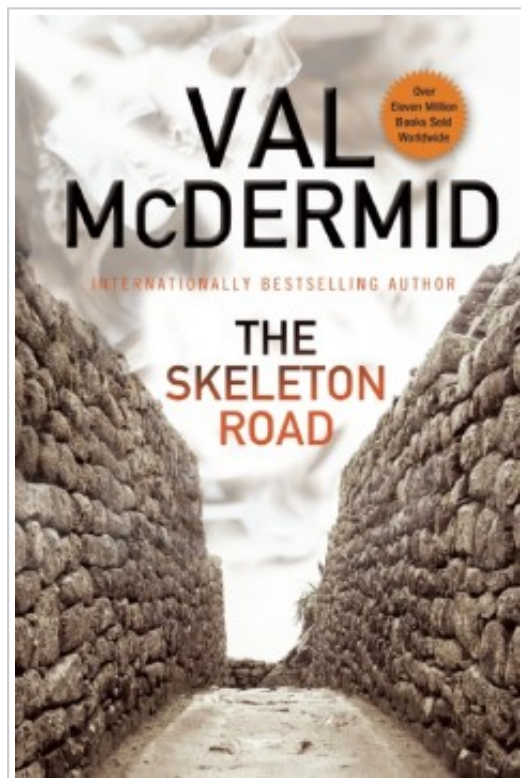


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## The Skeleton Road

by Val McDermid

**Price: \$25.00**(Hardcover)

Published: December 02, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

### From the Publisher:

Internationally best-selling crime writer Val McDermid is one of the most dependable professionals in the mystery and thriller business, whose acutely suspenseful, seamlessly plotted novels have riveted millions of readers worldwide. In *The Skeleton Road*, she delivers a gripping standalone novel about a cold case that links back to the Balkan Wars of the 1990s.

In the center of historic Edinburgh, builders are preparing to demolish a disused Victorian Gothic building. They are understandably surprised to find skeletal remains hidden in a high pinnacle that hasn't been touched by maintenance for years. Who do the bones belong to, and how did they get there? Could the eccentric British pastime of free climbing the outside of buildings play a role? Enter cold case detective Karen Pirie, who gets to work trying to establish the corpse's identity....

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## What We Say

This stand-alone mystery from Val McDermid demonstrates why she's a best-selling writer around the world. In quick strokes, McDermid brings to life two women: Maggie Blake an Oxford scholar of geopolitics (no, I'm still not quite sure what that might be) who fell hard for a high-ranking soldier during the Balkan conflict and cold case detective Karen Pirie. Blake believes her true love disappeared back to the Balkans to reunite with the family she imagined he already had. (It's not nearly as sad and other woman-ish as that sounds.) Blake is trying to determine the identity of a skeleton found on a roof in Edinburgh. Two men handling low level work on a war crimes tribunal are looking for the leaker that might be tipping off an assassin that is killing off vicious figures from the tearing apart of Yugoslavia who are escaping justice. It all comes together rather satisfyingly. Not that the mystery is terribly compelling or all that important. What holds the attention are the characters McDermid creates, the historical backdrop she evokes and the moral complexity she illuminates. It's a solid introduction to her talents and perhaps the beginning of a series for the capable and fascinating Pirie. -- Michael Giltz

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