



Letter from the Author
Whisky from Small Glasses by Denzil Meyrick

Hi, my name is Denzil Meyrick, author of the DCI Daley series, the first of which is *Whisky from Small Glasses*.

I was brought up in a rural area (Campbeltown, the real Kinloch in the books), but worked as a police officer in Glasgow. Because of this, the juxtaposition between rural and urban policing has long interested me.

In *Whisky from Small Glasses*, we see Daley and his redoubtable sidekick DS Brian Scott arrive in Kinloch to investigate the murder of a young woman. Initially, the logistical problems of being far from the resources of the city present themselves readily.

However, there is something deeper, less apparent.

Kinloch is a tight-knit community, where secrets and the mistrust of strangers runs deep. There are problems here that surprise Daley and his team.

When writing this first book, I was anxious to represent the dark humour deployed by the men and women who populate our emergency services. It's a pressure release, if you like; a way for those who witness the darker side of humanity that we hardly glimpse—and often recoil from when we do—to cope with their working lives.

The contrast between light and shade in this book and the rest of the series, is, I think, pivotal to their success.

For me, setting also plays a huge part. The beautiful Kintyre scenery, with its rugged coastline and sweeping vistas across the Atlantic, all adds to the ambience of the book - another character, almost.

To add to this, we have the quirky nature of some of the populace, with their adherence to tradition and lore. Here is a community still worthy of the name, where the townsfolk rely on each other.

I'm so pleased that *Whisky from Small Glasses* has been chosen as the subject of one of your discussions. I really hope you'll enjoy it, and go on to read more of the adventures of DCI Jim Daley, et al.

Denzil Meyrick