



Acclaim for *House of Lies*



Third novel by Colin Mackay

“A satirical, Kafkaesque masterpiece.” *Guardian*

“As the story builds up to an apocalyptic ending, Mackay’s language becomes increasingly biblical, and his macabre images run wild during a dark night of the soul. This is the style he adopts to make our flesh crawl; to create a chilling tale of the unexpected. But the novel is also a hilarious comedy of manners . . .

“It is an audacious way to tell a ghost story, and the book’s black-and-white world view is possibly even less subtle than a Bond film. But if I had to choose the more entertaining of the two, *House of Lies* would easily be the winner.”

Scotland on Sunday

“It’s a ghost story and a political satire set in 1989 just as the Berlin Wall is falling – as is communism itself. A gripping yarn . . .”

Edinburgh Evening News

“The best scenes combine the realistic details of being a night watchman with the spookier manifestations of the supernatural. These leave one feeling that being a night watchman is a heroic occupation, as it involves guarding the city against the perpetual nightmare of the repressed masses that throng the guilt-ridden unconscious of the community. Tam’s awareness of the mysteriously sealed fourth floor has psychic as well as political connotations that offer a welcome ambiguity of interpretation.”

Chapman

“There are two fantasy worlds in *House of Lies*, the world of those who played at being communists on the bottom floors from the safe distance of a democracy, and the world of the night people who inhabit the top floors. The dead child Rosemary appears in the corridors, like one of the little people from the Scottish ballads leading Tam into another dimension in which he will learn about himself.

“Mackay’s language, biblical in its apocalyptic intensity, is drenched in blood and grotesque images, but so were aspects of the communist doctrine, and in the novel there is always the underlying reality of day to day life in the Red House, described with satirical sharpness.

“The AGM in the Red House is really the day of judgement when the ceilings begin to sag. This building with its gore needs to be purified. Colin Mackay strikes a light, and we see what is lurking in the corners. This is illuminating fiction from a writer of inventive energy.”

The Herald

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