

"The Surveyors" Series

- * Title : "**The Surveyors**"
- * Author : Philip A Rougier
- * Paperback : 256 pages
- * Publisher : Youwriteon (Mar 2009)
- * Language : English
- * ISBN-10 : 1-84923-318-7
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- * Dimensions : 22.8 x 15.2 x 2 cm
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- * Title : "**The Surveyors : Week 2**"
- * Author : Philip A Rougier
- * Paperback : 276 pages
- * Publisher : Youwriteon (Oct 2010)
- * Language : English
- * ISBN-10 : 1-907986-44-8
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Background

"The Surveyors" and "The Surveyors : Week 2" chronicle consecutive weeks in a fictional surveying practice, dealing with a range of property and construction events. A humorous swipe is taken at the pretentiousness of The Property Profession and some of its more pompous practitioners.

The activities of a Chartered Surveyor 'Lord Peregrine' (The Hon. Peregrine Vaughan-Uppington MA[Cantab] FRICS, known as "VU") and his colleagues unfold as they happen in an Oxford-based practice, through seven fast-paced days in each book.

Plot outline

The first week involves the negotiation and manipulation of a range of technical issues concerning a lost boundary within a new London development, a court appearance as an Expert witness, flying sequences, a 'lateral thinking' solution to a Conservation Officer problem, an unusual Mediation, and an outré visit to Royal Ascot.

'Week 2' features yet more dubious exploits and wealth-building escapades. A brush with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the debunking of a damp-proofing 'specialist' and his cluster of flexible surveyors, an after-auction 'skimming' stratagem, and excellent progress with the Village Project by Peregrine's brother Sebastian, the 12th Earl of Eavesham.

Locations include outside sporting events, airports, an Oxford college, Westminster Cathedral, Cheltenham Ladies' College, a Lodge bar and the vast Eavesham Estate.

The 'back story'

Before we meet him in "The Surveyors", Peregrine Vaughan-Uppington ("VU"), received an award for bravery in the Falklands, and later became wealthy by his own efforts. To every outward appearance, a great success - notorious in his field and feared by his opponents. He enjoys huge earnings and assumes - expects - that he will win.

But "VU" is a troubled enigma. Borderline at both Eton and Cambridge, denied military promotion despite his decoration, then later rejected by his noble family.

His torment at the appalling casualties of his Falklands command, and wretched distress at his family's humiliating rejection, fuelled a decade of fiscal revenge against hapless third-party litigants. To the present day he agonises privately, perceiving himself a serial failure - his existence shallow and meaningless.

His staff, from widely differing backgrounds, make up a "mix and match" group who give him companionship and a sense of purpose. With VU in the lead, the team wields an intoxicating blend of psychology, technical wizardry and naked cunning, allowing them to exploit any opportunities that fall into their laps, and contrive to capitalise on the suffering and misfortunes of others.

Available from Amazon.co.uk, Waterstones.co.uk, WHSmith.co.uk, Amazon.com
(use search keys : *Surveyors Rougier*)

"The Surveyors : Week 3" is currently in preparation.

TV/Film Adaptation Rights
(For Commissioning Producers & Directors)

These books are designed for easy adaptation to television, as a series of 30 or 60 minute scripted episodes. For this purpose they are dialogue-rich, and description-light. Locations and settings are selected to be simple and economical to realise or reproduce.

Nothing is lightweight about the characters, however. Each has significant depth, and is capable of creative personification. Humour is shared among them more-or-less equally so that no one dominates as the 'comedian'. And just as each character has a real function in the story, all humour is within the context of the dialogue (ie no jokes for the sake of jocularly).

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