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Chris Angus

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A chilling adventure beneath the streets of London where WWII-era bombs, government conspiracies, and science—gone very very wrong—collide.

Beneath the streets of London lie many secrets. Subterranean rivers carve channels through darkened caverns. Hidden laboratories and government offices from WWII offer a maze of corridors and abandoned medical experiments. Lost in the depths are the contents of a looted Spanish galleon from the days of Henry VIII. And even deeper lies a Nazi V-2 rocket that contains the most horrible secret of all.

Carmen Kingsley, in charge of London projects for the British Museum, and Scotland Yard Inspector Sherwood Peets race to unravel the mysteries before the great city succumbs to the English Sweat, a frightening disease from the age of the Henrys.

Unknown to them, their partners in tracing the disease began their own efforts more than sixty years earlier during WWII when a top secret British mission is sent to the far northern regions of Norway to stop the Nazis from developing a biological weapon that was to be airmailed to London via the V-2 rocket.

It all comes to a climax beneath the city with the discovery of a horrifying species of genetically altered “super rats” that threaten to invade London and the British Isles in a manner more horrifying than anything ever envisioned by the Germans.

London Underground Details

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From Reader Review London Underground for online ebook

michael frye says

Great story

This is certainly an unusual but well written story. There are several individual story lines that merge to complete the book but unlike other books I've read, the characters are each unique so the stories are not confusing. I will read other books by this author.

Aura says

Very enjoyable, including the Aspie angle.

Gabrielle says

I think, in the hands of Dan Brown, the use of geography, history, and conspiracy would have come together in a more thrilling package. This story of a terrible biological weapon and the abuses of power of countries and regimes kept my attention, but also had me rolling my eyes and sighing from predictability. I wanted more connection to the actual underground lines, the specific locals in London, and a tighter link to the possible (ala Michael Creighton) than this book presented. I just plain wanted to like it more than I did.

Helen says

A creepy awful book about giant slobbering man eating rats, Henry viii treasure and the Second World War all drawn together. I may never do the London Underground again without thinking of this book.

Wendy says

In the thrilling and gripping adventure "London Underground" Chris Angus blends a disease called "The Sweat" that gripped the city of London in the late 1400's, King Henry VIII's hidden treasure, a Nazi V-2 rocket armed with a terrifying biological weapon during the war years, and the discovery of a maze of underground tunnels and abandoned laboratories that after WWII spawned a nightmarish creation.

The plot opens in present day London where Inspector Sherwood Peets and his partner not only uncover the remains of two women in a maintenance tunnel but are given a warning by a homeless and dirty young

woman who vanishes in the darkness as Carmen Kingsley in charge of London projects at the British Museum and her friend Julia stumble on piles of dead and dying rats, discovering the remains of a rat Exterminator. Joining forces to unearth the truth behind their mysterious discoveries as the rodents escape from their underground haven into the city spreading the age- old disease, Sherwood and Carmen uncover government secrets and a coverup as well as evidence of a genetically enhanced species that threatens not just London but the British Isles.

In a parallel plot RAF pilot Gunnar Hansen and Natasha Neuman are partnered to follow-up on a German laboratory in Norway where V-2 rockets are being designed to carry biological weapons to Britain. In a race to destroy the lab with Commander Osborne and his men, they discover that one of the V-2 rockets is on route by train to Germany. Chased by Norwegian fighters in their stolen aircraft, facing hostile weather and the scheming of a Norwegian collaborator, they embark on a mission to find and destroy the missile before it's released.

In a fast-paced, action-packed story that keeps you on the edge of your seat, intensity and suspense continually build with a wild underground raft ride, cave-ins and the attacks of "super rats" in the present, and the hunt for a Nazi research lab experimenting with infectious agents in WWII. Twisting and turning the plot thickens further with the collusion of a scholar and politician looking for the treasure lost in an underground cavern and a Prime Minister unwilling to warn the people of a terrifying danger that's been unleashed. Skillfully Chris Angus diffuses the terror, death and violence with Sherwood's witty humor and his developing romance with Carmen.

Bringing the story to life are intriguing and compelling characters like Inspector Sherwood Peets, the quiet thinker who's lonely after an unsavory divorce and the independent Carmen Kingsley a stubborn, compulsive and intense academic who's sensitive to stimuli because of Asperger's. These characters and others infuse the story with excitement, depth and energy.

I thoroughly enjoyed "London Underground" and will look for other books by Chris Angus in future.

Susan Elizabetha says

Amazing story of an archeology dig in modern day London that has historical ties to World War II, pirate treasure, overgrown rats that eat people and other creatures-an experiment gone wrong. Even includes a modern day plague of the Sweat disease from the time of King Henry VIII. You will enjoy this book.

Kait says

The author's description of women is crude and sexist.

David Higgins says

Well-written book

Really like the diverse plot both in time periods, characters, and the use of horror, mystery, and war history. The characters were all interesting and not trite or one dimensional. Would definitely read more books by

this author!

YardBoy says

What lurks underground beside the Tubes?

I loved this action-packed historical fiction, particularly for the author's research spanning 16th century London thru WW2 science and modern day archaeology. I was just frightened enough to not put down the book and will think twice before descending into a subway again. The characters were believable and carried the tale brilliantly, possibly to a sequel.

Jon says

A clever way of linking different bits of history and science.

pat l francis says

this was a good read almost 2 stories in one very interesting

Peter Bradley says

My Amazon review -

<http://www.amazon.com/review/R17AAJCT...>

Jan Funnell says

Well this was certainly a new take on the London Underground I was totally captivated from the start. However, at times it seemed a bit too good to be true but a good read nevertheless. Thoroughly recommend this book for an quiet day's read.

Mike says

Good pacing and fast action. Although a lot of the plot was predictable, Angus kept a few secrets from the reader which made me keep reading.

Carol says

it was a fun, exciting read. Enjoyed reading about the underground rivers of London

John Carpenter says

London Underground by Chris Angus

This is a novel of suspense, a thriller. It is also a work of history that evokes many of the unsolved, catastrophic events of the past. These go back to the Middle Ages and earlier still, to Roman times, to archaeology. Many of our "historical" events were mysterious and still are. In 1507, during the reign of Henry VI, a disease broke out, then again in 1517, and again in 1551. Originally it was called "the sweating sickness." Was it the "plague"? There were no skin lesions symptomatic of the plague, according to "London Underground," perhaps it was an unclear hereditary or Darwinian mechanism. An outbreak occurred during World War II. But records were destroyed during the bombing, and it remains largely unexplained until today. This book is a work of suspense and also a vision of history: its many uncharted catastrophes and sicknesses, its wars and loss of life--these continue to the present moment.

A man named Sherwood enters the underground tube: "Riding London's tube lifts always felt like a thirty-second fall from grace. The ancient machines issued forth a continuous series of ominous sounds, inevitably coming to a halt with a loud clank, as though Lucifer himself were rattling his chains in anticipation of their arrival." This is the setting for what is to follow.

Two young women, Julia and Carmen, work at an archaeological site or "dig" not far from the British Museum. Later they walk toward the underground. After five minutes, it is clear they are going lower than they had been before. They hear the sound of a distant subway, probably headed for Victoria Station: "The silence grew heavy. They were beneath a city of more than eight million people. There was not a sound, except for the distant tinkling of water falling somewhere, and the occasional scurrying of rats. They quickly passed the section of Great Conduit Julia had showed her earlier, bypassed the cistern and continued through a bewildering array of tunnels. 'You sure you can find your way out of here?' asked Carmen."

New discoveries are made underground. Bones and whole bodies are found, they are analyzed to find out when they died and, if possible, the causes of death. A new burial ground is discovered. In addition, strange sucking sounds are reported in the underground passageways; a worker hears the sound of something heavy that is moving above them somewhere. At one point singing is heard. A mad woman wanders through, she is not carrying a flashlight.

Scurrying rats that produce feelings of revulsion or queasiness. A young colleague, Norman, is asked to explain to Julia the "rat facts": "There are an estimated three rats for every human in London. There are tens of millions of rats. You are probably never more than three feet from a rat at any time. There are 4000 rats born in London every hour. They are incredibly prolific." Later, Carmen falls through a crumbling floor that is the ceiling to another tunnel below. There are piles of dead rats and filth, it is a scene of unrelieved horror. Not much later the two young women make a gruesome discovery in an unexplored passageway: it is the body of the dead Norman.

This is a thriller, a novel of suspense, but it is also a work of historical fiction with a broad background. Several men investigate the underground tunnels searching for clues to the recent mysterious deaths and disappearances. Near a cistern they find a metal "protrusion" that is black in color, rough, and considerably aged. One of them bangs his flashlight against the metal, and hears a metallic echo; there is a worn but still legible series of numbers on the side of the object. A sudden chill grips his insides. Looking at the distant opening above him he shouts, "It's the V-2!"

An earlier subchapter described events during World War II and Hitler's obsession with biological warfare. A German outpost was established in a village in the north of occupied Norway, intended to develop biological weapons. These weapons with their "payload" were so lethal that the outpost was constructed far

from the German homeland. A group from the Norwegian underground tries to blow up the outpost, or at least steal the weaponized bio-missile. But they are too late. It has been put on a railroad flat-car and bound to the south and Germany.

These vignettes are deftly done. The narration of "London Underground" uses a broad range of sub-plots or "slants" in different times and places, some far from London, that involve the unfinished business of World War II. They contribute to the intense suspense of the novel.

In the present-- in London-- deaths and disappearances continue. The mysterious infections are increasing. The group that works on archaeological sites tries to alert the British government, but their concerns are met with denial. The Prime Minister asserts there is absolutely no danger of a bio-missile, he brushes them off. However he has already collected his own information attested in London. He is lying.

The reader might recall the poisonings that took place in London with radioactive Polonium-210, administered by a hostile government in a pot of tea. The novel also recalls the fast-paced plotting of Dan Brown's DaVinci code novels or Stieg Larsen's "Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest." The episodes with British politicians and modern technology are quite modern. Unfortunately they are entirely plausible.

Stephanie says

London Underground is an intriguing mash-up of WWII fiction, government conspiracies, and science gone very, very wrong. It opens with the city's residents suffering and dying from the sweating sickness. King Henry VIII and his lover, (and still head-possessing) Anne Boleyn, fled the city, and Henry reveals a tantalizing secret: England recently captured a treasure-filled Spanish ship, and the loot was hidden in a secret location. I was a bit worried when I read this exchange between Henry and Anne near the beginning of the novel: Anne asked, "Pray, tell me, what does the future hold for me?" Henry replied, "You have a beautiful head on your shoulders, Anne. It will have a roll all its own in the future of our country." I thought I was in for a punishing read of roll/role usage errors, but it quickly became apparent that the author has a sense of humor that's right up my alley.

In the present day, Carmen Kingsley, an administrator for the British Museum, leads a massive dig for Roman ruins recently discovered in London. The discovery of WWII-era bones leads to Carmen's abrupt and mysterious dismissal from the dig. Carmen won't go away quietly, though, and she's determined to learn what else lies beneath the city, and what other secrets officials are so determined to hide. She might have been better off just going away...

Much of the story takes place in London's underground tunnel system, and the claustrophobic feeling is palpable as characters are chased and threatened by deadly, inhuman beings. We see the lengths to which a government will go to keep its citizens in the dark, supposedly for the good of the people. These same government officials will behave like trapped rats (read the book - you'll get the reference) when pressed and cornered. The horror elements are very well written: bloody, graphic, and terrifying. Combined with the WWII and conspiracy angles, London Underground is a suspenseful, intelligent read.

I received the Kindle version of this novel from the publisher with a request for an honest review.

Dbl says

A Good Story

The writing was crisp and efficient. No unnecessary side notes. The story, chronologically, jumped around but it was easy to follow. There were not so many characters that made it difficult for the reader to keep up. The storyline was interesting and gave the reader some perspective on the London Underground. The ending did a good job tying together the several subplots. Will look for more books by this author.

Jillian Higham says

Ripping historical thriller

Wow! I'm a sucker for secret underground stuff. This book had everything - heroes, villains, treasure, a dreadful disease and terrifying mutant creatures. The action kicked along at breakneck speed with the World War II plot as a background to the current story. The greedy got their just deserves and the problem was not entirely resolved. I looked up a few of the historical characters and they were real, as was a plague from the 15th century called the Sweat.

Lisa says

The book starts off in the age of Henry VIII when London is in the grip of the English Sweat (Um, Ewww)- a disease that can kill within hours. The book then switches back and forth between WWII era Norway and present day London when bones are found during an archaeological dig. I found the the switching back and forth between eras to be a little abrupt at first but I got used to it quickly and I thought the plot was a little too busy. However that didn't distract with from an action packed story where Carmen and Inspector Peets race to stop an epidemic and giant killer rats (Ewww again). I also liked the fact that one of the main characters had Asperger's. I found myself on the edge of my seat at times when reading it.

I was given a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.
