GORDON McLEISH

BOOK *of the MONTH*

02

STORIES TO KEEP. PEOPLE TO REMEMBER.

SEPTEMBER 2026 / MID-MONTH SPECIAL

Fifteen books. A world of stories.

Dear readers, a wee update from my writing desk: we now have 15 books on the website, under Gordon McLeish and Tommy McKenzie. Family memories, laughter, hard times and historical adventures - thank you for giving them a place in your reading life.



The McKenzie Saga: across the generations.

Meet the McKenzies

History supplies the setting; people, friendships and scrapes supply the heart. Explore these six titles on the site:

McKenzie of the First Fleet
Marine officer McKenzie, Watkin Tench and Botany Bay.

McKenzie of the Rum Years
Callum McKenzie in Governor Macquarie's Sydney.

McKenzie: The Governor's Godson
Lachlan McKenzie: adventure under the governor's eye.

Batman's Shadow
Hamish McKenzie, Port Phillip, land and loyalty.

Favourable Circumstances
Sandy, the Nile, Melbourne's press and Murphy's handshake.

McKenzie at Villers-Bretonneux
Dougal's Great War, Anzac Day night and the road home.

ON MY DESK

Adventure and humour, not a textbook - though history has a habit of making its presence felt.

Behind the scenes, my AI team helps with the checking, editing, design and publishing preparations. Turn over for six practical tips from Mac.

Happy reading,
Gordon

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Meet my AI team: ChatGPT, Grok & Claude
CLICK HERE FOR PAGE 2 → Six practical tips from Mac

Explore all 15 books: books.gordonmcleish.com

Mac, My AI Mate's Tips

From manuscript to finished book - six notes from the writing desk

01

ChatGPT: the grunt work

Chapter lists, summaries, formatting checklists and back-cover descriptions all take time. ChatGPT helps tackle those jobs so you can concentrate on the story.

Try: "Check my chapter headings for consistency. List problems before changing anything."

02

ChatGPT: the design desk

Explore covers, newsletters and website ideas with a visual partner. Supply the title, author, mood and a sample of your series style.

Mac's reminder: Check every word on the finished artwork - especially names!

03

Grok Bot: automation

Grok Bot's role in my team is helping with automation and uploads, making repetitive steps run more smoothly. Give it a clear list of files and destinations.

Mac's reminder: "Upload complete" and "correct edition" need separate checks.

04

Claude: Editor in Chief

Claude wears the Editor-in-Chief and proofreader hat: questioning awkward sentences, spotting repetition and helping catch inconsistencies.

Try: "Flag unclear passages and continuity slips. Preserve my voice and explain your changes."

05

Give AI a fact sheet

Keep one trusted list of character names, relationships, dates and places. Supply it with your manuscript when asking for checks.

Try: "Flag contradictions against my fact sheet rather than guessing which version is right."

06

You have the final say

AI can miss mistakes or suggest changes that don't sound like you. Keep backups, read the final version and inspect both the paperback PDF and ebook.

Mac's reminder: Keep your voice, your judgement and the final approval.

Next time: Kindle, EPUB and paperback - what changes, and why formatting matters.