



CITY READS 2019

23 April – 12 May

Let Me
Be Like
Water

by S.K. Perry

One city.
One book.
A thousand
conversations...



cityreads.co.uk





Information

VENUES

BRIGHTON & HOVE

HIGH SCHOOL Senior Hall,
Montpelier Road BN1 3AT

JUBILEE LIBRARY

Jubilee Street, Brighton BN1 1GE

THE LATEST MUSIC BAR

14-17 Manchester St, Brighton
BN2 1TF

THE NIGHTINGALE ROOM

Grand Central Pub
29-30 Surrey Street BN1 3PA

STARFISH AND COFFEE

32 Egremont Place, Brighton BN2 0GA

WATERSTONES BRIGHTON

71-74 North St, Brighton BN1 1ZA

TICKETS: cityreads.co.uk

ENQUIRIES: info@collectedworks.co.uk

City Reads would like to thank its:

PARTNERS



SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS

Huge thanks also to:

Sarah Perry, Bridget Minamore, Nikki Griffiths at Melville House UK, staff at Brighton Festival, Lesley, Sara and Sharon at New Writing South, Rich Naiff at Waterstones, Norah Carr, Lucy Castle, Stephanie Coates and staff at Brighton & Hove Libraries, Jeff at The Latest Music Bar, Tony Marks at Starfish & Coffee and all our lovely volunteers.

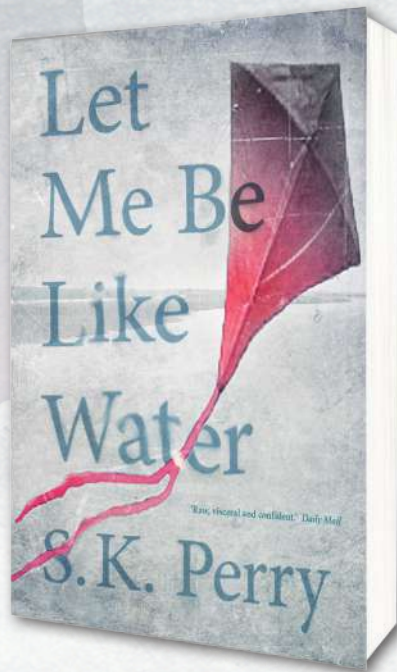
City Reads is produced by Collected Works CIC





Let Me Be Like Water

By S.K. Perry



WHY THIS BOOK?

This year we have chosen an incredible debut for you to read, share, and celebrate: S.K. Perry's *Let Me Be Like Water*.

Set in Brighton, *Let Me Be Like Water* is an exquisite, lyrical meditation on grief and romantic loss. As soon as I started reading it I was struck by the grace and strength of Sarah's writing. It's a beautiful novel that isn't afraid of taking its time to linger in those heartbreaking moments of absence following a bereavement. *Let Me Be Like Water* is ultimately a story about the redemptive power of friendship and Sarah writes about Brighton with heart and passion, using the city's glorious imperfections to remind us all why we are drawn here.

It was a joy to read. We are delighted to be welcoming Sarah to Brighton & Hove in May to discuss this dazzling, poignant novel with readers across the city.

Sarah Hutchings
Artistic Director, City Reads



'A wonderful debut novel about how we find our feet again after a bereavement. It's one of the best evocations of the grieving process I've read and is written in a fluid engaging style that draws you in to the protagonist Holly's world.' **Guardian**





About this year's author

S.K. PERRY was born in Croydon in 1990 and remembers writing an essay in primary school about wanting to be a cave woman when she grew up. She has been a resident artist at the Roundhouse in Camden, a Young Writer in Residence for Cityread, London, and has delivered creative writing workshops for PEN International.

When the first draft of this novel was shortlisted for the Mslexia Prize, she met her agent Laura West, and the finished book *Let Me Be Like Water* was published in hardback in 2018 by Melville House UK. She currently lives in Leeds and is working on her second novel.



'I have a deep love for Brighton and feel really moved that through City Reads, *Let Me Be Like Water* will reach more of the city's readers. It's such an honour, and I really can't wait!'

S.K. Perry - City Reads author 2019

About the book

Having impulsively escaped to Brighton following the death of her boyfriend Sam, songwriter Holly is now in a state of limbo. The solitude she had so craved in London leaves her feeling stranded and alone in her grief. It is when she meets Frank, a retired gay magician, that the tide begins to turn. Frank has experienced his own heartbreak and offers Holly companionship and solace. Gradually, as she is introduced to his eclectic group of friends, all with their own stories, she starts to heal.

Let Me Be Like Water is a book simultaneously about nothing and everything; about the humdrum yet extraordinariness of everyday life; of lost and new connections; of loneliness and friendship.

'Raw, visceral and confident... this is an affecting debut.' **Daily Mail**





City Reads 2019 at Brighton Festival

S.K. PERRY

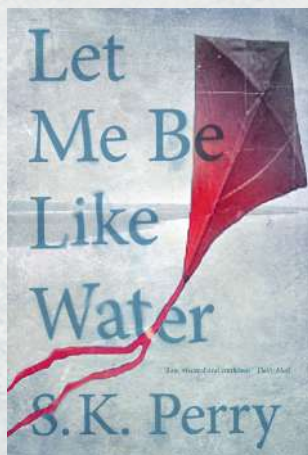
In conversation with Bridget Minamore

‘Artful, witty and poetic... only a cynical heart would fail to be moved.’ *The Irish Times*

Complete your 2019 City Reads experience by joining S.K. Perry live at Brighton Festival for an intimate and exclusive celebration of *Let Me Be Like Water*. Sarah will discuss her highly praised debut with writer Bridget Minamore.

Bridget Minamore is a British-Ghanaian writer from south-east London. She is a poet, critic, essayist, and journalist, often writing about pop culture, theatre, race and class. *Titanic*, her debut pamphlet of poems on modern love and loss was published in 2016 by Outspoken Press.

There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions at the event.



-Bridget Minamore

Sunday 12 May
Brighton & Hove High School
5.30pm, £8

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The City Reads Supper Club

In association with Starfish & Coffee

Booky foodies and music lovers - this one's for you!

Join us for a very special City Reads pop-up supper club, inspired by food that appears in *Let Me Be Like Water*.



We are delighted that our host venue will be Starfish & Coffee (winner of Best Cafe, Brighton & Hove Food Awards and Best Brunch Brighton Restaurant Awards 2018), a beautiful space on the edge of Hanover and Kemptown, right beside Queens Park.





The City Reads Supper Club

In association with Starfish & Coffee

GENEVIEVE DAWSON is a singer-songwriter originally from Edinburgh, now based in South-East London. Her unique and raw lyrical style is matched by her rich and soulful tone, and she mixes influences from jazz and folk in equal measure.



‘Genevieve’s take is not unlike that of Hejira-era Joni Mitchell - her songwriting knows no upper bounds... see her and her band at any opportunity you get’
Bittersweet Symphonies

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES:

- A delicious vegetarian supper
- A live acoustic set from the amazing Genevieve Dawson
- Readings from the book

Wednesday 8 May
Starfish & Coffee Cafe
7pm - 10pm, £22

There will be a bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks

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The Power of Theme

In association with New Writing South and Waterstones

Theme is a powerful tool in every writer's kit and S.K. Perry's assured debut, *Let Me Be Like Water* dives straight in and tackles the weighty, universal themes of grief and loss.

Join Bethan Roberts whose new novel *Graceland* charts Gladys Presley's fierce devotion to her surviving son Elvis, and Man Booker nominated Yvette Edwards, the author of two novels, *A Cupboard Full of Coats* and *The Mother*, as as they discuss theme with award winning author and screenwriter Catherine Johnson, whose latest books are *Freedom*, nominated for the Carnegie medal, and *Race For The Frozen North*.

They will be discussing the process of writing, finding the right tone when tackling powerful themes and how they maintain momentum.



-Bethan Roberts



-Catherine Johnson



-Yvette Edwards

Recommended for book lovers and aspiring writers.

Tuesday 30 April
Waterstones, Brighton
7.30, £5 (includes a glass of wine)

This event is sponsored by Masters and Son, Lindfield





Amongst Friends

A Literary Salon, hosted by Heidi James

Ten writers, four minutes each, one very special literary evening...

S.K. Perry's *Let Me Be Like Water* is a celebration of life and beautifully illustrates the regenerative power of friendship.

Join us for an evening of pure reading indulgence in which some fantastic writers talk about their favourite works of fiction that celebrate friendship. Will your favourites be amongst them?

Featuring: Charlene Allcott, Joe Bedford, Nuala Ellwood, Sarah Ann Jukes, Stephanie Lam, Rebecca Ley, Will Mabbit, Craig Melvin and Kate Smith.



-Heidi James



Host Heidi James' latest novel *So the Doves* (2018) was *The Sunday Times* Crime Novel of the Month and her novella *The Mesmerist's Daughter* (2015) won the Saboteur Award. She is currently writing her fourth novel which will be published by Bluemoose Books in 2020.

Thursday 2 May
The Nightingale Room, Grand Central Pub
7.30pm – 10.30pm, £10 in advance (£15 on the door)

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FREE CITY READS

World Book Night - Book Swap

Something special happens when we share our passion for a book we love and this is your opportunity to do just that... Bring a book to swap. Make sure it's something you really liked and may struggle to part with. Grab a cup of tea or coffee from the cafe and we'll provide some cake.

Please register for a free ticket, so we know how many people to expect.

Tuesday 23 April
Jubilee Library, 5pm, Free

BOOK SWAP BOXES

To read is to imagine...

Our very own dedicated book swap boxes are BACK! City Reads is all about the pleasure of sharing books and stories. That's why the team works hard to ensure there is always free access to books during City Reads and beyond. In the past we have left books on park benches, in launderettes and cafes. Now we have our very own dedicated book swap boxes.



Take a book and leave one. It's that simple...

Public Book Swap locations:

BIG BEACH CAFE

Hove Lagoon, Kingsway, Hove BN3 4LX

BRISTOL ESTATE COMMUNITY ROOM, 146a Donald Hall Road, Brighton BN2 5DJ

CASCADE COMMUNITY CAFE
24 Baker St, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN1 4JN

CREW CLUB - EAST BRIGHTON
26 Coolham Dr, Brighton BN2 5QW

MANOR GYM - EAST BRIGHTON

Manor Rd, Brighton BN2 5EA

PAVILION GARDENS CAFE
29 New Rd, Brighton BN1 1UG

ST MARY'S CHURCH, KEMPTOWN 1 St James's St, Brighton BN2 1PR

STARFISH & COFFEE
32 Egremont Place, Brighton BN2 0GA





The City Reads Book Quiz

How much do you know about books? Classics, crime books, highbrow and lowbrow books? Whatever you've read, always meant to read, or simply bluffed your way through, come along and test your knowledge at the ever popular City Reads Book Quiz.



There will be questions on everything: from genre fiction to literary classics, plus a dedicated round on S.K. Perry and *Let Me Be Like Water*.

Join a team or bring your own. There will be brainteasers aplenty for book lovers of all persuasions.

Thursday 25 April
The Latest Music Bar
7pm - 9pm, £5

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CITY READS AT A GLANCE

City Reads Book Swap

Tue 23 April, 5pm, Jubilee Library

City Reads Book Quiz

Thu 25 April, 7pm, The Latest Music Bar

The Power of Theme

Tue 30 April, 7.30pm, Waterstones

Amongst Friends -

Literary Salon

Thu 2 May, 7.30pm, The Nightingale Room

City Reads Supper Club

Wed 8 May, 7pm, Starfish & Coffee

S.K. Perry in Conversation with Bridget Minamore

Sun 12 May, 5.30pm, Brighton &
Hove High School

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