



The Estate of Wormwood & Honey

August 2012

Dear Editor/Producer,

Where Leo Tolstoy leaves off, Julian Berengaut picks up. The inspiration for Berengaut's breathtaking new novel, *The Estate of Wormwood & Honey* (The Russian Estate Books, ISBN: 978-1-4776489-0-2), comes from Tolstoy's masterpiece, *War & Piece*. Tolstoy introduces Pierre Bezukhov, the illegitimate son of a wealthy nobleman who unexpectedly becomes the master of all his father's estates. "The thing that bothered me" about that, Berengaut says in an interview, "is that while Tolstoy tells us a lot about the father, we never learn anything about Pierre's mother."

So with *The Estate of Wormwood & Honey*, a novel set in 19th-century Russia, Berengaut takes a closer look at what a life like Bezukhov's might have been like, haunted by dim memories of his mother and an outcast in society. He creates Nicolas Nijinsky, a young heir to a wealthy estate whose mother, a German immigrant, died while he was a young boy. The people who move in after her death, including his father's new wife and his own tutor, are manipulative schemers who have Nicolas sent away, his reputation ruined.

But now it's ten years later, and Nicolas is back. With a calculated sense of justice, he and his new friend Sergey proceed to return order to the estate, and to deal with the powerful memories of his childhood. Berengaut sets each scene with as keen an understanding of the local, historical culture as he has with what is most basic to being human: a desire for friendship and family.

I hope you'll consider the book for your upcoming review schedule. I'll look forward to talking to you about any aspect of the publication.

Thank you,

Adam Robinson
Publicity manager
443-938-5091
therussianestate@gmail.com

2301 Avalon Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

Adam Robinson/Sales & Publicity

(443) 938-5091
therussianestate@gmail.com
www.wormwood-and-honey.com

Here is a revenge tale of extraordinary strategy and thoughtfulness. In *The Estate of Wormwood & Honey*, the reader enters a real world generations and nations removed—my great-grandmother's "Old Russia."
Zofia Burr, Dean, George Mason University

What power of the brain lets a 21st century man in America render something so foreign, so odd to his own way of life, so well? Of course, we know that power—imagination—but still it's a strange and thrilling thing. Enter this, a world delicately drawn and charming.

Joseph Young, author of *Easter Rabbit and Name*

please visit the website at
www.wormwood-and-honey.com
[Twitter.com/Berengaut](https://twitter.com/Berengaut)

