

EMBARGO MAY 20TH – 16:00 BST



Will Bosi claims the First Ascent of Realm of Tor'ment 9A

The long-standing project is the second 9A in the United Kingdom and the first in the Peak District.

Will Bosi, 26, from Edinburgh, has claimed the first ascent of 'Realm of Tor'ment', a long-standing project at Raven Tor for which he has proposed a grade of 9A.

Realm of Tor'ment fills a gap in the iconic Peak District venue between the Sport routes Hooligan (8c) and Boot Boys (8a+) on steep terrain with improbable holds. The line is 8 moves long and finishes on an obvious flake.

Commenting on the Ascent, Will added:

"I'm incredibly happy and psyched to finally put this project down! This has probably been my longest boulder project to date, taking double-digit sessions and work over a couple of years. The send went perfectly for me. I climbed the bottom section well and *just* stuck the crux move. I was about as close as I could have been to failing on the last move, too".

Bosi continues:

"The line starts on a perfect left-hand tufa pinch and a right-hand split crimp. From here, you have four steady but very engaged moves that lead to two pockets. This is where the crux sequence starts: a hard bump into a sharp right-hand undercut, then a high-tension foot walk. From here, you do the hardest move, which is a big dynamic left-hand slap to a bad small flat edge. I think this move alone is around a one-move 8B+/V14. Finally, you commit to another big slap up with the right hand to a good flake to finish".

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Previously dubbed the 'Burden of Nightmares' project (in response to the iconic 9A, Burden of Dreams in Lappnor, Finland), Bosi invested more than 10 sessions this season and many more in previous years. He shared progress on his Instagram (link [here](#)) ahead of the first ascent.

Commenting on the grade, Will added:

"Arriving at a proposed grade has been haunting me on this project ever since I started working on the boulder. Finding an accurate grade on short, punchy boulders is so difficult as the eventual grade is so dependent upon perfect beta and suiting the style and preference of the climber. However, drawing upon my own experience, I can say that it is a step above 8C+ boulders of a similar style and sits as a low-end 9A boulder. However, I welcome the thoughts of other climbers who get on this excellent problem"¹.

If confirmed, Will would become the first person to climb five 9A boulders worldwide and cement his reputation as one of the world's leading boulderers. Will claimed the second ascent of the UK's previous sole 9A, 'Spots of Time', established by Aidan Roberts.

The ascent continues Bosi's run of form through a series of hard repeats and first ascents in Switzerland earlier this year, as well as the second ascent of Stefano Ghisolfi's 'Excalibur' 9b+ in Arco.

Will aims to continue climbing in the UK in the future before returning to overseas projects later on in the year.

ENDS

¹ A full transcript of Will's grading rationale is provided below in the editors notes.

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EDITORS NOTES

- Will Bosi is sponsored by Adidas Terrex, Adidas Fiveten, DMM, Lattice Training and Beta Climbing Designs.
- Images of the ascent are available [here](#). Images attached are free to use digitally, but please tag @bandofbirds when sharing online. For any press publications, please contact me at the email below to clear for licensing.
- The video of the ascent will be available on [Will Bosi's YouTube channel](#)
- The video of Excalibur 9b+ will go live on [Will Bosi's YouTube channel](#) at the end of May.

For any requests for further information and comments from Will, please contact Matt Bird at matt@bandofbirds.co.uk

Transcript Conversation with Will on the grading rationale for Realm of Tor'ment

MB: So Will, what grade is it then?

WB: I have been thinking so much about the grade ever since I started work on the project. I find it so hard to grade short, powerful boulders as so much of the grade weighs on fewer individual moves and the grade can shift dramatically around based on small changes in beta and whatever style suits the climber.

However, providing a grade based on my own experience of other hard boulders as well as boulders on Raven Tor and Peak Lime, I am pretty confident in suggesting that this sits as a low-end 9A boulder.

MB: Ok, let's break it down then - why is it not 8C+?

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WB: On Raven Tor itself, to the left of *Realm*, are two boulders which are essentially one-move 8A+'s. The crux move on *Realm* is at least one to two grades harder and is comparable to the first move on *Burden of Dreams*. Stitching the crux move and the last move took so many sessions. Even matching the final hold is a real effort!

Looking at other hard single-move boulders I have done elsewhere, the crux move is significantly harder than other lines such as *Forgotten Gem* (8C/V15, Chironico, Switzerland) and *Silent Singer* (Bowderstone, Lake District, 8C/V15).

Comparing the whole boulder to other short, powerful 8C+ boulders, it feels harder than *Brain Rot* (8C+/V16 Magic Wood) and *Ephyra* (8C+/V16 Brione).

It is incomparable to 8C+ like *Honey Badger* (*Badger Cove established by Bosi in 2022*) as it is 20 minutes down the road but feels like a totally different boulder problem. *Honey Badger* has way more moves making it difficult to compare with *Realm* as they were different styles. However, I put in way more time on this boulder than I did on *Honey Badger*, which consciously or subconsciously made me think this was a harder overall problem.

MB: So, how does it compare to 9A's you have done?

Straight away, we can discount *Return of the Sleepwalker* and *Alphane* as comparisons because they are such different boulders in terms of style compared to *Realm*.

So the comparisons from my own experience come to *Burden of Dreams* and *Spots of Time*. I think *Spots* is the best comparator as it is in the UK. I did it recently [Winter 2024], and it is a short boulder similar to *Realm*.

For me, the crux of *Realm* is slightly harder than the crux of *Spots* simply because the key hold is flat, slippery limestone, but when you put all of the moves of each boulder together, they come out around the same grade. I do think *Spots* and *Realm* are a step above the 8C+ boulders I have done to date, so that is why I am proposing a low-end 9A boulder grade. As always, I am excited to hear what others think as they try the problem as it is at Raven Tor, so I am hoping it will get a lot of attention!