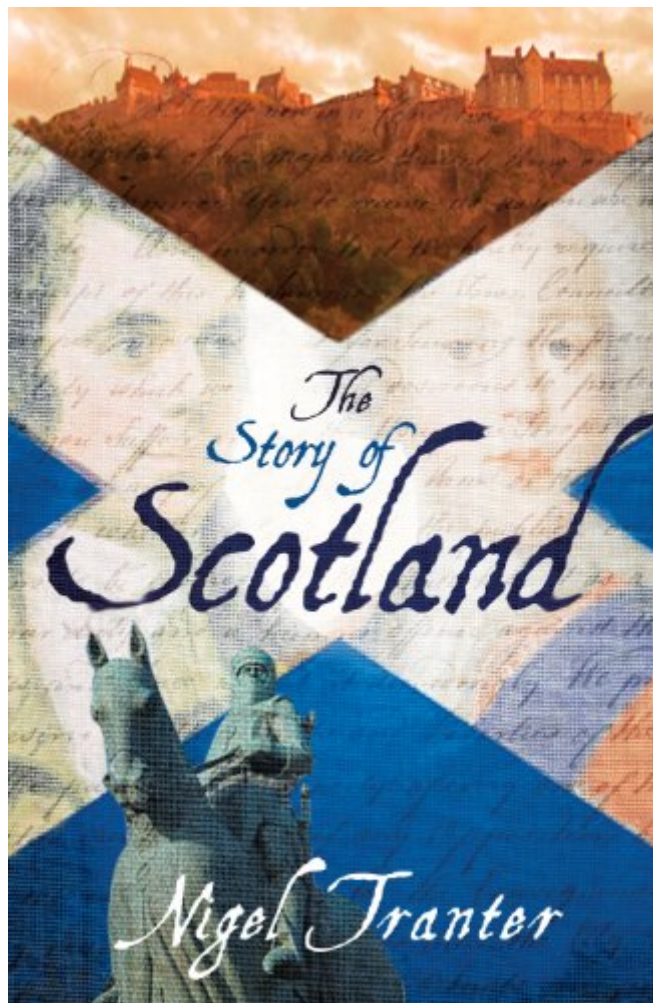


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The Story Of Scotland



Synopsis

Scotland's story cannot be told merely in terms of documentary evidence, for this would be to neglect an integral part of the nation's heritage. The legends, myths, stories and memories handed down from generation to generation must be added to the bare bones of factual record if the character of the country is to be truly revealed. Nigel Tranter was able to combine the two with a masterly hand, expertly weaving the colourful threads of folklore into the fabric of historical fact. Tranter was impeccably qualified to tell the story of Scotland, having written many books detailing the nation's rich past and he possessed an exceptional gift for storytelling. His account begins in the years before records made traditional history possible and ends with the transformation of Scotland during the 19th century into a workshop of the world and a source of pioneers for Britain's empire. In this perennial bestseller, Niigel Tranter's incomparable tale of a nation's enthralling history is the most comprehensible primer on the subject yet published. Before he passed away in January 2000, Tranter had written over 70 novels and several works of non-fiction, almost all of them historical works set in Scotland.

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Customer Reviews

I suffered through history classes. There were so many dates, names, places, and events, that I just memorized the basic facts and moved on. Now that I am planning extensive travels in Scotland, I have the desire to learn Scottish history. But I never thought that I would enjoy reading about it so much! Tranter admits that he is not a historian, and that he could never cover all of Scottish history in 200 pages. What he does, however, is make the reader interested, inquisitive, and thoughtful about the events that have molded Scotland. This story reads like a novel, so it surprises me the great overview and understanding it has given me of Scotland's long history. It also surprises me that I read several chapters in one night, and absorbed a great deal of information. I found myself discussing the issues and reasons behind events with my husband, remembering many kings and dates and personal details of the players involved. If you want a place to start in understanding Scottish history, you've found it. This account covers the ancient Picts through modern times, all in a personal and interesting way. Once you read this book, you will find yourself doing more research and searching for more detailed accounts. I plan on reading this book again while in Scotland, pondering the fascinating history of the places we visit.

I have long been an admirer of Mr. Tranter's ability weave history with just enough literary license to create a love of Scottish history and the want for more. I have made for myself chronological reading list of works which have taken me on memorable trip through Scotland and its fascinating story. Of Scottish descent, his works have rekindled my pride of my heritage and my work on researching my roots in Scotland. I had the great fortune to spend three wonderful years in Dunoon, Argyll.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book although some of the brutal history of Scotland is not pleasurable to read. At times I was confused by all the interrelationships he describes, but presumably that is also part of the story. After being quite thorough writing about the origins of Scotland and its early history, Tranter seemed to rush through the post-Victorian era. As someone who is about to visit Scotland, I will have a fuller understanding of many of the historical sites and of the culture we will be visiting.

I am going to Scotland in 17 days and wanted an overview of Scottish history. Got that with this book. I loved it. The only complaint I had was the write seemed to write this book with a belief people reading it would know the basics of Scottish history. His writing style was easy to read and kept me interested and wanting to know more and have added places to my itinerary based on this

book. Highly recommend it and will read more from this author.

From a storytelling perspective this is a very interesting approach. Part history and part narrative. Compare that to other history texts that are loaded with facts and dates and you will see a distinctive difference.

After seeing some shows on Scotland, I wanted to know more about the country. I came across Nigel Tranter's *The Story of Scotland* on Amazon, purchased, received and started reading. I found it very readable and not overly complicated. I was able to follow the ups and downs without getting involved with too many dates and names. There is some of that, of course, but not like I was preparing for the final exam. For the traveler or someone just interested, it's a great choice.

I agree with the author that this book is "a story" not a history text. It's interesting but Scottish history is not easy to tell, so it can be a little tedious to read at parts.

A sensational work. He is sorely missed. His earlier trilogies taught me so much about Scottish history and my own heritage.

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