

Alan Trotter is a writer based in Edinburgh. *Muscle*, his debut novel, was awarded the inaugural Sceptre Prize for a novel in progress. He has written short fiction for *Somesuch Stories*, *Under the Influence*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and *The Electric Literature Collection*, as well as a digital story for phones called *All This Rotting*.

alantrotter.com

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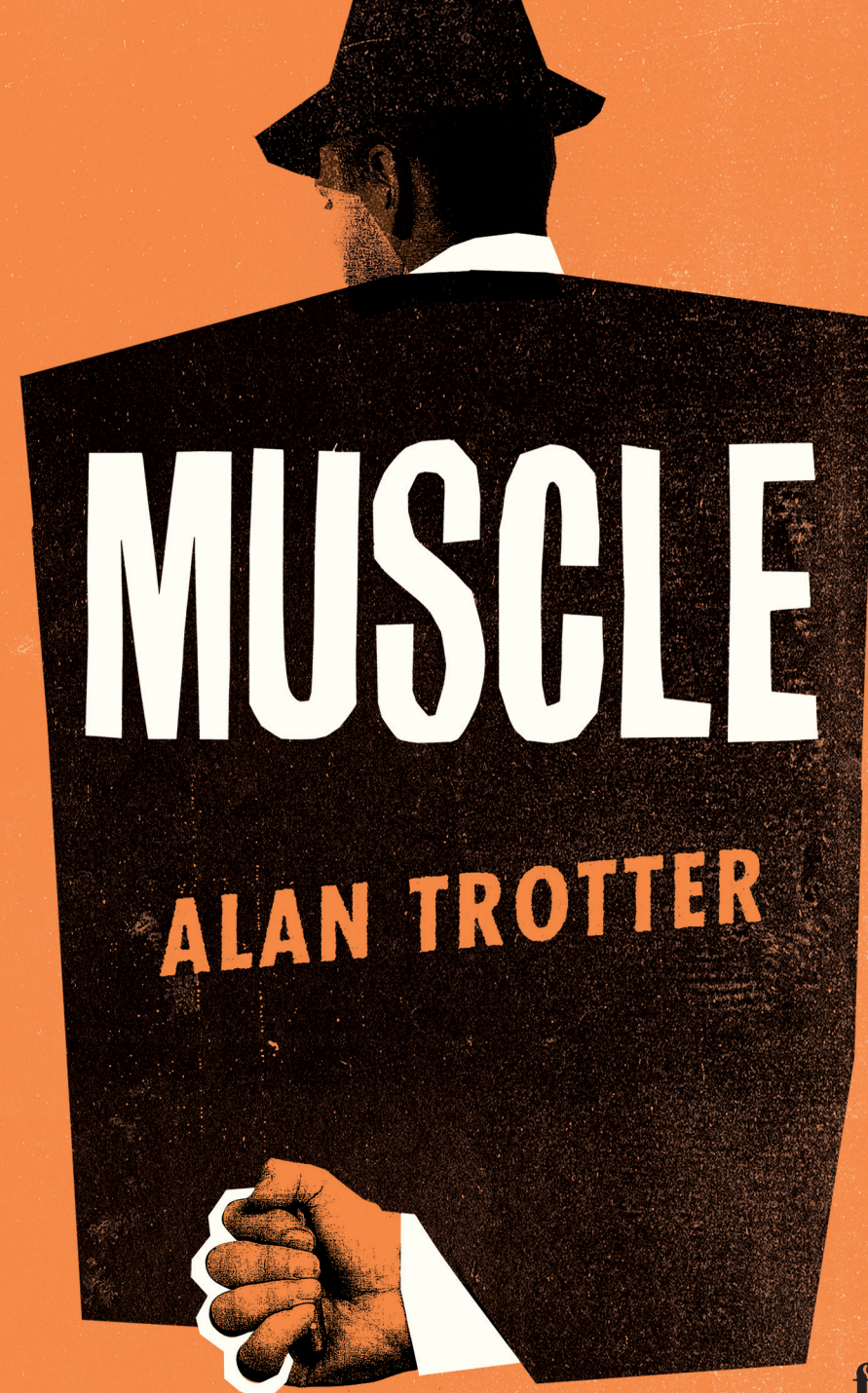
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ALAN TROTTER



Box and _____ are a pair of toughs in a hard-boiled city ripped straight from the pulps.

They go where they're told and break things when they get there. Only something bigger than either of them is looming. It might be a mystery, a senseless maze of corpses or an inextricable fever dream. But no dumb muscle is getting out alive.

Muscle is a noir novel in wild collapse: violence jostles with boredom, thugs try to cut off an already-missing ear, and a mind is possessed by either time travel or insanity . . . Ceaselessly imaginative, drunk on cinematic and literary influence, this is a blackly comic debut from a writer of singular style and invention.

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