



The Song of the Forest



by

COLIN MACKAY

'The novel is a lyrical delight, and is written in the swathing rhythms of its villagers' scythes. Following the magic means used by a small community to ward off a plundering band, it also captures their vernacular earthiness and respect for nature.'

Nicholas Shakespeare, *The Times*

'In transporting his source of material (the Jewish figure of the Golem) to Scotland, Mackay has produced a book of great lyrical power.'

Ian Rankin, *Cencrastus*

'Though it deals in complex, modern themes, particularly the abuse of power, it is most moving as a study of loneliness. Soul-less Soldier may be, but his is still one of the saddest stories ever told.'

Alan Taylor, *The Herald*

'Mackay has taken an era when folklore was born and brought it startlingly alive, at the same time giving, with distinctive Scottish lyricism, an elegiac celebration of an unravished paradise.'

Rosemary Goring, *The List*

'Mr Mackay's subject may fairly be said to be the idea of the Great Forest. He is alive to its sense of mystery and secret life; its depths and sunlit patches.'

Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

'A troubling, profound first novel of unbelievable lyricism. Set in a highland village in the Dark Ages, imbued with primitive Christianity and more ancient paganism, it presents to us the most individualistic voice in literature for decades.'

Sir David Steel, *Sunday Times*

'The best novel I have read in a very long time.'

Mercedes Clarasó, author of *Natana*

'The best novel I have ever read.'

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