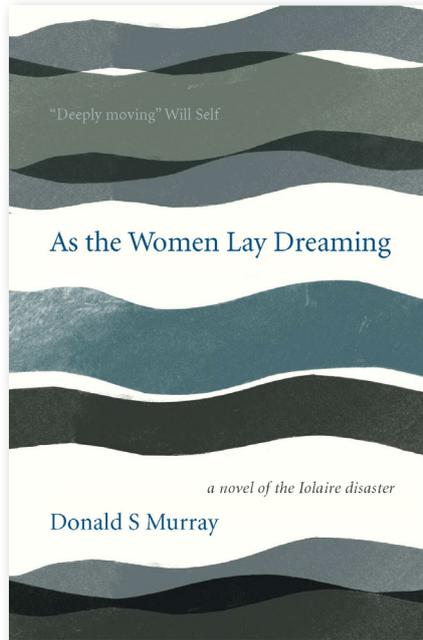


## As the Women Lay Dreaming – A novel of the *Iolaire* disaster



Author	<b>Donald S. Murray</b>
Publication Date	08/11/2018
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Subject	Literary/historical fiction

### Keynotes and publicity

- \* January 1st, 2019, marks the centenary of the sinking of HMY *Iolaire*: one of the worst British maritime disasters. Releasing for Remembrance Day to underline the loss.
- \* Evocative, heartbreaking literary fiction, whose authenticity is informed by the author's own family roots in Lewis,
- \* A prolific and highly respected author and broadcaster.
- \* Novels by Peter May and Graeme Macrae Burnet have fuelled an appetite for historical fiction from this region.

*Praise for Donald S. Murray:*

*"Deeply moving."*

WILL SELF, DAILY TELEGRAPH

*"He writes with an inherent understanding of Highland culture, language and way of life."*

HERALD

*"The story is told with great charm, and tinged with a spirit of loss and yearning."*

PHILIP MARSDEN, SPECTATOR

*"Mr Murray is a gregarious and engaging raconteur."*

THE ECONOMIST

*"Donald S. Murray is one of the most accomplished and original writers to have emerged from Lewis in modern times, and there is stiff competition."*

ROGER HUTCHINSON,  
WEST HIGHLAND FREE PRESS

*"Outstanding."*

HIGHLAND NEWS

In 1936, Alasdair and Rachel are sent by their grieving father to the Outer Hebrides – to the remote and strange Isle of Lewis. The children move in to the blackhouse home of their grandfather and experience a traditional way of life that is a world away from the Glasgow of their earliest years.

They soon discover that their kindly granddad is a man unlike others. He thinks differently, has a strong creative streak and still longs for his beautiful first wife, who died too young. And there is one event that shapes him more than any other – the sinking of the HMY *Iolaire*, which claimed the lives of some 200 people on the very last leg of their long journey home from war.

In this deeply moving, beautiful novel about grief, constraint and a changing world, Donald S Murray tells the story of a survivor of the World War I *Iolaire* disaster. And he vividly illustrates the lasting impact of catastrophic events on communities, on individuals and on our very souls.

### About the author

A son of the Hebrides, Donald S. Murray is a writer and poet whose work has been shortlisted for both the Saltire Literary Awards and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award. His critically acclaimed books bring to life the culture and nature of the Scottish islands, and he appears regularly on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland.

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