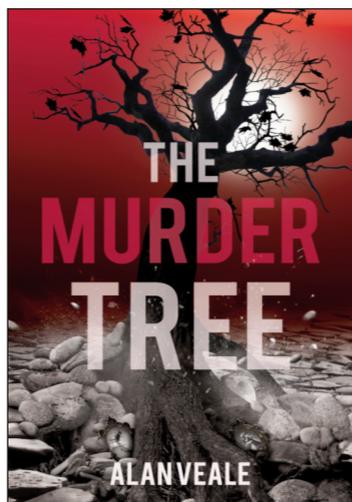




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## THE MURDER TREE

Alan Veale

**The small, frightened figure of Jessie McLachlan turned right at the top of the street and hurried on eastward, still clutching her precious bundle, starting a chain of events that were to rattle through history long after she was dead...**

It can be murder digging up your family tree, especially when your ancestor is trying to kill you...

Chrissie Fersen desperately wants to know how she is connected to the death of a servant woman in Glasgow in 1862. Enlisting the aid of local librarian Billie Vane, she is determined to clear the name of the woman originally convicted of the crime. But her chief suspect appears to be alive and well – and it looks like he still has murder on his mind...

*The Murder Tree* introduces an unlikely pair of heroes: the American daughter of a wealthy businessman and a Manchester-born librarian working in Glasgow. Each have their share of domestic strife to deal with, while sharing a thirst to find out the truth about a 150 year-old murder. But deaths are still taking place today as far afield as New York, and trying to dig through the roots of this unique family tree becomes more hazardous than either Chrissie or Billie could have foreseen...

*The Murder Tree* is based on the true story of Jessie McLachlan, convicted of murder in 1862, but who famously accused an old man of the crime after being found guilty at her trial. Elements from the writing of Clive Cussler, Dan Brown and Ian Rankin are evident in the book, which will appeal to fans of crime and thriller fiction.

Born in 1952 in Manchester, **ALAN VEALE** developed his creative imagination when given school homework at the age of 13: write a fairy story. His life-long interest in theatre led to an outpouring of scripts before early retirement in 2009 brought an opportunity to tackle the ultimate challenge: write a novel.

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