



ELIZABETH VICKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

**JEAN FINDLAY** was born in Edinburgh and studied law and French at Edinburgh University, then theater in Kraków with Tadeusz Kantor. She ran a theater company, writing and producing plays in Berlin, Bonn, Dublin, and Rotterdam, and at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. She has written for *The Scotsman*, *The Independent*, *Time Out*, *London*, and *The Guardian* magazine, and she lives in Scotland with her husband and three children. She is the great-great-niece of C. K. Scott Moncrieff.

Jacket design based on a 1940s edition of *Remembrance of Things Past* published by Chatto & Windus

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CHASING  
LOST TIME

The Life of  
C. K. SCOTT  
MONCRIEFF  
Soldier, Spy,  
and  
Translator

JEAN  
FINDLAY

# CHASING LOST TIME

*The Life of*

## C. K. SCOTT MONCRIEFF

*Soldier, Spy, and Translator*

## JEAN FINDLAY



Biography  
\$28.00 / \$32.50 Can.  
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"AND SUDDENLY THE MEMORY RETURNS. The taste was that of the little crumb of madeleine which on Sunday mornings at Combray (because on those mornings I did not go out before church-time), when I went to say good day to her in her bedroom, my aunt Léonie used to give me . . ." With these words, Marcel Proust's narrator is plunged back into the past. Since 1922, English-language readers have been able to take this leap with him thanks to the translator C. K. Scott Moncrieff, who wrestled with Proust's seven-volume masterpiece—published as *Remembrance of Things Past*—until his death, in 1930.

While Scott Moncrieff's work has shaped our understanding of one of the finest novels of the twentieth century, he has remained hidden behind the genius of the man whose reputation he helped build. Now, in this biography—the first ever of the celebrated translator—Scott Moncrieff's great-great-niece, Jean Findlay, reveals a fascinating, tangled life.

A Catholic and a homosexual; a partygoer and a wickedly funny correspondent who was lonely deep down; secretly a spy in Mussolini's Italy and publicly a debonair man of letters; a war hero described as "offensively brave," whose letters from the front are remarkably cheerful, and who had an intense romance with the great poet Wilfred Owen—Scott Moncrieff was a man of his moment, thriving on paradoxes and extremes. In *Chasing Lost Time*, Findlay gives us a vibrant, moving portrait both of the brilliant Scott Moncrieff and of the era—changing fast and forever—in which he shone.