



The Invisible Spirit: A Life of Post-War Scotland

1945-75

Kenneth Roy



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So good I could all but not put it down: every home should have one' - Candia McWilliam, Scotsman 'The most remarkable book on Scotland I have ever read' - Ian Hamilton, QC 'A spellbinding read. Walking through history with an expert guide' - Lord Robertson of Port Ellen Kenneth Roy's panorama of post-war Scottish life begins with the VE Night celebrations in the spring of 1945 and ends with the coming onstream of North Sea oil in the autumn of 1975. It was the formative period in the making of modern Scotland, but it is a period little explored in depth and not fully understood until now. Using a wealth of contemporary accounts, the book tells a complex and often disturbing story of a country riven by poverty, struggling for a sense of its own identity, and ill-served by its masters. The Invisible Spirit is unsparing in its examination of the failings of the Scottish establishment. It delivers a stinging indictment of political complacency and judicial incompetence, and shows that, too often, the interests of Scotland and its people were betrayed. It exposes how, time and again, the truth was covered up to protect the powerful and how the press acquiescently accepted the official version of events. The book is also, however, the story of ordinary lives, the aspirations, the hardships and the achievements of the Scots themselves. Richly varied in mood from the controversial to the amusing, The Invisible Spirit is both entertaining and compelling. This new edition has an Afterword by Kenneth Roy reflecting on the latest manifestations of Scotland's invisible spirit.



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