

## THE ANGEL'S SHARE

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Scotch owes itself equally to an American aphid, an English PM (just out of his teens) and a British queen. Add to that a Madoff-style scandal (in the 19<sup>th</sup> century no less) a bubble, a boom and a bust and you have the makings of today's single malt. In *The Angel's Share*, journalist Jennifer Kabat travels the world in search of scotch, from the shores of Taiwan to the Ozarks and Himalayas. There a distillery older than most in Scotland is influencing a malt made on the edge of the Highlands today. She profiles the chemists and characters behind malts and blends, decoding the difference between a single malt and double aged, grain whisky and blended scotch.

The book starts in the onetime whisky empire of Campbeltown, now a ghost town, which once had more distilleries than anywhere else in Scotland and traces the historical roots of scotch. It may be Scotland's largest export but it's never been just about the country it's named for. Brought over from Ireland using barley from Norway, along the way scotch has been shaped by wars and events as far away as France and the Ozarks (more Kentucky whiskey country than scotch).

Now the tumbler in your hand is a document of that history and *The Angel's Share* provides the key. The book is a journey through scotch from cutting peat on Islay to the Bahamas and Captain Bill McCoy, a teetotaler running whisky during the Prohibition, fighting both the mob and the US government (as well as giving birth to the phrase "the real McCoy"). She tracks down the small distillers transforming scotch by making it as it was hundreds of years ago as well as going behind the scenes with the highly secretive major players who shape the "water of life."

For more on The Angel's Share contact my agent David Godwin at David Godwin Associates.  
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