

Light Perpetual

author: Francis Spufford

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Synopsis

author	Francis Spufford
readBy	Imogen Church
inLanguage	english

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *Slate*, *Lit Hub*, *Fresh Air*, and more
From the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of *Golden Hill*, an “extraordinary symphonic, casually stunning” (*The Wall Street Journal*) novel tracing the infinite possibilities of five lives in the bustling neighborhoods of 20th-century London.
Lunchtime on a Saturday, 1944: the Woolworths on Bexford High Street in South London receives a delivery of aluminum saucepans. A crowd gathers to see the first new metal in ages “after all, everything’s been melted down for the war effort. An instant later, the crowd is gone; incinerated. Among the shoppers were five young children.
Who were they? What futures did they lose? This brilliantly constructed novel, inspired by real events, lets an alternative reel of time run, imagining the lives of these five souls as they live through the extraordinary, unimaginable changes of the bustling immensity of twentieth-century London. Their intimate everyday dramas, as sons and daughters, spouses, parents, grandparents; as the separated, the remarried, the bereaved. Through decades of social, sexual, and technological transformation, as bus conductors and landlords, as swindlers and teachers, patients and inmates. Days of personal triumphs and disasters; of second chances and redemption.
Ingenious and profound, full of warmth and beauty, *Light Perpetual* “offers a moving view of how people confront the gap between their expectations and their reality” (*The New Yorker*) and illuminates the shapes of experience, the extraordinariness of the ordinary, the mysteries of memory, and the preciousness of life.

Reader's comments

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