



# The Lewis Man

*Peter May*

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**The Lewis Man** Peter May

**LOVED THE *BLACKHOUSE*? THE TRILOGY CONTINUES WITH *THE LEWIS MAN*: AS FIN MACLEOD RETURNS IN AN INGENUOUS CRIME THRILLER ABOUT MEMORY AND MURDER.**

## **A MAN WITH NO NAME**

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.

## **A MAN WITH NO MEMORY**

But this islander, Tormod Macdonald - now an elderly man suffering from dementia - has always claimed to be an only child.

## **A MAN WITH NO CHOICE**

When Tormod's family approach Fin Macleod for help, Fin feels duty-bound to solve the mystery.

## **The Lewis Man Details**

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Author : Peter May

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# From Reader Review The Lewis Man for online ebook

## Andrew Smith says

Sometimes it's not so much the story itself as the way the story is told. In truth, there's a great story here too but the way the tale unfolds and the care that's been taken to order things just right and to disclose just enough whilst holding back a couple of nuggets of information until it can wait no longer... well, it's a masterclass in how to get it right.

I'd enjoyed The Blackhouse so much I'd instantly started on the second part of this trilogy. Fin Macleod has left his police career behind to return to Lewis, the isle of his birth. He's newly divorced and keen to escape the ghosts of Edinburgh. He is under no illusions that this will lead to a reunion with Marsaili, his childhood love - too much water has flowed under that particular bridge - but the draw of going 'home' is too much to resist.

A body has turned up on Lewis, buried in peat which has preserved it. Is it a two thousand year old corpse? The mystery of the finding and Fin's return are bound to collide and so they do. But these books are only nominally crime fiction stories, really they are about the people who live on the remote Hedridean islands, the culture that their history and their seclusion breeds and the close relationships that are built between people who live in such close proximity. There are some hard hitting issues to be addressed too, and May pulls no punches.

I'll give no more away than that, but I will say that I'm already half way through the last book in this mini-series and the quality is maintained, if not improved, throughout. The pacing of the stories and the atmosphere created is, in my opinion, second to none. These books should be made compulsory reading for anyone aspiring to write mysteries - and anyone who loves a good story.

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## Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

*A body is found in the peat bog on the isle of Lewis. The only clue to the body's identity is that he was related to a local farmer. But the local farmer Tormod Macdonald is a man with dementia and he has always claimed to be the only child.*

It's strange that the hardest reviews to write are actually for the books that I love. It's sometimes so hard to put into words how great a book is that I just want to say read it and you will see why it is so good.

The Lewis Man is such a book, just like the first book in the series; The Blackhouse. There is something so appealing with the story, the characters, the setting and, of course, the writing that I couldn't stop reading the book.

The case in this book is interesting, this is what I can remember the first book I have read when the suspect in a murder case has dementia and what makes the case even tougher is that the suspect is Tormod Macdonald, ex-police Fin Macleod's first love's father. He may not be a police anymore, but he needs to try to find out the truth, even if it would mean hurting his relationship with Marsaili Macdonald.

It was a great read from the beginning to the end. The ending wasn't that intense as in the last book, but it

was still very good and I'm looking forward to reading the last book in the trilogy.

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## Marita says

At the start of the second novel in the trilogy, Fin Macleod has come to a decision regarding his future. The first novel, *The Blackhouse*, found Fin at a crossroads in his personal life, but **“Tomorrow would be the end of everything he had known for most of his adult life. Everything he had been and become, and was likely to be.”** And so he once again steps through the metaphorical looking glass\* into the world of the Isle of Lewis, one of the islands which form part of the Hebrides. And to incomers/outsideers this world can be quite as fantastical as Alice's world on the other side of the looking glass.

Fin is no longer with the Edinburgh police, in fact he is no longer employed when he returns to Lewis. There is, however, a murder and Fin with his background and connections cannot help but become involved in solving the mystery or mysteries. Once again chapters more or less alternate between present and past. However, what is different in this second novel is that this time the narrator of the past is Tormod Macdonald, an elderly gentleman who suffers from dementia. Once more Fin finds connections between the murder, his past and those close to him. Towards the end of the novel Fin reflects: **“And he realized that you can never tell, even when you think you know someone well, what they might have been through in their lives.”**

As with the other novels in the trilogy several social and cultural issues are addressed and the story is rich with history, folklore and descriptions of the Hebrides. As the series progresses, the writing improves and Fin's story grows on one. I really liked this second novel.

\*In each novel of this trilogy there are allusions to Alice in Wonderland and Alice through the Looking Glass. In *The Lewis Man*: **“As I opened the gate I felt a little like Alice passing from one side of the looking glass to the other, except that I was passing from the world of the living into the world of the dead.”** I leave it to the reader to find the context.

(Wikipedia - illustration Alice stepping through the glass by John Tenniel)

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## Richard Derus says

Rating: 3.5\* of five

**The Publisher Says:** Marilyn Stasio in *The New York Times* raved: "Peter May is a writer I'd follow to the ends of the earth." Among the many honors received, *The Blackhouse*, the first novel in May's acclaimed Lewis trilogy, won the Barry and Crime Thriller Hound awards.

In *The Lewis Man*, the second book of the trilogy, Fin Macleod has returned to the Isle of Lewis, the storm-tossed, wind-scoured outer Hebridean island where he was born and raised. Having left behind his adult life in Edinburgh—including his wife and his career in the police force--the former Detective Inspector is intent on repairing past relationships and restoring his parents' derelict cottage. His plans are interrupted when an unidentified corpse is recovered from a Lewis peat bog. The only clue to its identity is a DNA match to a local farmer, the now-senile Tormod Macdonald--the father of Fin's childhood sweetheart, Marsaili--a man who has claimed throughout his life to be an only child, practically an orphan. Reluctantly drawn into the

investigation, Fin uncovers deep family secrets even as he draws closer to the killer who wishes to keep them hidden.

Already an international bestseller and winner of numerous awards, including France's Prix des Lecteurs du Telegramme, *The Lewis Man* has the lyrical verve of Ian Rankin and the gutsy risk-taking of Benjamin Black. As fascinating and forbidding as the Hebridean landscape, the book (according to The Times) "throbs with past and present passions, jealousies, suspicions and regrets; the emotional secrets of the bleak island are even deeper than its peat bog."

**My Review:** I gave this second book in the Lewis Trilogy a higher rating *The Blackhouse* because the amount of backstory was equal, but put in the mind, and the heart, of Alzheimer's afflicted "Tormod Macdonald." This made all the difference to my reading experience. His awful past was a gut-punch to me, and all I'll say about the matter is that the Irish branch of the Catholic Church has a boatload of apologizing and begging for forgiveness to do.

As the complexities of Fin's, Marsaili's, and Donald Murray's deeply intertwined pasts and presents unfold in front of us, accented by the heartbreaking agony for all who love a dementia suffer, the bittersweet nature of aging and its compensatory widening of the inner emotional landscape come into sharp relief:

Getting old doesn't make them any less valid, or any less real. And it'll be us one day.

Simple, short, and very true.

The landscape of these Outer Hebridean islands is well suited to the story May is telling. The islands are scoured by Arctic winds, rains frequently unexpected and blown horizontally by F4 and greater gales, peppered with decaying ruins of human attempts to wrest a living from this dark and angry landscape. Watching the lives of others spin out of control is a deep and shameful pleasure. This is a story full of that pleasure.

Nor is it devoid of the basic satisfaction of the whole genre: Bad people don't escape their misdeeds. In fact, retribution for past wrongs is the foundation of this story. That healing, forgiveness, and new opportunities for better days are here as well is what keeps this book from being unbearably grim. May's books show that mastery of structure that comes from screenwriting is able to translate satisfyingly to the novel's page and pace.

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## Jaline says

In the northern areas of Europe there are peat bogs created by proximity to specific soil, water, and chemical compounds occurring in nature. There have been bodies found, perfectly preserved, within these bogs for centuries. Some of them date back to the pre-Christian era; hundreds and even thousands of years before. Many of these appeared to have been sacrificial deaths, but others were murders. Although the bogs are frequently 'harvested' and then dried for heating purposes, they can still hold their secrets for many, many years.

The Lewis man is about one such bog person. Who is he? How is he connected to a family well known to Fin Macleod when he was growing up there? And how does this connect to the "homers" – the orphaned or unwanted children who are taken from their home environments and sent off to the wilds of Scotland to live

with crofters on the land?

In pursuit of answers, Fin makes the painful journey back to Edinburgh even though he is just starting to feel at home on his native island of Lewis again. His journeys also take him up and down the Island and unknown to him, his enquiries have also alerted some undesirable characters intent on harm.

I keep trying to find answers myself. How does Peter May write in such a way that I find it almost impossible to put down the book without picking it up again after a few minutes? Somehow I feel I become part of these stories and putting the book down is like putting my life on hold. I need to know what happens next – to experience it in full Technicolor with all the sounds, smells, and sensations that are as real as life.

I am torn now. So eager to begin the third book of the trilogy; so sad because the ending of this saga is approaching. And yet, and yet . . . wild horses couldn't keep me from opening the next book.

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### **Stephen says**

Not often that you find a sequel that is even better than the original but this is one of them. Like the first book, this was two stories (one in the past, one in the present) that came together for a very clever ending. Enjoyed the book more for seeing the development of the characters from the first book but it could easily be read as a standalone novel.

A must read for anyone interested in the Scottish Highlands/Islands and also I found the scenes in my home town of Edinburgh very interesting and found out a few new facts about places that I have visited for years without ever knowing them before !

Off to track down the third book now...

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### **Brenda says**

Fin Macleod had resigned from the force in Edinburgh when his divorce finally came through, and journeyed home to Lewis Island – the place he'd grown up; the place of unhappy memories that he'd vowed never to return to. But Lewis Island also held the woman he'd loved as a young man – he felt unfinished business that he might be able to resolve.

Detective Sergeant George Gunn was called when the body was discovered in the Lewis Island peat bog – they'd expected it to be an ancient corpse as the acid in the peat would preserve the bodies as it had been by the Tollund Man, carbon dated as being from around 400 BC and perfectly preserved. But when evidence pointed to a murder which had occurred in the 1950s, then DNA matched with an islander, the inspectors were called in from the mainland.

Meanwhile Fin was insatiably curious – his police instincts kicked in – and Gunn and he set to work to solve the strange mystery. But secrets and lies; the dementia of the one person who might hold answers; and torment rippling through Fin, all caused a determination for the truth. Would he succeed in finding the answers he sought? Or would Fin wish he hadn't pursued it so doggedly?

*The Lewis Man* is the second in the Lewis Trilogy by author Peter May and I thoroughly enjoyed it. A fascinating, fast paced mystery which held everything to satisfy in a crime/mystery/suspense novel, and by an author who never disappoints in my opinion. Highly recommended.

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## Harry says

### Book Review

Second in *The Lewis Trilogy*, Peter May once again invites his readers to explore the islands known as the Hebrides, off Scotland. The story continues with Fin MacLeod's fascinating story. We got to know Fin in May's spectacular first in the trilogy: *The Blackhouse* as he once again returns to Lewis Island in search of his Gaelic roots. You can find my review of that novel [here](#).

I've become a huge fan of Peter May's work in this trilogy for several reasons. First: I find his study of the Hebrides islands to be an irresistible journey into ethnography written in a way so as to capture the attention of the reader. And, capture it in a way that a straight-forward ethnographic study will not. The reader is invested into learning more of the Gaelic culture as a means to understand the central character, Fin MacLeod, as well as the crime that has taken place. This is done in such an original and captivating manner that the reader does not even realize the amount of information he or she takes in as Fin attempts to solve the Lewis riddle. Moreover, the information is being passed onto the reader using exquisite descriptive passages that serve more than one purpose: yes, the passages are seen as descriptive but they are also deceptively laden with clues as to plot, character, and motivation.

Second: I am always cognizant of what type of hero the author chooses for his main character. Does the author create a malevolent and torn hero (or anti-hero), or does he subscribe to a more Romantic Realism style, where the hero is a good guy that wins in the end? As an example of the first, we might think of the fabulous Harry Hole, the hero created by author Jo Nesbo whose flaws contribute as much to the story as anything else. As to the second, we can think of the 40 or more novels by author Dick Francis where we can relish in a true admiration for the hero. *The Lewis Trilogy* is an example of the latter. What I feel for Fin MacLeod is the same as what I would feel for, let's say Sid Halley, one of the recurring heroes in the Francis series (Dick Francis, by the way, is my favorite of all authors I've read within the genre). A Francis hero is personable, likeable, full of integrity, rational, non-violent but delivers swift justice using his mind rather than physical force.

Third: Plot, for me, is essential. Plot involves the causations and consequences of human choices made based on the values they hold. Choice, free will, is specifically a human characteristic and along with conceptualization contributes in large part as to what makes us human. To omit plot from a fictional novel that involves people is like severing the humanity of what is being expressed, let alone what I derive from reading it. Plot is the exposition of volition. I know meta-fiction enthusiasts will scoff at this preference of mine, but, as I said, it is my personal opinion and merely addresses what it is that I find pleasurable in my reading and in large part it is what moves me in the direction of crime novels where plot is tantamount. In this regard, Peter May is a master story teller. Woven into the fabric of its ethnography, the Hebrides islands, the peat and crofts that pervade the islands, its people and Gaelic culture, and within the fabric of the novel's descriptive passages is a delicate but strong plot line that moves the reader from chapter to chapter. Peter May understands values and what they mean to the choices people make, especially as that pertains to the crime: to end another human life for all the wrong reasons.

What Fin encounters upon his return to Lewis Island is what some might call a cold case, at least fifty years old. A young man is found in the bogs, perfectly preserved by the acidity of the peat, pickled so to speak. Who is it? Why did he die? And who killed him? So, the first hurdle for the author Peter May might have been this: "Cold cases aren't normally very interesting. So, how do I make this story relevant to a current day Fin MacLeod?" And, he might have thought: "How do I tell this story in such a way that my readers become invested in the actors living 50 years ago?" Not only that, but May further decides to add another complication by making one of the main characters as a person suffering from dementia. And so he might have mused, "How to tell this story if one of my main characters can't remember anything?" Through his brilliant use of First person vs. Third person, not only does the author create the effortless move between yesterday and today, but he also resolves the issue of a character's dementia.

Today, I started *The Chessmen*, third in the Lewis Trilogy. I'll report back on that one when I'm done with it. I highly recommend this trilogy for any fan of Tartan crime.

## About the author

### Peter May

Peter May has a prolific career in writing, starting out at the age of 21 when he won the *Scottish Journalist of the Year Award*. But, Peter's childhood dream was to be a novelist and that dream was accomplished at the young age of 26. That novel was to become a major BBC television drama series and that temporarily changed the direction of his writing career as he became one of Scotland's most prolific and popular TV dramatists.

With the approach of the new millennium May quit television and returned to his first love: novels. What is particularly interesting is the meticulous research May implements for his novels. For example, Peter spent 5 years on The Isle of Lewis, befriending its inhabitants and photographing the island and inhabitants as research for his novel *The Blackhouse*. He embarked on a series of thrillers which took him half-way across the world, to the land of China. There he made contacts and gained unprecedented access to the forensic science set ions of Beijing and Shanghai police forces and studied the work of Chinese detectives and pathologists. His efforts won him *Elle Magazine's* Best Crime Novel in 2005 and the Prix Polar International in 2008. His China thrillers feature Beijing detective Li Yan and a Forensic pathologist from Chicago, Margaret Campbell. China even made him an honorary member of their Chinese Crime Writer's Association.

There's another MacLeod hero featured in his books. Enter Enzo MacLeod, a cold cases crime series set in France where the author lives.

As a visitor myself to *Second Life*, I find it especially interesting that in researching his setting for the 2010 thriller *Virtually Dead* Peter May setup a virtual detective agency in Second Life, created his own avatar, Fick Faulds, and explored the metaverse: handling real Second Life investigations from paying clients (Second Life has its own denomination and yeah, it takes a credit card to convert dollars into their currency).

Next came the Lewis trilogy. Interestingly enough, the British Isles were not impressed and all the major publishing houses (to their current dismay) rejected to publish his first in the series: *The Blackhouse*. It was France that hailed it as a masterpiece and it was in France that it was first published which led to the Prix des Lecteurs and the world's biggest adjudicated readers' prizes, the Prix Cezam. Finally, an upstart publishing house in the UK (Quercus) published *The Blackbook* and the rest is history. The Lewis Series became an instant best-seller in the UK, France if not worldwide and finally landed on US shores to win the Barry



Award for Best Mystery Novel in 2013.

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### Carolyn says

In this second novel of the Lewis trilogy, Detective Fin Macleod has left the police force and his fractured marriage and returned to the place of his birth. When a body found in the peat bog turns out not to be ancient but that of a young man killed in the 1950s, Fin is asked by the local police to help investigate.

What unfolds is a complex story leading back to children abandoned by society and a secret kept hidden for over 50 years. As Fin investigates the mystery he re-connects with his own roots and the people he left behind. Peter May paints a broad picture of the people and life in the Hebrides in the 50s but also the culture and practices that are still practiced today. His descriptions of the islands are very evocative in describing the isolation and rugged beauty of the landscape and provide a rich backdrop for the mystery to gradually be unravelled.

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### Liz says

This second book in the Lewis trilogy proves once again that Peter May is a master at using the unique and tempestuous backdrop of the Scottish Outer Hebrides to accentuate the mood of the story. He's quite fantastic at this, and he clearly holds an affection for the place, so loving is his detail.

Although the main crime of this story is not as strong as in the first book, I really enjoyed the way it's told from past and present perspectives. I especially liked hearing the story of Tormod Macdonald's childhood – heartbreaking yet enlightening, as described in the mind of a man who is currently suffering from dementia. It's such a reminder of how easily and often society overlooks our elderly people.

*"We walk into that nursing home, and all we see are a lot of old people sitting around. Vacant eyes, sad smiles. And we just dismiss them as... well, old. Spent, hardly worth bothering about. And yet behind those eyes everyone one of them has had a life and a story they could tell you. Of pain, love, hope, despair. All the things we feel, too. Getting old doesn't make them any less valid, or any less real."*

The area I felt was most lacking was in the character of Tormod's daughter, Marsaili. I feel that she could have had a larger part in this story, but she was mostly relegated to being Fin's love interest, while he ran around searching for answers to her father's past. There was a missed opportunity to further develop her character. Instead, she is described several times as "fragile" or "small and crushed," and that's just... blech. It minimizes her presence in the story and makes her feel like a stereotype.

All in all, this was a great read but with room for some improvements. Hoping Mr. May does better with his female characters next time. 3.5 stars, rounded up.

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### Phrynne says

Full of twists and turns and incredible discoveries, this book is every bit as good as the first in the series, *The Blackhouse*.

When Peter May describes the Hebrides and its life style you can feel yourself right there, usually with the accompaniment of wind and rain! There is some sun and a few beaches in this book but I am still sure those fine days are in the minority!

I am enjoying the character of Fin Macleod. Even though he is no longer on the Force he works this crime like the policeman he was and pursues every clue that is available to him. The ending is unexpected and dramatic.

The next book concludes the trilogy which I hope will leave Fin in a better place in his life than he is now.

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## **Kathy says**

I'm not sure that I can do a proper review right away because the last book in the Lewis Trilogy is tapping its foot at me while I type. Any review of a book in this series must begin with the fact that Peter May is one of the most masterful storytellers writing today. His artistry with words is akin to listening to a symphonic performance of music that plays light and dark, loud and soft to a stunning consistency of perfection. The setting on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland is brought to life with May's descriptions, and the reader is soon drawn into this world that alternates in isolation, beauty, desolation, and comfort. The depth of the story, with its layers and twists, fascinates and surprises in all the right places. The characters he creates prove that we do all indeed have a story to tell, no matter how unassuming the lives we lead. Fin MacLeod is a favorite character for me, with all of his flaws, baggage, and uncertainty. He is strong and keeps his emotions in check, but his is a healing heart that the reader is hoping will see recovery. The mysteries and crimes that Fin must unravel and solve connect to his life and others on the Isle of Lewis in ways that have lain buried for years.

In *The Lewis Man*, the story begins with the discovery of a young man, well preserved and obviously murdered, in the peat bogs of the northern end of Lewis. To determine his identity, the local police detective stationed in Stornoway will accept the help of Fin MacLeod, who has just returned to the island after leaving his job as a policeman in Edinburgh. The mystery of who the murdered bog man is and what happened to him is somehow tied to Marsaili Macdonald's father, Tormod, but Tormod suffers from dementia and appears unable to offer any direction or useful information. Marsaili, with whom Fin has a complicated history, calls upon Fin to help unravel the ramblings and secrets of a man whose brain is deserting him. No one can imagine just how deeply buried the past can be. The journey to the truth will take readers the length of the Outer Hebrides, and the trip is spectacular with its changing scenery and cultural differences.

Peter May's treatment of Tormod Macdonald's dementia was outstanding, with the tragedy of losing oneself to a maze of garbled memories brought to the forefront. The chapters in which Tormod is wandering around in his mind and in his past are heart-wrenching to read and plausible to the state of dementia. May's own experience with his father's descent into dementia gives even more credence to the portrayal.

One suggestion I will make is to purchase Peter May's non-fiction photography and information book entitled *Hebrides*. With its amazing photographs taken by David Wilson and Peter's narrative, including chapters dedicated to each of the three books in the Lewis Trilogy, it will be a much valued resource while reading the fictional tales.

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## Jeffrey Keeten says

**"Gunn... couldn't take his eyes off the face of the young man locked in the peat. Although there was a shrivelled aspect to this features, they would be recognisable to anyone who knew him. Only the soft, exposed tissue of the eyes had decomposed. 'How long's he been here?'"**

**Murdo's laugh was lost in the wind. 'Who knows? Hundreds of years, maybe even thousands. You'll need an expert to tell you that.'"**

I remember when I first heard about Bog People. 2000 year old corpses were being pulled from the earth, perfectly preserved like the one above. The historical data gathering possibilities had my head swimming with the revelations that would hopefully be ascertained. When a body is found in the peat on the Hebrides of Scotland, the first thought is, here is another time capsule from the past. From the past indeed, but not two thousand years, not even a thousand years or a hundred years.

The Elvis tattoo on the man's forearm precisely dates that the corpse became a ghost fifty some years ago. If this were an episode of the *Twilight Zone* or an Outlander traveling through standing stones or a Jules Verne *Time Machine* situation, maybe we would need to call in Mulder and Scully to investigate, but this is a straightforward, hide the body in the peat and hope no one finds it scenario.

Meanwhile, Fin Macleod has quit his job in Edinburgh and decides to move back to the island to repair his parent's derelict croft and, at the same time, make amends for the way he treated his ex-girlfriend, Marsaili. He doesn't, frankly, deserve her, but maybe he does, at this point, deserve some forgiveness. What we do as young men and women should have an expiration date as we prove ourselves to be better human beings. The weight of our past transgressions can never go away, but it can be made lighter.

In the first book, I had a hard time forgiving Fin. Marsaili's love for him was so pure, so unconditional. For her, he was her soulmate from the very moment she laid eyes on him as a wee lass. He broke her heart, and in the process, he broke my heart, too. What a tribute to the writing of Peter May that he managed to put me in the book and experience Marsaili's pain as my own.

When they test the DNA of the peat bog corpse, they discover that he has to be a close relation to Marsaili's father. And it is truly a **What the Hell** moment. Her father is suffering from alzheimer's and dementia. He remembers the past better than the present, but even those memories are becoming fragmented. It is difficult for him to tell a coherent story as his mind drifts from decade to decade like a spinning wheel that occasionally stops only to start again.

### **He isn't who he says he is.**

Marsaili, already struggling with a series of drastic situations going wrong, now has to face the fact that she isn't who she thought she was. With only her Dad's uncertain memories, she and Fin have to go to Edinburgh and start the journey to discover who her father really is and what happened to the man in the bog. Revelations take them to other islands in the Hebrides with the hope they discover enough information to prove that he father was not the killer of the bog man.

At one point, Fin comments that the only time you notice the wind is when it stops. I live in Dodge City,

Kansas, which is routinely considered the windiest place in the United States, so when he made that comment I knew exactly what he was talking about. The weather is a constant threat on the Hebrides.

*"It was a filthy morning, the wind sweeping in explosive gusts across the point, bringing with it waves of fine wetting rain, and laying flat the new-growth spring grasses. But he didn't mind. He had grown up with this. It was normal. He loved to feel the rain stinging his face. He loved, too, the way the sky would open up at unexpected moments to let the light through. Flashes of cold, blinding sunlight on the surface of the ocean, like pools of mercury. They could last minutes or seconds."*

**You have to love it, or you start to hate it.**

The island is dominated by a harsh, unforgiving, suffocating religion. Fin's friend from his childhood, Donald Murray, put aside his wild ways and fully embraced this religion as he got older. Fin finds Murray and his beliefs too much to take. *"Faith is a crutch of the weak. You use it to paper over all the contradictions. And you fall back on it to provide easy answers to impossible questions."*

Maybe a bit harsher than what I would have said, but certainly Fin and I would find agreement on this subject.

Peter May ensnares the reader and soon has you walking down a road on Lewis Island, being blown sideways by the wind and hearing the *"tireless legions of riderless white horses crashing up against the stubborn stone of unyielding black cliffs."* The plot will wiggle into your brain and haunt your dreams until you give up and turn the light on to read a few more chapters. The smell of cut peat, the woodsmoke when it is finally dry enough to burn, and the howling wind that makes music with the eaves of your croft and whistles a tune through any hole found round your windows or doors will send shivers through you. You will be there wanting to leave, wanting to stay, but knowing you will return for book three.

If you wish to see more of my most recent book and movie reviews, visit <http://www.jeffreykeeten.com>  
I also have a Facebook blogger page at: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffreyKeeten>

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## **Paula Kalin says**

Peter May's *The Black House*, first in the Lewis Trilogy, was fabulous and made it to my favorite book list. A great mystery/thriller. The setting in a far Scotland isle makes the series so intriguing.

*The Lewis Man*, however, was totally different. The main character suffers from dementia so the reader is caught up in his confusion throughout the book. Not something I was expecting. No police action either.

I didn't enjoy this as much as the first in the series, but do plan on reading #3.

4 out of 5 stars

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## **Jenny says**

*The Lewis Man* is about Fin Macleod who is a divorced ex-policeman returning to the Isle of Lewis to fix up

his family home and have a peaceful life. However, this did not happen, due to the discovery of a body in a peat bog that was identified as a relative of his best friend, Marsaili Macdonald. Readers of "The Lewis Man" will be taken on a ride with Fin to try and find the answer to the puzzle of the body discovered in the peat bog.

The Lewis Man is the second book I have read of Peter May and wow. I have added Peter May to my favourite Authors list. I love the way Peter May intertwine an old plot with present day events and combines both stories at the conclusion of the book. I like the way Peter May portrays and intertwine his characters throughout the book.

Readers of The Lewis Man will learn about what happen to orphan children during the 1950's. The Lewis Man also highlights how devastating dementia is on the suffer and the family. Reading The Lewis Man, you also learn about living on the Isle of Lewis.

I recommend this book.

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