

HOMECOMINGS Donald Paterson

'Donald Paterson is a writer of litheness, humanity, wisdom and ambition, and a truly great storyteller, whose take on life is artful and whose take on art is marvellously alive. You won't want this novel to end.'

– *Ali Smith*

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THIS BOOK?

A highly original, compelling literary novel about the life of an emigrant crofter from the north of Scotland in the late nineteenth century.

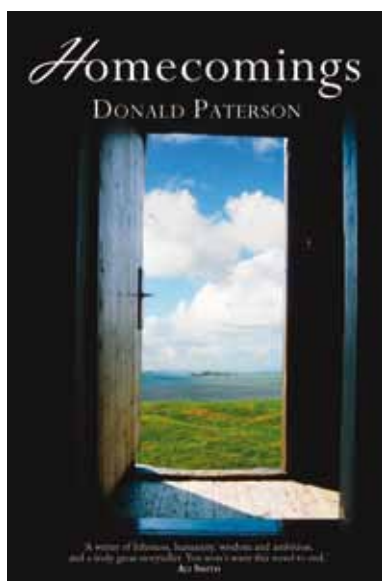
THE BOOK

Rona McPherson, a newly divorced woman in present-day Aberdeen, uncovers in her attic the dusty old diary of a young man, Hugh Ross. Through the beautifully crafted changes in Hugh's language and view of the world as his life expands into new experiences and new continents, the diary allows us an unusually intense and intimate insight into the world of an emigrant crofter in the late nineteenth century.

Hugh's story begins on a croft in the far north of Scotland. Inspired by the arrival of a new, modern-thinking minister, Hugh and his two best friends make the fateful decision to cross to the other side of the world and begin a new life in America. His life lurches from crisis to crisis: the shocking voyage on the *Lady Grey*; his arrival in the Canadian port town of Pictou; his grim, dark days in Chicago; his journey west to the ruthless thriving Californian gold-mining town where he loses what innocence he had left. And then Hugh joins the American army in Fort Tejon – where he hopes, finally, to be reunited with the girl he was in love with before he left home so many years before. At the final turn of the page, we discover just how Hugh and Rona's stories are so inextricably linked, how we can never escape our past, and how our ancestors are as much a part of us as those who people our daily lives.

THE AUTHOR

Donald Paterson was born in Motherwell, but grew up in Tain in the Scottish Highlands. After studying at Aberdeen University, he taught for many years in Aberlour and, more recently, in Inverness. Donald lives with his wife Val in Fortrose, on the Black Isle, where the dolphins swim only a short evening walk away. This is his first novel.



DETAILS

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