



## The Lost Leader

By Mick Imlah

FABER FABER, United Kingdom, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Main. 196 x 126 mm.

Language: English . Brand New Book. No poet in Scotland now can take as his inspiration the folk impulse that created the ballads, the people s songs, the legends of Mary Stuart and Prince Charlie, proposed Edwin Muir. Yet many of the poems in Mick Imlah s new collection do take the most over-worn of Scottish myths as their apparent starting points, spanning the Wallace and the Bruce; the Bonnie Prince (pivotal Lost Leader of the title), Robert Burns and Walter Scott; whisky, Clydeside and football. Imlah s approach to this folklore is brilliantly fresh, a modern, sardonic but strongly-felt rendering of Scotland: from AD 500, by way of a guided tour of Iona, to yesterday at a Dumfries bus depot. And, as the chronicle reaches the twentieth century, the poems turn to friends and family - childhood reminiscences, elegies and celebrations - influenced still by sporting and military fantasy, the charm of history and the power of anachronism.

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