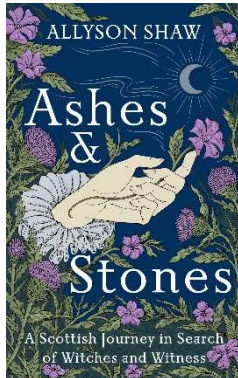


**‘Allyson Shaw has built a monument in words to the thousands persecuted as witches in Scotland. A fascinating and necessary book.’ Peter Ross**

**‘A compelling and intimate pilgrimage across Scotland.’ Helen Callaghan**



## **Ashes and Stones: A Scottish Journey in Search of Witches and Witness**

**Allyson Shaw**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 | Sceptre, hardback, £18.99

**A moving and personal journey, along rugged coasts and through remote villages and cities, in search of the traces of those accused of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Scotland**

### **‘What have we lost, and what ghosts do we live with now?’**

In *Ashes and Stones* we visit modern memorials and standing stones, and roam among forests and hedge mazes, folklore and political fantasies. From fairy hills to forgotten caves, we explore a spellbound landscape.

Allyson Shaw untangles the myth of witchcraft and gives voice to those erased by it. Her elegant and lucid prose weaves together threads of history and feminist reclamation to create a vibrant memorial. This is the untold story of the witches' monuments of Scotland and the women's lives they mark. *Ashes and Stones* is a trove of folklore linking the lives of contemporary women to the horrors of the past, a record of resilience and a call to choose and remember our ancestors.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, International Women's Day, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon issued a formal apology to those accused of witchcraft during the witch hunts. Sturgeon's apology is part of a constellation of legal measures across Europe addressing the atrocity of the witch hunts. In January 2022, the regional parliament in Catalan passed legislation pardoning those executed as witches, with similar legal initiatives underway in Norway and Switzerland, as well as Scotland.

**Allyson Shaw** has worked as a professional writer for the last thirty years. Her writing on folklore and history has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Monster Verse: Poems Human and Inhuman* in the Everyman's Library Pocket Poets series, *Rituals & Declarations* and *The Bottle Imp*. She spent her formative years in California and now lives on the northeast coast of Scotland.

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