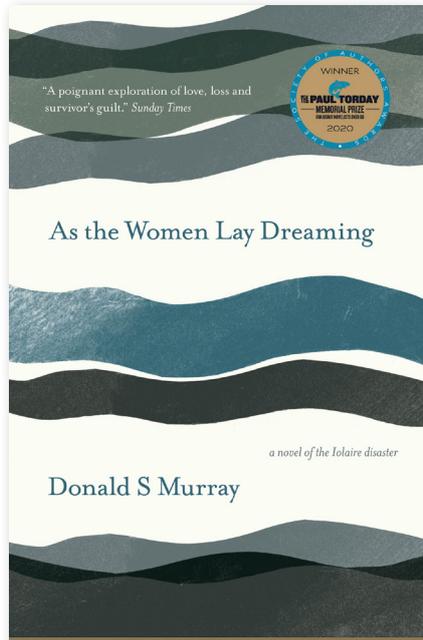


## As the Women Lay Dreaming – A novel of the *Iolaire* disaster



Author	<b>Donald S. Murray</b>
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Extent	288 pages
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Subject	Literary/historical fiction

### Keynotes and publicity

- \* A prize-winning novel re-released with a new historical note.
- \* Commemorates the sinking of HMY *Iolaire*: one of the most devastating British maritime disasters.
- \* Evocative, heartbreaking literary fiction, with an authenticity informed by the author's own family roots in Lewis.
- \* A prolific and highly respected author and broadcaster.
- \* Novels by Douglas Stuart, Peter May and Graeme Macrae Burnet have fuelled an appetite for Scottish fiction.

**WINNER: Paul Torday Memorial Award**

**SHORTLIST: The Herald Scottish Culture Awards, Outstanding Literature Award**

**SHORTLIST: Authors' Club Best First Novel**

**LONGLIST: HWA Debut Crown**

**LONGLIST: Highland Book Prize**

**"Academy Recommends", Walter Scott Prize**

*"A searing poetic meditation on stoicism and loss."* MARIELLA FROSTRUP, OPEN BOOK

*"I loved this book."* DOUGLAS STUART

*"Beauty, poetry and heart ... full of memorable images and singing lines of prose."*  
SARAH WATERS

*"A poignant novel."* NICOLA STURGEON

*"Deeply moving."*

WILL SELE, DAILY TELEGRAPH

*"A powerful novel... A poignant exploration of love, loss and survivor's guilt."* SUNDAY TIMES

*"Tinged with a spirit of loss and yearning."*  
PHILIP MARSDEN, SPECTATOR

In the small hours of January 1st, 1919, the cruellest twist of fate changed at a stroke the lives of an entire community. Tormod Morrison was there that terrible night. He was on board HMY *Iolaire* when it smashed into rocks and sank, killing some 200 servicemen on the very last leg of their long journey home from war. For Tormod – a man unlike others, with artistry in his fingertips – the disaster would mark him indelibly.

Two decades later, Alasdair and Rachel are sent to the windswept Isle of Lewis to live with Tormod in his traditional blackhouse home, a world away from the Glasgow of their earliest years. Their grandfather is kind, compassionate, but still deeply affected by the remarkable true story of the *Iolaire* shipwreck – by the selfless heroism and desperate tragedy he witnessed.

A deeply moving novel about passion constrained, coping with loss and a changing world, *As the Women Lay Dreaming* explores how a single event can so dramatically impact communities, individuals and, indeed, our very souls.

### About the author

A son of the Hebrides, Donald S Murray is a writer and poet whose work has been awarded The Society of Authors' Paul Torday Memorial Prize and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award (Scotland's National Book Awards 2021). 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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