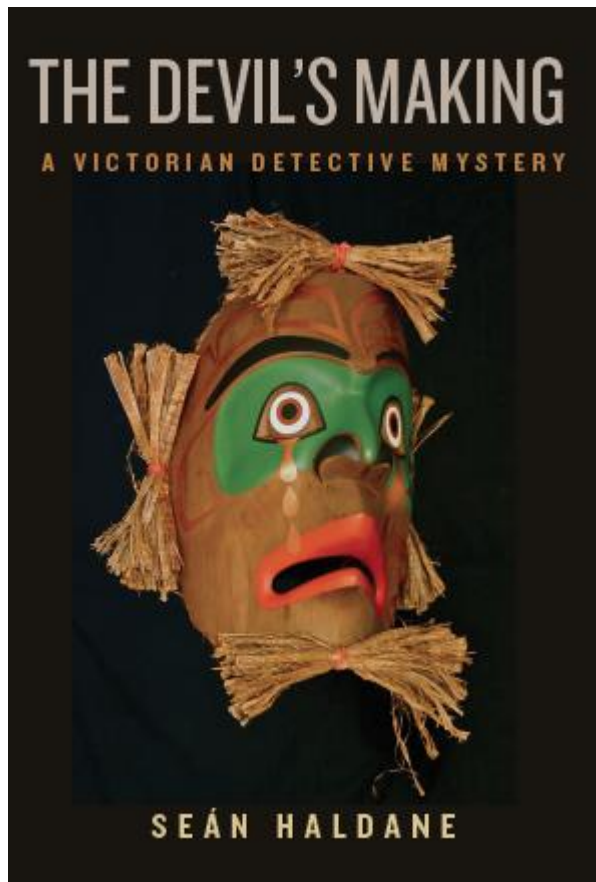


NOMINATED FOR BEST CRIME NOVEL IN THE CANADIAN CRIME WRITERS 2014 ARTHUR ELLIS AWARDS (to be announced 5 June)



PUBLISHER

STONE FLOWER PRESS, Ottawa, Canada. www.stoneflowerpress.wordpress.com

DISTRIBUTOR IN CANADA

RED TUQUE BOOKS, Penticton, British Columbia www.redtuquebooks.ca

DISTRIBUTOR IN EUROPE

RÚN PRESS LIMITED, Cork, Ireland. www.runepress.ie.

AUTHOR

SEÁN HALDANE. www.seanhaldane.com

The cover image is *Mourning Mask* by Sandy Johnson, by permission of Justart, Port Hardy, British Columbia

May 2013. 141,000 words Price: \$Can.19.95 £12.00 €15.00

Paperback ISBN 978-0-9919073-1-4 E-Book ISBN 978-0-9919073-1-1

The Devil's Making – A Victorian Detective Mystery

Victoria, 1869. The ramshackle capital of British Columbia, one of the last colonies in North America. Vastly outnumbered by native 'Indians', a few thousand British, American, European, and Chinese settlers aspire to the values of the Victorian age.

In the forest a mutilated body is discovered: Dr McCrory, an American 'alienist' whose methods include phrenology, Mesmerism, and sexual-mystical 'magnetation'.

Chad Hobbes, arrived from England, is the policeman who must solve the crime. Could the murderer be a Tsimshian medicine man, Wiladzap, who is immediately arrested? But everyone who has known McCrory – respectable or not – has something to hide.

This is a detective mystery and more. Victoria's inhabitants find themselves in a Garden of Eden but have to face the savagery which they readily see in the 'Indians' but also exists in themselves. Darwin wrote that the difference between the savage and the civilised person is 'the difference between a wild and a tame animal.' Is this true? Chad faces the question not only in the new territory in which he finds himself, but in himself – and in those he comes to love.

Tom Henighan, poet, writer, critic, and academic in Canada, writes:

This is a brilliant novel that is firmly rooted in an historical Canadian setting. It is an ingenious and page-turning mystery, very satisfying on the genre level, but it goes way beyond ordinary genre novels. It deals with the primitive in a very sophisticated way and casts light on an important time in both Canadian and British history--the great "Darwin year" of 1869. The fact that the novel has a very central theme of sexuality and sexual practice shouldn't hold it back either! Although it does have a sensational dimension...on every page I saw an intelligent, sensitive novelist at work. I learned to CARE about these characters, and read eagerly to find out exactly what their several fates would be.

The writer integrates human drama with the setting, which he knows like the back of his hand. Reading this, I found myself set down right in the Victoria B.C. of 1869, walking the dusty streets, looking up at the hills, marching through the forest. The way Haldane handles the racial issues that occurred in that "frontier" society is exemplary. He knows all about the native tribes, never caricatures them, and never sentimentalizes them. He also deals with the American, Jewish, Italian, Chinese and other components of the Victoria of that era, with rare tact and insight.



Seán Haldane was born in England in 1943, he grew up in Northern Ireland, and in 1967 moved to Canada where he lived until 1994 – in Quebec, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island. He now lives in London, England. He is British, Irish, and Canadian.

He was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and at University College Oxford where he obtained First Class Honours in English Language and Literature. Subsequently he completed a PhD in Psychology at Saybrook Institute (now Saybrook University), San Francisco, and trained and became licensed in Clinical Psychology. He has worked as a psychologist and neuropsychologist, mainly in memory clinics, in Canada and in the UK, most recently as Head of Neuropsychology in the NHS in East London.

He is a publisher (The Ladysmith Press, Quebec, 1968-1974; Rún Press Limited, Cork, Ireland, since 2013), and a writer of psychology books (*Emotional First Aid*, *Couple Dynamics*, literary studies (*Donne*, *Hardy*), cross-over books in neuroscience (*Time / No Time – The Paradox of Poetry and Physics*) and poetry: his first published volume of poems was in 1968, and his most recent is *Always Two: Collected Poems 1966-2009*.

The Devil's Making is Seán Haldane's first published novel.

Seán Haldane can be contacted directly via mail@poem.sh

