

***THE BROKEN LYRE*** is the fourth novel in Lorn Macintyre's Chronicles of Invernevis, one of the most ambitious cycles of fiction in modern Scottish literature. Here the story of the Macdonalds of Invernevis is taken up to the 1960s. International in scope, the novel opens in 1938 at Bernstein in Austria, the schloss of the Almasys, a family made famous by the portrayal of Lazlo Almasy in Michael Ondaatje's acclaimed novel *The English Patient*, and by the film of the same title starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

In *The Broken Lyre* the focus is on the friendship between Niall Macdonald, soon to become Laird of Invernevis, and Count Janos Almasy, just as complex and charismatic a character as his brother Lazlo. In the pre-war days of leisure and indulgence at Bernstein, where Unity Mitford, who also features in this novel, was a Hitler-worshipping guest, Niall Macdonald meets Amélie, a beautiful French countess, and follows her to Paris. There a tempestuous *affaire* ensues. The two lovers become involved in the Second World War as secret agents operating in France, and Niall (a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, and a fluent linguist) is directed by his spy-master in London to assist with the Maquis resistance operations against the Germans in the Haute-Savoie – where soon he must face a terrible life-or-death dilemma concerning Amélie.

*UK FICTION*  
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