

# ***MATINICUS***

**Darcy Scott**

## **Synopsis**

Some twenty miles from the rugged Maine coast sits an island where the sea is both monster and muse—a place where the past rises to meet the present in dark, unsettling ways. An intricate weaving of the early 19th century and the present day, the double mystery of *Matinicus* traces the development of a stubbornly self-sufficient fishing community through the eyes of a disturbed and unhappily married island woman of the 1820s, a conflicted twenty-first century teenage girl, and a middle aged, womanizing university botanist—Dr. Gil Hodges—who arrives on-island to verify the existence of a purported 22 species of wild orchid only to find himself hounded by the ghost of a child some 200 years dead.

Gil is a man plainly befuddled by women. He wants to understand them, he tries, he's had glimpses—yet he's clearly a magnet for the kinky, the unbalanced, the overtly homicidal. All the more so on Matinicus, a place almost obscenely rich in plant life and yet somehow still in decline, a dwindling community fractured by drug use and an increasing Wild West mentality fast losing the battle between the demands of twenty-first century life and the values that have traditionally held it together. Shortly after his arrival, centuries-old resentments re-ignite and people begin to die—deaths linked, via the island's disturbing past, to a mystified Gil forced to unravel the mysteries of an old diary in order to piece together an illusive and increasingly complex truth.