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**"A winning hybrid of warm family tale and murder mystery."  
– Chuck Hogan, author of *The Town***

## **HEADLONG**

a novel

**Ron MacLean**

"Dive into *Headlong*, a page-turning thriller about a Boston summer that boils over.  
**Protagonist Nick Young is a noir hero for the twenty-first century.**  
– Barbara Ross, author of *Clammed Up*

**"A gripping, timely novel** about the news business, labor politics, protest, and murder. It has the grace to be empathetic with all sides of a hard fight, and ultimately presents a tale of redemption and hope arising from even the most impossible circumstances."  
– Cory Doctorow, author of *Little Brother* and *Homeland*

It's a hot Boston summer, and Nick Young, a washed-up journalist back in town to care for his dying father, is feeling the heat. Using his old skills to solve a mystery before the police do: to connect the dots between a major labor strike, a violent Occupy-style movement, and a murder that may involve his best friend's teen son.

Award-winning author Ron MacLean has delivered a blistering, moving literary thriller about fathers, sons, eco-terrorism, murder, immaturity, anarchism, marriage, friendship and failure.

In HEADLONG, Boston is in the throes of an ugly labor strike, pitting janitors against corporate leaders with everyone, including the mayor, taking sides. A wave of anti-globalist violence has hit town, with attacks against businesses, and demonstrations that call out the riot squad. Nick – a 42-year-old former journalist, once Boston's top

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investigative reporter – is reluctantly back from LA, on the rebound from a failed marriage, tending to his dying father.

When the home of a wealthy suburban family is robbed in broad daylight and the family's teenage son critically beaten, the police are suspiciously clueless. Nick pokes around out of professional habit and idle curiosity.

Robbery. Strike. Eco-terrorism. Somehow it's all connected, and somehow Nick is in the middle, as journalist, self-appointed social conscience, and friend to a teen who might or might not be implicated. Soon, his teen pal's girlfriend has disappeared, two janitors turn up dead in a dubious accident, and the various tensions in town start leading to the same roots: a high-profile business leader, a handful of politically fervent teens, a retired police chief, and the echoes of a crime left unsolved a generation before.

**"Tom Wolfe and other writers used to tell us about the state of America, but now if you're looking for great social novels you'd better turn to crime writers..."**

**- Justin Peacock**

The best crime fiction has indeed claimed the space in America's literary landscape of novels that depict the social settings which shape individuals – and which they struggle against.

A former investigative journalist himself, MacLean taps this vein of crime fiction as compelling social novel. HEADLONG will take you on an exquisite thrill ride that will leave you thinking about why so many of us watch our convictions fade as adults, what protest means in a democracy, and what engaged citizenship looks like. It will paint a picture of terrifying – and deeply hopeful – possibilities of what citizenship means for a generation of millennial teens.

HEADLONG raises pressing questions about both the consequences of violent political demonstration, and the cost of sitting on the sidelines.

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