



# Material Evidence

A Cairnburgh Mystery

Bill Kirton

"Bill Kirton has put together a fine debut with intense plotting, strong characters and just the right touch of acid in the dialogue ... Fine Rendellian touches and a structure and depth that is rare in a first book make this a cracking page-turner. The denouement, when it comes, will shake you." —*Press and Journal (Scotland)*

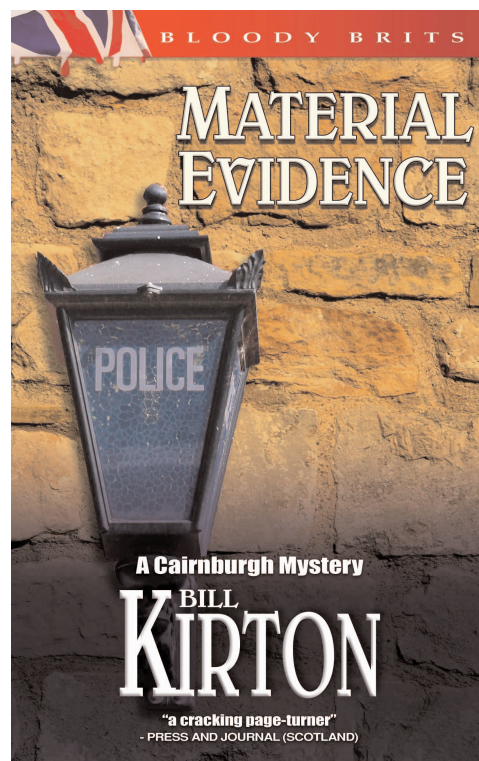
*Hard-hitting and skillfully crafted,  
**Material Evidence**, is a mystery debut of  
enormous power and promise.*

The body of Stephanie Burnham is discovered by her husband, Michael, when he returns to their neat, suburban home after a day at the races. It looks like murder, and a particularly brutal one at that: the woman has been subjected to a savage assault and then shot at close range.

For Detective Chief Inspector Carston, newly arrived in the town of Cairnburgh, near Aberdeen, the case is a conundrum. All the evidence points to Michael Burnham as the murderer—it is common knowledge that his marriage had become a hollow sham—and yet, somehow, the pieces of the jigsaw just don't fit together.

Everyone Carston talks to paints a different picture of the victim—high-flying businesswoman to middle-aged drunken depressive—and he slowly realizes that only when he has solved the enigma of Stephanie Burnham's personality will he be able to uncover the shocking truth about her death.

**Bill Kirton** was born in Plymouth, England but has spent most of his adult life in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was a lecturer in the French department of the University of Aberdeen until he took early retirement.



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