

TITLE: "LANARK – A Life in Four Books"

AUTHOR: Alasdair Gray

BIOGRAPHY:

Alasdair Gray (born 28 December 1934) is a Scottish writer and artist. His most acclaimed work is his first novel, *Lanark*, published in 1981 and written over a period of almost 30 years. It is now regarded as a classic, and was described by *The Guardian* as «**one of the landmarks of 20th-century fiction**».

His novel *Poor Things* (1992) won the Whitbread Novel Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize. He describes himself as a civic nationalist and a republican. Gray's works combine elements of realism, fantasy, and science fiction, plus clever use of typography and his own illustrations. He has also written on politics, in support of socialism, and on the history of English literature. He has been described by author Will Self as «a creative polymath with an integrated politico-philosophic vision», and as «a great writer, perhaps the greatest living in this archipelago today» and by himself as a fat, spectacled, balding, increasingly old Glasgow pedestrian».

SYNOPSIS:

Lanark, subtitled *A Life in Four Books*, is the first novel of Scottish writer Alasdair Gray. Written over a period of almost thirty years, it combines realistic and dystopian surrealist depictions of his home city of Glasgow. Its publication in 1981 prompted Anthony Burgess to call Gray «**the best Scottish novelist since Walter Scott**». *Lanark* won the inaugural Satire Society Book of the Year award in 1982, and was also named Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year. The book, still his best known, has since become a cult classic. In 2008, *The Guardian* heralded *Lanark* as «one of the landmarks of 20th-century fiction».

Praise for LANARK:

«Probably the greatest Scottish novel of the Century...it marked the beginning of a new era in Scottish writing» James Campbell, *Obsever*

«Gray is a master at rummaging the dustbins of the mind... important and compelling» *Daily Telegraph*

«The most remarkable novel I have read this year, and in many ways the most remarkable book of any kind...the mature work, long in gestation, of an artist-writer of unique gifts in both modes, here most powerfully brought together». *Herald*

