

## Profile to publish **The Library Book** in aid of The Reading Agency's library programmes

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- \* **An all-star line up of top writers in support of the Reading Agency's library programmes**
- \* **Includes original pieces by Julian Barnes, Stephen Fry, Tom Holland and many more**
- \* **Published for National Libraries Day on 4 February 2012**

Alan Bennett, Julian Barnes, Stephen Fry, Lionel Shriver, Susan Hill, and China Mieville are among the contributors to **The Library Book**, to be published by Profile for National Libraries Day on 4 February. All royalties will be donated to the Reading Agency to help their work supporting libraries.

Profile have UK and Commonwealth rights.

In **The Library Book** *twenty* of our most outstanding writers will describe libraries real or imagined, past, present, and future - why they matter and to whom. **The Library Book's contributors recognise that without libraries we would not have the writers of today and tomorrow.** They include Anita Anand, Julian Barnes, Bella Bathurst, Alan Bennett, Michael Brooks, James Brown, Anne Cleeves, Stephen Fry, Seth Godin, Susan Hill, Tom Holland, Hardeep Singh Kohli, Lucy Mangan, Val McDermid, China Mieville, Caitlin Moran, Julie Myerson, Adele Parks, Bali Rai and Lionel Shriver.

From Alan Bennett's *Baffled at a Bookcase*, to Lucy Mangan's *Ten Library Rules*, famous writers tell us all about how libraries are used and why they're important. Tom Holland writes about libraries in the ancient world, while Seth Godin describes what a library will look like in 2020. Lionel Shriver thinks books are the best investment, Hardeep Singh Kohli describes his first encounter with a punk and Julie Myerson remembers how her career began beside the shelves. Julian Barnes contributes a previously unseen extract from his novel *England, England*, and Stephen Fry asks, 'have you heard of Oscar Wilde?'

Using memoir, history, polemic, short stories and more, **The Library Book** celebrates 'that place where they lend you books for free' and the people who work there.

Editor Rebecca Gray, who volunteers in her spare time for a mobile library for homeless people, says: "What's really come through in this project is how libraries liberate people, shape them, allow them to educate themselves. So many people are passionate about libraries – not just for the books, but for the space – and freedom – they provide. I've so enjoyed working with The Reading Agency and all these wonderful writers on this book."

Miranda McKearney, Director of the Reading Agency says: "What a wonderful way to celebrate National Libraries Day! The generosity of Profile and the contributing writers will help drive two crucial programmes: our popular Six Book Challenge schemes for children and adults – meaning that, despite the cuts, libraries can continue to use them in their communities."

**Notes for Editors**

The Reading Agency is an independent charity with a mission to inspire more people to read more. It specializes in helping libraries make more social impact through reading. It is funded by the Arts Council. ([www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk))