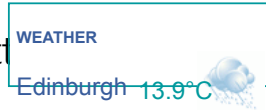


# Herald Scotland

Saturday 6 August 2011

## Monique Truong: Bitter In The Mouth (Chatto & Windus)

Zoe Strachan



## th (Chatto & Windus)

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9 Aug 2010

**The setting of *To Kill A Mockingbird* merges with secrets from the deep and distant past.**

'It was always Easter Sunday in the South,' muses teenage Linda Hammerick, searching in vain for black clothing amid the 'Peach-blossom pink, forsythia yellow, spearmint green' stocked by her local department store. Taste in clothing is only one of the reasons why Linda doesn't fit in to the small town of Boiling Springs, North Carolina. On her deathbed, Linda's grandmother Iris, who hides her bourbon in Dr Pepper and prides herself on always telling the truth, utters the prophecy that will shape the rest of the novel: "What I know about you, little girl, would break you in two."

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