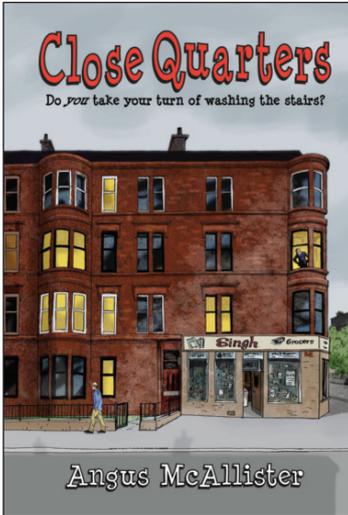




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CLOSE QUARTERS

Angus McAllister's hilarious satirical novel reimagines the Glasgow tenement lifestyle

Close Quarters takes a satirical glance at modern tenement life. "A lifetime of living in flats in or near Glasgow provided me with a wealth of material," says Angus of the inspiration behind his new novel.

Walter Bain is the self-appointed dictator of the tenement at 13 Oldberry Road in Glasgow's cosmopolitan west end. For years, Walter has striven to impose his family values – stairs must be regularly washed, noise kept down, and wheelie bins moved back and forth at the correct times. When Walter is found murdered, there are plenty of suspects among his ungrateful neighbours. Comic book dealer Billy Briggs is estranged from his daughter, with his business in ruins, and Tony Miller is jobless and facing eviction, all because of Walter. Henrietta Quayle, bullied and belittled by the dead man, conceals a murderous obsession beneath her timid exterior. And alcoholic solicitor Gus Mackinnon has even more reason to hate Walter than anyone else.

As *Close Quarters* takes a look back over the years at the various turbulent relationships between Walter and his neighbours, one thing becomes clear: although only one may be the murderer, none of them will mourn his passing.

"My book is primarily a comedy," explains Angus, "and satirises the sentimental view of tenement life by depicting it in a modern setting." Drawing from Angus's own experiences living in Scotland, *Close Quarters* ought to strike a particular chord with Scottish readers, though the book should have a general appeal everywhere.

In *Close Quarters* an element of crime fiction is added to the comedy to produce an engaging and original read based on the author's observations of daily life that engages readers of both genres.

ANGUS MCALLISTER worked as a solicitor and university professor and is now retired. He has written several legal textbooks and a number of legal articles, as well as fiction. Angus's earlier novels include *The Krugg Syndrome*, *The Canongate Strangler* and *The Cyber Puppets*.



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PRESS PACK

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OR COMPETITION COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS OR EXTRACTS PLEASE CONTACT ALEXA DAVIES

TEL: 0116 279 2299 EMAIL: ALEXA_DAVIES@TROUBADOR.CO.UK

TROUBADOR PUBLISHING, 9 PRIORY BUSINESS PARK, WISTOW ROAD, KIBWORTH, LEICESTER LE8 ORX