role that bagpipes have played in traditional Scottish culture.

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Pipers

William Donaldson

This 176 page guide to the players and music of the highland bagpipe uses historical sources to explore the rich heritage of piping with a wide range of interviews and anecdotes - a lively introductory guide to what pipers do and why.

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A Scots Quair

Lewis Grassie Gibbon

One of the all-time greats of Scottish literature, truly revolutionary. *A Scots Quair* is a trilogy of novels: *Sunset Song* (1932), *Cloud Howe* (1933) and *Grey Granite* (1934). At each book's core is the heroine Chris Guthrie, as she grows from a child into adulthood through the Great War to the development of communism in the 1920s. Grassie Gibbon's writing is unique and riveting, blending Scots and English in an accessible style, and eloquent in its humanity and celebration of nature.

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784pp

Sunset Song

Lewis Grassie Gibbon

Faced with a choice between her harsh farming life and the seductive but distant world of books and learning, Chris Guthrie eventually decides to remain in her Scottish rural community, bound by her intense love of the land. Scottish rural life is brilliantly shown. However, the intervention of the First World War leaves her choice in sadness. Voted best Scottish book of all time.

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Flodden

Peter Reese

Flodden is one of Scotland's most ignominious military defeats. James IV lost his life and took with him the flower of the Scottish nobility and as many as 10,000 Scottish soldiers. It was nothing less than a catastrophic Peter Reese offers a detailed reassessment of Flodden over 308 pages and considers the major part the battle played in the road to the unification of Scotland and England.

A Long Horizon
By Iain R Thomson

A chronicle of a life spent farming in the Scottish Highlands and a family portrait of the Clan Fraser of Lovat, with whom the author enjoys a close connection, this work is also a collection of stories which reflect the changes of both attitude and circumstance which have revolutionized Highland life and dramatically affected its natural environment over the centuries. Using the back-ground to the Fraser clan chiefs as a central theme, Thomson weaves a narrative that shows how the effects of history have such a profound effect on what happens today.

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Raymond Campbell Paterson

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Scoular Anderson

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1745 and All That

Scoular Anderson

After the huge success of *1314 and All That*, Anderson turns his inimitable style to a history of the Highlands from earliest times to the present day over 164 pages. Up to date, funny and authoritatively researched, this is a history that should appeal to anyone who needs to sort out their Bart of Lewis from their Paps of Jura. With section key areas of Highland history and life such as clanship, whisky, and shiny amongst others the book serves as a short, sharp and extremely readable introduction for adult and child alike.

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And... The Scots and the English