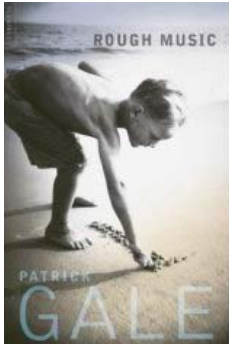




# LGBT Reading Group



## January/February 2008



### The Read

Last month, members of the group dipped into the library bag of luck to pick a different title from the back-catalogue of gay writer Patrick Gale. This month, we each reviewed our selection to the rest of the group. Titles chosen at random were:

- ★ **The Aerodynamics of Pork** ISBN 978-0586091463
- ★ **The Cat Sanctuary** ISBN 978-0586090619
- ★ **Friendly Fire** ISBN 978-0007151042
- ★ **Rough Music** ISBN 978-0006552208
- ★ **Tree Surgery for Beginners** ISBN 978-0006550747



### The Author... Patrick Gale

In 1962 on the Isle of Wight, Patrick was born in a prison and studied at an independent school for boys. His first two novels, *The Aerodynamics of Pork* and *Ease* were published by in 1986 and the following year he moved to the north coast of Cornwall and began the love affair with the county that has fed his work ever since. Patrick now lives on a farm near Land's End with Aidan Hicks, plays the cello and runs writing and reading holidays for gay men.

Visit [www.galewarning.org](http://www.galewarning.org) for more details.

**Our Opinions...** As each group member summarised their choice this month, it emerged that there were common themes that featured in most of Gale's novels; Cornwall, class, schooling, art, music and sexuality - he appears to consistently weave his personal interests and experiences in his writing.

Gale is undoubtedly a clever and skilled writer who could describe a scene in such a way as to take the reader straight there. He gives a convincing portrayal of both his male and female characters and, although in parts his stories seem far-fetched, he has a knack of concluding them perfectly, sometimes with jaw dropping twists.

Some readers felt that they had been 'led up a garden path' at times... but in a good way! Almost unanimously, our experiment gave Gale a score of 4-out-of-5 and most would recommend their lucky dip to someone else.



### What Next? The Collector Collector

By Tibor Fischer ISBN: 978-0099268192

To a small flat in South London comes a Sumerian bowl, but this unusual bowl is a clay with something to say!

This object d'art will offer Rosa, its owner, vast swathes of unrecorded history from the last 6000 years. From this unusual "fly on the wall" perspective, Fischer constructs an inventive and entertaining tale that begins in the near-present, focused upon three central characters: a hypochondriac millionaire, a sultry kleptomaniac and an uncomfortably-single art critic.



[www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/lgbt](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/lgbt)

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