

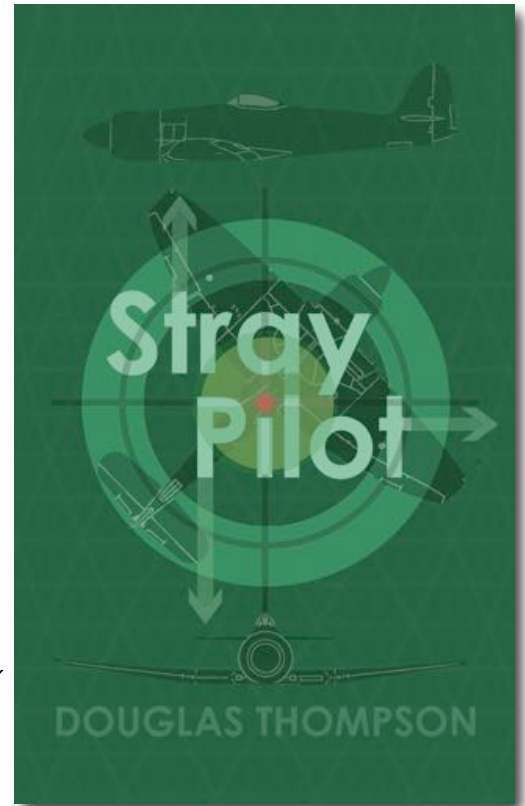


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ADVANCE INFORMATION

TITLE: STRAY PILOT
AUTHOR: DOUGLAS THOMPSON
PRINT EDITION
PUB DATE: 1 AUGUST 2022
FORMAT: DEMY (203.2 X 127MM) TRADE PAPERBACK, 264PP
PRICE: £10 / €13 / \$20
ISBN: 978-1-915304-03-2
RIGHTS: WORLDWIDE
RESTRICTIONS: NONE
ELECTRONIC EDITION
PUB DATE: 1 JULY 2022
FORMATS: EPUB, KINDLE
PRICE: £2.99 / €3.49 / \$3.99
ISBN: 978-1-915304-13-1
RIGHTS: WORLDWIDE
RESTRICTIONS: NONE
AUDIENCE: GENERAL (TRADE)
BIC CODES:
FL SCIENCE FICTION
BISAC CODES:
FIC028000 FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / GENERAL
FIC039000 FICTION / VISIONARY & METAPHYSICAL
FIC121030 FICTION / WORLD LITERATURE / SCOTLAND / 21ST CENTURY
COVER DESIGN: TENEBRAE



Thomas Tellman, an RAF pilot who disappeared pursuing a UFO in 1948, unexpectedly returns entirely un-aged to a small town on Scotland's north-east coast. He finds that his 7-year-old daughter is now a bed-bound 87-year-old woman suffering from dementia. She greets him as her father but others assume she is deluded and that Thomas is an unhinged impostor or con man. While Thomas endeavours to blend in to an ordinary life, his presence gradually sets off unpredictable consequences, locally, nationally and globally. Members of the British Intelligence Services attempt to discredit Thomas in advance of what they anticipate will be his public disclosure of evidence of extra-terrestrial activity, but the local community protect him. Thomas, appalled by the increase in environmental damage that has occurred in his 80 year absence, appears to have returned with a mission: whose true nature he guards from everyone around him.

Douglas Thompson's thought-provoking novel is unashamedly science-fiction yet firmly in the tradition of literary explorations of the experience of the outsider. He weaves together themes of memory loss and dementia, alienation, and spiritual respect for the natural world; while at the same time counterposing the humanity inherent in close communities against the xenophobia and nihilistic materialism of contemporary urban society. Of all the book's vivid characters, the fictional village of Kinburgh itself is the stand-out star: an archetypal symbol of human community. In an age of growing despair in the face of climate crises, *Stray Pilot* offers a passionate environmental allegory with a positive message of constructive hope: a love song to all that is best in ordinary people.

Visit bit.ly/StrayPilot

Glasgow writer Douglas Thompson won the Herald/Grosch Question Of Style Award 1989, 2nd prize in the Neil Gunn Writing Competition 2007, and the Faith/Unbelief Poetry Prize 2016. His short stories and poems have appeared in a wide range of magazines and anthologies, including *Ambit*, *Albedo One*, *Chapman* and *New Writing Scotland*. Variouslly classed as a Weird, Horror, Sci Fi, Literary, or Historical novelist, he has published more than 17 novels and collections of short stories and poetry since 2009, from various publishers in Britain, Europe and America.

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