

new edition forthcoming



The Wishdoctor's Song

Acclaim for Hunter Steele's second novel

"Funny, energetic, playful, and wickedly clever."

Liz Jensen, author of *The Paper Eater*

"I enjoyed the book very much indeed. I thought it well written, beautifully observed, frequently funny and always extremely readable."

Iain Banks, author of *Complicity*

"*The Wishdoctor's Song*, set during the spring of a year early in the 1970s, marvellously evokes an era when the spirit of the 'sixties was still very much alive. The setting is Scotland but culturally it might have been anywhere in the West, for this was the time of long flowery dresses, greatcoats, Che Guevara posters on students' walls, *International Times* and *Oz*, 'pot smoking' and cushions on the floor . . .

"Crackles with energy and wit and is unfailingly, howlingly funny as it takes us into the overlapping worlds of academic and campus life, the different levels of society to be found in 'Deenburgh' (a fictional city with uncanny resemblances to Edinburgh) and the culture of the time.

"Iain Banks has paid generous tribute to the virtues of *The Wishdoctor's Song* and has admitted to its influence upon his key early novel *The Bridge* (it may not be too far-fetched to see that influence still variously continuing in those later books *Espedair Street*, *The Crow Road* and *A Song of Stone*).

"As a specifically Scottish study of fractured identity *The Wishdoctor's Song* clearly lies in the same tradition as James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Few novels are so well constructed, so compelling or so hootingly hilarious. Nor can I think of any other novel which so perfectly catches the temper of that carefree, liberating era before Margaret Thatcher, AIDS, tuition fees and the music of *The Mavericks*."

Ronald Binns, author of *Malcolm Lowry*

"Very witty, technically accomplished, and highly entertaining."

Charles Palliser, author of *The Quincunx*

"In witty, pungent, fast-paced prose, Hunter Steele delivers a marvellous send-up of the extravagant idealism and 'alternative' nonsense of the period, and cruelly lays bare the self-deceptions that shape the characters' lives. For anyone who survived the self-gratification and prolonged adolescence of the 'me' generation, this book will be a delight."

British Book News

"A wonderfully funny novel." *What's On*

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