

PERFECTLIVES by Polly Samson (Virago)

Polly Samson is an acclaimed novelist

and the lyric-writing partner of her husband, Pink Floyd's David Gilmour. She is as insightful as ever with this collection of delicate short stories. Set in a glamorous seaside town, it sees the lives of inhabitants cross. But don't be fooled by the tales' glossy sheen: each one reveals that the perfect lives are far from what they seem. Utterly engrossing and reassuring to anyone suffering from status anxiety, this collection is a concise but affecting literary treat.

Perfect Lives is out now