



Lawless and the House of Electricity: Lawless 3

William Sutton

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Plots. Secrets. Power.

The new drawing mistress feels inquisitive eyes upon her as she arrives to take up her post at a country house. Ex-street urchin Molly's quickwitted candour earns her favour with the Earl's family and guests, but the butler sees through her pose of gentility.

In London's East End dockyards, a body is found in a lifeboat. But Sergeant Campbell Lawless is summoned to the government offices to weigh up a greater threat.

A gunpowder blast, a train derailed, an explosive ship. The shadow of European machinations looms over the capital, threatening royals and politicians. Lawless must investigate these explosions from the East End to Guernsey and Clerkenwell House of Detention to the English shires.

As Molly teaches the children, she suspects that darker secrets lurk in the gardens. The House of Roxbury, powered by the latest hydraulic contraptions, used to welcome a cavalcade of poets and magicians, explorers and cyclists, scientists and surgeons. Why does it now receive so few visitors? What made this industrial giant a recluse?

Experiments are conducted in the glasshouse laboratories. Molly uses her artistic licence to investigate the unseen forces running Roxbury House. The butler suspects her motives, as he guards the secret of the East Wing; until the diary of the late Lady Roxbury enlightens Molly of the house's woes. What is the Earl's sad secret – and the troubling plan for which these sacrifices have been made?

Who is orchestrating these blasts? As the mysterious corpse yields its secrets, Lawless must unravel the threads before dangerous powers fall into unruly hands.

Praise for the #Lawless series:

"An extraordinary novel. Unmissable and discomfiting." *Morning Star*

"A must. Wealth of period detail, quirky characterisation." *Mail on Sunday, Books of 2016*

"Engaging, smart, witty." *Paul Johnston*

"Extravagant and enjoyable." *Allan Massie, Scotsman*

"First-rate crime fiction." *The Herald*

"Genuinely funny." *Scotland on Sunday*

"Thrilling." *Shots Mag*

"Deliciously sinful and raw." *Rising Shadow*

"Fresh, unpredictable, exciting." *The Crime Review*

Lawless and the House of Electricity: Lawless 3 Details

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Author : William Sutton

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From Reader Review Lawless and the House of Electricity: Lawless 3 for online ebook

Alison Eden says

I struggled with this book and the rating. For someone who can read a book in a day if it really grips me, this one took me 6 weeks. I found the style of writing hard to get into and some of the early chapters quite slow and mundane. However I persevered and managed to read the last quarter of the book in just over two days. Towards the end the plot livened up and became more gripping and interesting and I was just sorry that the first three quarters of the book, for me, were not the same. Overall I would rate this 3.5 with maybe a 2 for the first half and a 4 for the second.

Breakaway Reviewers says

Another triumphant journey into crime in Victorian London with Campbell Lawless

This is the third in this wonderful series featuring Sergeant Campbell Lawless and I really hope that William Sutton is working on the next. I was a little concerned about starting this book as the first two were so good and it must be so difficult to keep the standard so high. Suffice it to say, this is just as good, if not better than the first two.

There has been a spate of explosions across the country and Lawless is tasked with finding out why they are happening. The foremost weapons manufacturer of the age is The Earl of Roxbury who is surrounded by a host of forward-looking scientists including his manager, a gentleman by the name of Nathan Lodestar, whose origins are surrounded in mystery. In order to find out more, Lawless manages to get his streetwise young friend, Molly, (who we have met before in the previous novels) taken on as a drawing tutor to the Earl's three young children. Her brief is to report back to Lawless and his now fiancée, Ruth Villiers, about what is actually happening in the workshops and greenhouses at Roxbury House. Added to that is the mystery surrounding the death of the Earl's wife, Lady Elodie, and various potential French spies.

The beauty of these books, for me, is not the plot but the way Victorian London is brought to life by having real life characters popping up from time to time which adds authenticity to the story. I also especially loved the excerpts from newspapers of the time and the wonderful adverts such as 'Dr Tybalt's Blood Tonic' and 'Pills for the Pale and Paralysed' and my special favourite 'Paine's Celery Compound' and I quote,

"After years of digestive discomfort, I only accepted this latest quack cure to keep my wife from strangling me. May I report, with surprise, my immediate improvement? May I report, with joy, my successful treatment? I am cured, my digestion is second to none, my wife's relief from my complaints is assured and my fear of strangulation reduced"

Just brilliant. Long may Sergeant Lawless continue to find mysteries to solve.

Dexter

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review

booksofallkinds says

****RATING 4.5****

Having never read the previous books in this series I was unsure exactly what I was getting myself into, but I am happy to report that I really enjoyed **LAWLESS AND THE HOUSE OF ELECTRICITY** by William Sutton, and have even bought the other books.

A decayed corpse is found in an abandoned lifeboat at the dockyard and explosions are suddenly happening in London. Sergeant Campbell Lawless has been tasked with the job of uncovering who is behind it all, and with his unusual group of sidekicks in the form of Molly and Ruth, it will lead them on a complicated journey of secrets and danger. From the Earl of Roxbury's estate where science reigns supreme, to the back alleys of London, will Lawless be able to solve this riddle before it is too late?

This book is unusual as the narrative jumps from one character to another, and from past to present on occasion, but this really worked as it gave the whole story a sense of energy and urgency. The characters are rich and very likeable, especially the female characters who are shrewd, intelligent, and feisty in their own ways. The setting and time period flares to life on every page to the point where you could easily close your eyes for a moment and picture the scene in your mind. While there were some moments where I wished that I had read the previous books (*Lawless and the Devil of Euston Square*, *Lawless and the Flowers of Sin*), overall you can read this novel as a standalone - but you can never have enough books so why not just buy the series?!

LAWLESS AND THE HOUSE OF ELECTRICITY by William Sutton is an exquisite mystery that will grip you from start to finish and I highly recommend it to historical mystery fans everywhere.

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from the Publisher

Writerbizwoman says

Love the character of Molly!

Secrets, hydraulic contraptions, poets, magicians, scientists and surgeons create sparks!

Cathy says

I didn't read the first two books in this series. Maybe that that would have helped. But I suspect not.

The language was as overstuffed as a Victorian parlor. If that was the author's intent to be that Victorian, he succeeded. But it made it less enjoyable to read. And the plot(s) suffered from the same issue. There was just too much going on that didn't need to be there.

I received a free copy of the book through the First Reads program.

