



Perfect Lives
by Polly Samson

VIRAGO £15.99 NOVEMBER

Samson's sumptuous prose in these short stories brings to life a piano tuner, an artist, a pianist, a betrayed wife (or two), mothers, daughters, sons, lovers and husbands – all inhabitants of a seaside town. They swim in and out of each other's stories as we discover their secret hurts and hopes. There is humour in there with the sadness, and many witty dénouements. Just when it all feels a little too slight or second-hand, Samson delivers devastating knowledge with the lightest of touches in 'The Rose Before the Vine'.

This is a collection to take time over and savour.