In brief

Author Peter May
Peter May was an award-winning journalist at the age of just twenty-one. He left newspapers for television and screenwriting, becoming one of Scotland’s most prolific dramatists and garnering more than 1000 credits in 15 years as scriptwriter and script editor for prime-time British television drama.

Born and raised in Scotland, he now lives in France where he focuses on his first love – writing novels.

Photographer David Wilson
David Wilson worked with the BBC for twenty years and was the production designer for Machair. He has published a photographic book on the Hebrides, Hebridean Light. He lives on Lewis.

The landscape of the Outer Hebrides, with its stark cliffs, ghostly mists and lonely beaches, has become a definitive character of Peter May’s Lewis trilogy. Using images and excerpts from the book ‘Hebrides’, by Peter May and David Wilson, readers can trace the footsteps of May’s protagonist Fin Macleod, as they explore and discover the inspirational locations in the chain of islands.

The Blackhouse
A brutal killing takes place on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland: a land of harsh beauty and inhabitants of deep-rooted faith. A MURDER. Detective Inspector Fin Macleod is sent from Edinburgh to investigate. For Lewis-born Macleod, the case represents a journey both home and into his past. A SECRET. Something lurks within the close-knit island community. Something sinister. A TRAP. As Fin investigates, old skeletons begin to surface, and soon he, the hunter, becomes the hunted.

The Lewis Man
An unidentified corpse is recovered from a Lewis peat bog; the only clue to its identity being a DNA sibling match to a local farmer. But this islander, Tormod Macdonald - now an elderly man suffering from dementia - has always claimed to be an only child. When Tormod’s family approach Fin MacLeod for help, Fin feels duty-bound to solve the mystery.

The Chessmen
Fin Macleod, now head of security on a privately owned Lewis estate, is charged with investigating a spate of illegal game-hunting taking place on the island. This mission reunites him with ‘Whistler’ Macaskill - a local poacher, Fin’s teenage intimate, and possessor of a long-buried secret. But when this reunion takes a violent, sinister turn and Fin puts together the fractured pieces of the past, he realises that revealing the truth could destroy the future.

“...beautiful chain of islands at any time of the year and I’d urge everyone to spend some time discovering the landscapes that have provided the inspiration for my novels.”

Follow the Crofting Code
• Please leave dogs behind, or ensure they are on a leash as they can be a danger to livestock.
• Park your car without blocking access for other vehicles.
• Please fasten gates.
• Leave no litter.
• Do not disturb breeding birds.
• Protect wildlife and plants.
• Avoid damaging archaeological sites.

Explore
With the islands enjoying one of the last untouched natural landscapes in Europe, wildlife in the Outer Hebrides enjoys a reputation of being some of the finest in the world.

You can also check where our stunning beaches are, find lots of accommodation choices, discover great places to eat and drink, find 100’s of events, and activities or follow our pre-set themed itineraries, which include the Peter May Trail based on some locations from the award winning Lewis Trilogy. All our listings have images, descriptions, contact details, location and will appear on a map.

Scan the QR code to download the FREE Outer Hebrides App.
He had been investigating.

Angus “Angel” Macritchie from an orphanage, was brought to South Uist by the Catholic harbour in Eriskay, is where the young Ceit lived. Ceit had come to the caves of Pabbay, and Manse. In all three books the fictitious “Crobost” Church and minister Donald Head, to the caves of Pabbay, a small island just off Reelf, Uig, is where Fin’s parents’ car left the road as they drove home from a dance in Stornoway. The crash was fatal and so Fin went to stay with his aunt in her cold and miserable house.

The fictitious village “Crobost” was based on Adabroc. This is where the main character, Fin Macleod was born and brought up. “Crobost” features strongly in all three books, The Blackhouse, The Lewis Man and The Chessmen.

The Cave of Pabbay, a small island just off Reelf, Uig, is where the orphaned “homers” were deposited on the bottom of what would have been the loch.

In The Chessmen, Fin and Whistler come across a disappearing loch which burst its banks and drained overnight revealing a small plane at the bottom of the loch. Fin’s Aunt’s House

In The Chessmen, Whistler’s house is thought to be an old converted blackhouse with its tin roof and Susaenaabhal rising behind it, overlooking Ardroy Bay. Whistler was a teenage friend of Fin’s made whilst at school in Stornoway.

The fictitious “Crobost” Church and “boarded out” a family in Eriskay.

Ben Kenneth is the hill that looms over the port of Lochboisdale. The port is featured in The Lewis Man. It is where the orphaned “homers” - Johnny, Peter and Ceit - were unceremoniously deposited on the pier to meet their future families.

The Free Church of Scotland church and minister, Donald Head, to the caves of Pabbay.

The Lewis Man, the investigation of a body found in a peat bog, sees Fin Macleod and Detective Sergeant Gunn travel south following a conversation with Tormod, Marsall’s father, where they make a shocking discovery at Scarista cemetery.

Locations

The Church and Manse, Cross

MacNeil’s Bar and The Narrows

Pabbay

Lochboisdale Pier

Police Station

Johnny’s House

Barvas Moor Shieling

Fin’s Aunt’s House Skigersta

Port of Ness Harbour

Purple Boat at Skigersta Harbour

Beehive Dwellings and Disappearing Loch

Sollas Beach

Whistler’s House Ardroy

Scarista Graveyard

Adabroc “Crobost”

Ceit’s (Catherine’s) House Eriskay

The Church Blackhouse, The Lewis Man and The Chessmen.

The Chessmen, the Bridge to Nowhere is the dramatic location of a scooter race by between teenagers Roddy and Strings to battle out who would name the celtic rock band.

The Blackhouse, The Lewis Man and The Chessmen the church and minister Donald feature strongly.

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