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A debut novel of terror beneath the streets of Victorian London

We tend to think of terrorism as a recent phenomenon. *The Worms of Euston Square*, a new novel set in Victorian London, tells a different story. This was the era of great exhibitions, foreign conquests, underground trains. But it was also the time of the Great Stink, of cholera and depravity—and an underclass that was far from happy with the status quo.

Into this melting pot steps a raw young police recruit from Edinburgh called Campbell Lawless. When a hydraulic engine explodes at Euston Station, he stumbles onto the trail of an elusive revolutionary called Berwick Skelton. Coded threats point to a plot to unleash a spectacular attack in the capital, but where or when it will take place is anybody's guess. A disillusioned Campbell questions what he or his fellow officers can do: 'What could be more absurd than trying to protect yourself from a terror that had no name?'

Published by independent Edinburgh publisher **Mercat Press** under its **Crescent** imprint, *The Worms of Euston Square* is being launched at this month's **Edinburgh International Book Festival**. First-time novelist **William Sutton** was born in Scotland. He knows London well, having spent seven years walking and cycling its alleys, towpaths and backstreets from Clerkenwell to Kennington. He has also travelled widely and was living abroad when he wrote the book. Of its origins, he says: 'People may think I got the idea from the July bombings last year, but I'd finished it long before that. The research I did threw up lots of surprising parallels to modern times, for example the enormous number of terrorist attacks in the late 1800s. Writing it in Brazil, I was also struck by similarities between modern São Paulo and Victorian London.'

The Worms of Euston Square is a compulsively readable mystery, immersing the reader in the sights, sounds and smells of a London of long ago. But this is also a portrait of a city whose atmosphere and preoccupations seem remarkably familiar and relevant to us today.

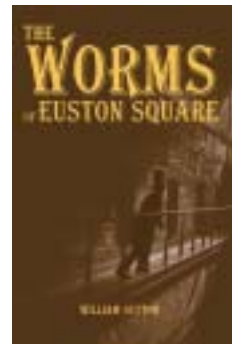


THE AUTHOR

William Sutton has written plays for radio and stage, performed on the Edinburgh Fringe, tutored the Sugababes and played cricket for Brazil. He has just returned to the UK after several years abroad writing, teaching and singing in pubs and ice-cream parlours.

William is appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival at 6pm on 21 August.

www.william-sutton.co.uk



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OF EUSTON SQUARE



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