

# Unspeakable

## Dilys Rose

### SUMMARY

Based on a true case, here a young man pays the ultimate price for saying what he thinks in this masterful historical novel by a writer at the height of her powers.

### SALES POINTS

- Brilliant evocation of 17th century Britain
- A suitable successor to Graeme Macrae Burnet's Booker shortlisted *His Bloody Project*
- Uttering gripping story of the consequences of intolerance
- Great relevance to post-Brexit UK and political currents of wider world
- A hugely talented and acclaimed author presents the best book of her career

### DESCRIPTION

Edinburgh in the late 17th century is centre of religious authoritarianism, intolerance and fear. The flames of the city's famous Enlightenment are yet to burn.

Based on the true story of Thomas Aikenhead, this is the fictional account of a 20 year-old student who was the last person in Britain to be tried and executed for blasphemy.

Dilys Rose is one of Scotland's very best literary writers. This is a brilliant historical novel, from an acclaimed and award-winning writer at the height of her powers, with great resonance for today.

Dilys Rose is one of the finest prose writers around. In this vividly atmospheric novel she portrays the complexity of life in seventeenth-century Edinburgh in rich detail, bringing to life the unforgettable character of Thomas Aikenhead with subtlety and deep humanity.' **Anne Donovan**, author of *Gone are the Leaves* and *Buddha Da*

### PRAISE FOR DILYS ROSE

'Rose can be compared to Katherine Mansfield in the way she takes hold of a life and exposes all its vital elements' **Times Literary Supplement**

'Confident and convincing... Excellent fun... Dilys Rose tells a story compellingly' Candia McWilliam, **Literary Review**

'Enthralling' **Time Out**

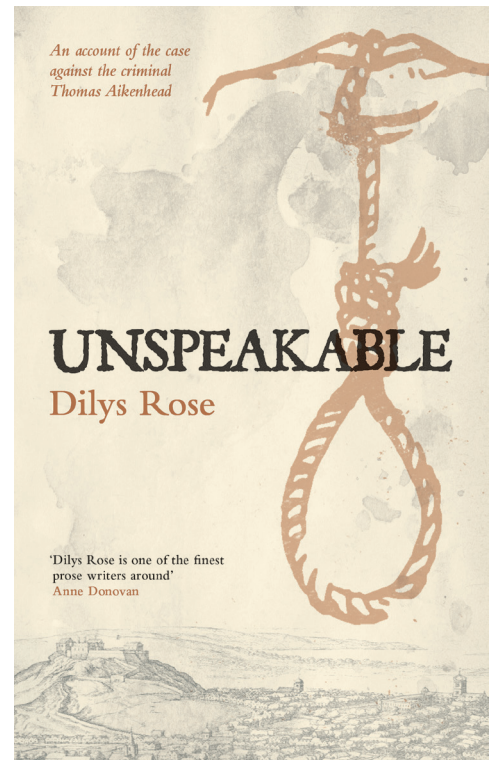
### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Dilys Rose lives in Edinburgh and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh. She writes mainly poetry and fiction but has also written some drama and, more recently, text for music. Awards include: The Macallan/Scotland on Sunday Short Story Award, Canongate Prize, McVities Prize, Scottish Arts Council Book Award and the McCash Prize.

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 Author born in **Edinburgh, UK**  
 Author living in **Edinburgh, UK**

### Publishing History

Dilys Rose's fiction includes *Our Lady of the Pickpockets* (Secker & Warburg, 1989), *Red Tides* (Secker & Warburg, 1993), *War Dolls* (Headline Review, 1998), *Pest Maiden*, (Headline Review, 1999), *Lord of Illusions* (Luath, 2005) and *Selected Stories* (Luath, 2005).

### MARKET

For fans of Graeme Macrae Burnet's Booker Prize shortlisted *His Bloody Project*, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracey Chevalier, *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, *Witch Wood* by John Buchan and *The Fanatic* by James Robertson.



### Sales Representation:

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