

# Artists in harmony

Review  
Will Hodgkinson

## Yes, I Have Ghosts

★★★★☆

**W**hy hasn't anyone thought of this before?

Films and television shows always have theme tunes and soundtracks but until now novels have rarely come with their own song. Step forward David Gilmour, who is not only one of the foremost guitarists of his generation but is also married to the novelist Polly Samson.

Her latest book *A Theatre for Dreamers* tells the story of a young



The couple have worked on Pink Floyd songs in the past

woman entering a bohemian idyll on the Greek island of Hydra in the early Sixties, where Leonard Cohen was soaking up inspiration. *Yes, I Have Ghosts* comes

with the audiobook version, which makes sense. It has a wistful mood and a romantic quality that make you want to read about the exciting, volatile milieu

Samson evokes. "The heat of the sun stayed on through the night, made spectres of strangers playing games with my sight," sings Gilmour against delicate acoustic guitar. The song is much in the court of Cohen, from the detail of the words to Gilmour's mournful singing style to Samson's light harmonising.

Samson's novel starts from the perspective of an older woman remembering her youth in Hydra, of escaping a domineering father in Britain to find herself amid the artists, poets and dreamers of the island, of which Cohen is one.

*Yes, I Have Ghosts*, with its yearning violin, madrigal-like melody and words on the melancholy of reflection, is a pretty adjunct to the book.

More writer-musician couples should take Gilmour and Samson's lead.