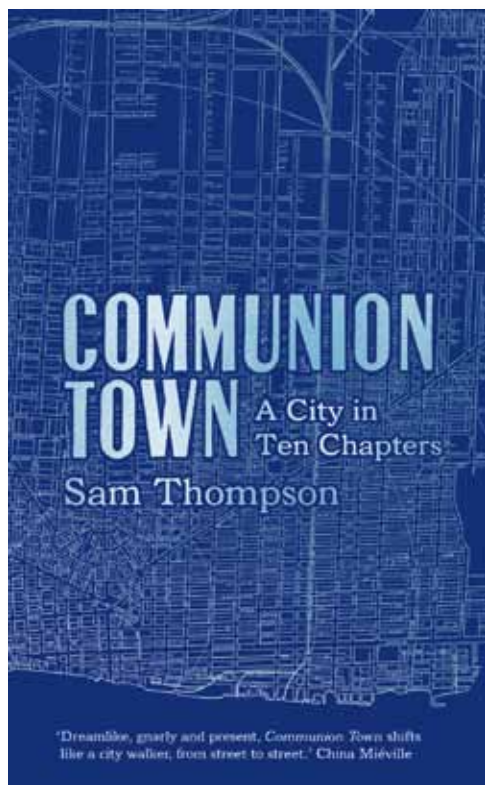




Reader's Guide



Communion Town
is Sam Thompson's first novel

Communion Town Sam Thompson

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About the author	Sam Thompson was born in 1978. He teaches English at St Anne's College, Oxford, and writes for <i>Times Literary Supplement</i> , the <i>London Review of Books</i> and <i>The Guardian</i> . He lives in Oxford.
Communion Town	<p>Every city is made of stories: stories that meet and diverge, stories of the commonplace and the strange, of love and crime, of ghosts and monsters.</p> <p>This is the story of a place that never looks the same way twice: a place imagined anew by each citizen who walks through the changing streets, among voices half-heard, signs half-glimpsed and desires half-acknowledged. This is the story of a city.</p>
Discussion points	<p>Sam Thompson's imagined city in <i>Communion Town</i> is mapped out in 10 stories, each told from the perspective of a different character. Which stories do you think most effectively capture the experience of city life?</p> <p>Do you agree with the reviewer who said:</p> <p>'Perhaps it isn't surprising that one of his best stories involves a boy who constructs a model town on the floor of his sitting room, allowing his imagination to stretch out and discover what it can do. He could be a figure of the young novelist at work. Turning the pages of <i>Communion Town</i> you become aware that here is a new writer working out what he can do, and realising that he can do anything.' Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, <i>Daily Telegraph</i></p> <p><i>Communion Town</i> is classed as a novel but does its subtitle, <i>A City in Ten Chapters</i>, more accurately describe what Sam Thompson is trying to achieve?</p> <p>It has been suggested that Sam Thompson's writing is 'incredibly intelligent' and that he assumes his readers are too. Does this chime with your reading of the book?</p> <p>Do you agree that this book isn't for the reader who likes a comfortable beginning, middle and end?</p>
Themed reading	<p>David Mitchell <i>Ghostwritten</i> Italo Calvino <i>Invisible Cities</i> China Miéville <i>Kraken</i></p>
Useful links	<p>Publisher's website http://www.4thestate.co.uk/</p> <p>Facebook link http://www.facebook.com/CommunionTown/timeline</p>