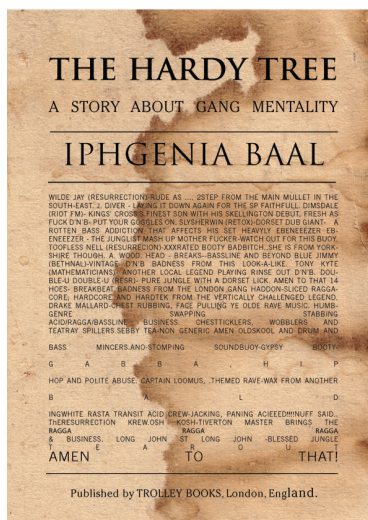


* * T R O L L E Y * *



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE HARDY TREE

A story about Gang Mentality

by IPHGENIA BAAL

A TALE OF TRAINS AND BRAINS, CLIQUES AND FREAKS

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It is 1864, St Pancras is a sprawling cemetery-slum, housing London’s teeming dead, dying and decrepit in their thousands. With the advent of the Great Midland railway line running from Manchester to London’s newest station, 10,000 bodies must be disinterred and, by order of the church, reburied on consecrated soil.

Charged with the exhumation are The Resurrection Men, a gang of thugs for whom the dead are no more sacred than the ground they break, and at their head, the young Thomas Hardy - architectural apprentice and callow idealist. We follow the fledgling writer as he struggles to reconcile the job at hand, the brute reality of the rotting dead, the rapid onset of modernity and his own wavering belief.

As the corpses mount in rising piles, Hardy endeavours to retain these lost identities - cataloguing and collecting stones and ephemera from the opened graves. But as the bodies moulder and disintegrate, so too Hardy begins to lose his sense of self.

Now, 130 years later - as the Eurostar approaches its terminus - an oddly similar drama is playing out: One with its roots in the past, but its head nowhere in particular.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Following her years as a teen tearaway, Iphgenia Baal began her 20s as a journalist, writing about music and the arts. This ended badly, in an extended melodrama involving fisticuffs and the police that ran across two continents.

Now a full-time author, she has contributed writing to ‘Litro’ and ‘Smoke: A London Peculiar’, self-published a zine of shorts, ‘The Gentle Art of Tramping’ and read at the Royal Academy, Port Eliot Lit Fest and the Book Club Boutique. ‘The Hardy Tree’ is her first novel.

Author available for interview. Publication date 15th June 2011

For more information and to request a review copy please contact

Hannah Watson hannah@trolleybooks.com · +44(0)20 7729 6591 www.trolleybooks.com