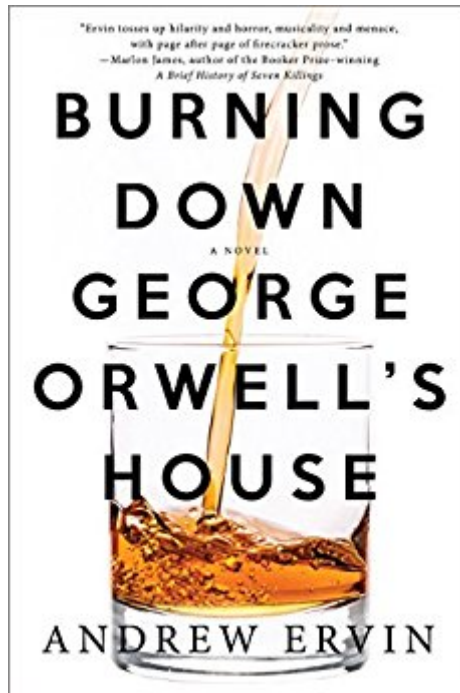




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# Burning Down George Orwell's House



## Synopsis

A darkly comic debut novel about advertising, truth, single malt, Scottish hospitalityâ"or lack thereofâ"and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. Â Ray Welter, who was until recently a highflying advertising executive in Chicago, has left the world of newspeak behind. He decamps to the isolated Scottish Isle of Jura in order to spend a few months in the cottage where George Orwell wrote most of his seminal novel, Nineteen Eighty-Four. Ray is miserable, and quite prepared to make his troubles go away with the help of copious quantities of excellent scotch. But a few of the local islanders take a decidedly shallow view of a foreigner coming to visit in order to sort himself out, and Ray quickly finds himself having to deal with not only his own issues but also a community whose eccentricities are at times amusing and at others downright dangerous. Also, the locals believeâ"or claim to believeâ"that thereâ"™s a werewolf about, and against his better judgment, Rayâ"™s misadventures build to the night of a traditional, boozy werewolf hunt on the Isle of Jura on the summer solstice. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read a LOT, and much of my reading is simply a way to pass the time than anything engrossing. This novel is an exception - I was delighted with the writing and the story. Mr Ervin's prose is inventive and he draws vivid pictures of struggles both internal and external. The characters are caricatures and fully realized all at once. He doesn't shy away from that which makes people ugly, yet the very grittiness of them doesn't make them unattractive (with a few marked and clear exceptions) The novel is deep at times and includes passages that are truly laugh-out-loud funny (much like life). I will assuredly be looking for future works from this author after exploring his previous writing.

This story is dark, funny, and a bit surreal. A burned out American ad man flees to the Isle of Jura, where he has a swift and baffling introduction to life on the isolated island. Throw in a teenage artist, bad food, a pair of useless hiking boots, what it down with whiskey and the plot thickens. There may be a werewolf on the island and there certainly a stalker. This book is by turns funny, baffling and touching. It is a mad rush of a story. I am already looking forward to the author's next book.

I thoroughly enjoyed Andrew Ervin's "Burning Down George Orwell's House. Touches of the supernatural mixed with large quantities of single malt scotch combine for a dark and fascinating plot. There are numerous complex and eccentric characters which combine with odd occurrences to make for a fascinating read. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys something out of the ordinary!

The plot has the possibilities to be more. Loved the premise and wished it had been more fully developed. The writer has the skills and needs to be pushed to fill out the questions raised more fully.

For the first time ever I actually had to come to the reviews AFTER I read this to get some clarity or confirmation on what I was thinking. On the plus side, this did pull me in, I read it to the end and it did keep my interest but at times I "speed read" and I kept looking for some reason/rationale for the whole thing. I did see it referred to as a dark comedy and maybe if I had read it with that in mind it might have been different as some of the characters were so "out there". But I didn't know that and I didn't find it very funny (dark or otherwise). Best I could say is it was quirky. I probably could have dealt with that and maybe rated higher if it wasn't for the fact that it seemed to just meander and so many plot threads went no where. The ending was incredibly disappointing as well. One reviewer

said they wished the whole book had been more fully fleshed out. I think ultimately that's what the problem is.

I loved this book. I felt like I was in the somewhat gloomy Scotland setting with its' inhabitants, and I really felt for the underdog protagonist. I'd highly recommend this book and read more works by Ervin.

Powerful thoughts twisted around characters barely escaping the pitfalls they make for themselves.

Some terrific prose, some ideas that stick long after reading the book. Original.

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