

WHITE

W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**
W **H** **I** **T** **E**

Sean Pemberton

REALITY STREET

Published by
REALITY STREET
63 All Saints Street, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3BN, UK
www.realitystreet.co.uk

First edition 2012

Copyright © Sean Pemberton, 2012. All rights reserved.

Typesetting & book design by Ken Edwards

Reality Street Narrative Series No 12

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-874400-59-2

This is for my daughter Emily

May Gardens, 1997 – Lawrence Hill, 2005

white

white

white light

white light

white light

falling

white

white

light

brightness

split curtains crack white

shine of sun

slant beams

white

white

white

warm

white

white

It is steel. It is a handle. She pulls.

It opens. She steps.

She is in the hall. It is hot. She looks left. She looks the kitchen.

The back door is open. There is the sunlight. He sits on the step. He faces the garden.

She looks at the back. It is white.

There is the sunlight. Smoke moves up.

She walks. She stands in the kitchen. She stands in the doorway. She looks.

It is white.

He turns.

She says.

He says. He lifts the hand. He lifts the hand up. The hand turns. The cigarette is in the fingers. The smoke turns.

He says.

He turns. He faces the garden. He says.

She walks up. She stands behind. She looks.

He points.

He says.

There is the brightness. There is the heat. There is cloudless.

She smells smoke.

There is the blue.

She looks.

He points. She looks.

She looks at the blue.

The white is in the blue. The moon is in the blue. It is half. She looks.

He says.

She looks. The moon is half. She smells sweat. It is half. It is white.

She looks.

She looks the garden. The grass is green.

There is the sweat. There is the smoke. There is the sound of the cars on the motorway.

It is hot.

She turns. She walks.

The door is under the stairs. The lock is steel.

She lifts the hem. She pulls the knickers. It is hot. The windowsill is dusty. She sits.

The curtains are net. The net is white.
She pees.
It is hot.
She sweats.
There is the sound of a bird.
The pee ends. She pulls paper. She wipes. She drops it.
It is hot and she stands. The knickers are white. She pulls
them. The hem falls and she pulls the chain.
The door to the garden is shut. The top half of the door to
the garden is glass. The glass is under this dust. The sun shines
in.

white

white falling

white light

white light falling

warmth

sunlight

heavy

sun

room

white

wake

room

sunlight warm

lick lips

sunlight

beam

curtain crack

edges

stretch warmth

warmth

sunlight

and sun

stretch

stretch

blue pillowcase

blue bedspread

white walls

white ceiling

white light

curtains

orange

light

wipe face

sit

wipe face

white

light beam

fold back cover

over

floor

carpet brown light

light white

white crack

stand

to chair

chair

trousers

trousers black

step in

button zip

shirt blue

arms

pull

buttons

lick lip

sunlight

white light

warm

light is gold silver

walk

door white

steel handle

down

corridor

carpet red

walls yellow

left

kitchen

lino red cold

feet

kettle

water

sound

filling falling

kettle

switch on

cupboard

door

metal rim steel

blue mug to sideboard

down

cupboard

door white

jar glass

coffee

red letters

spoon drawer steel

top off

foil edge torn

spoon

coffee

mug

kettle boil

The sun is on the cars. The sun is on the bus.

The light turns green. The bus drives out. The cars drive out.

The bus drives out onto the roundabout. The cars drive out
onto the roundabout.

It is blue. It cuts left.

The bus brakes. There is the sound of the brakes.

It is hot. The sun is on the car.

There is the thump. The bus swings. The bus stops.

There are no clouds. There is the sun. There is the heat.

There is the sun on the cars.

There is the sun on the bus.

There is the sun on the roundabout.

There is the sun on the cars and the bus on the roundabout.

He stands.

The bus is red. The bus is behind the car. The car is blue.

The car is in front of the bus.

The bus is stopped. The car is stopped.

The bus is in the middle lane. The car is in the middle lane.

It is stopped.

Cars drive past either side.

He looks down the aisle.

The car indicates. The car pulls left.

The car drives to the grass.

He shouts. He shouts down the aisle.

They look at him.

The jacket is plastic. The plastic is blue.
He looks at the faces. They look.
He looks out. She gets out. She stands. She closes the door.
She looks at the bus. She stands by the car.
It is bright.
He walks up the stairs. He looks down the aisle. He looks up
the aisle. He asks.
They look at him.
He looks at the faces.
Cars drive past.
There is the heat.
He sweats. The jacket is blue.
The handrail shines.
The steps curve. The steps are narrow.
He looks out.
It is bright. The car is blue. She stands by it. She looks at the
bus.
He sits. He starts. He looks the mirrors.
The bus indicates. The bus pulls across. He looks the mir-
rors. The bus drives to the grass. The bus drives to behind the
car.
It is hot.
The trousers are black. The jacket is black. She looks at the
watch.
The grass is green.
He walks up the aisle. He stops by people. He speaks. He
writes.
There is the line of white on the sky.
There is the line of white on the sky.
She opens the door. The door is blue. She leans. She opens
the flap. She takes them out.
They queue. They queue off the bus.
It is bright. The sunglasses are black.
They get off.
He sweats. He waits.
Cars pass on the right.
They get off. They walk.
He sweats.
She looks at watch.
He gets off. She looks at phone. He pulls the lever. The
doors close. She dials.

The bus is behind the car.
The car is in front of the bus.
The bus is red.
The car is blue.
It is hot. It is bright.
The people walk to the bus-stop.
She talks. She talks into the phone.
He waits.

kettle steam

white click

white light

water pour

white

mug

coffee smell

kettle

door fridge white

carton

green white

white

white milk

coffee browns

carton

green white

fridge shelf

door

shut

white

stir

spoon sink

door

door

white

white light

light switch

white light room

chair

light falling

slants crack

sit

mug

taste wet

again

taste

wet

again

floor

foil green white shine

green flap packet

open to white

white falling

white paper

white paper open

rectangle white

crease

white

shines yellow on edge

foil

shine green yellow

open

brown

from foil

brown tangle

to paper

paper white

warmth

brown tangle

crease white centre

brown on paper

pull

pull out

pull along

holding

pull

along crease

down foil

packet floor

paper fold roll

roll

roll

white roll brown

roll

tuck

tuck in

edge under

roll

and fold

lift

lick yellow shine

light falling

white tube brown ends

lean

brown ends pull out

drop

ashtray

glass grey ash

ends

mug

coffee taste

again

mug floor

lighter blue

curtain crack beam

ceiling light white

cylinder white

tip to lips

hold

lighter

press

lights

orange fire

orange fire to white tip

catches

catch red

red

suck

The wall is all windows. The sun shines in.

He sits. There are eight tables.

The book is on the table. The book is open. The sheets are white. The sheets are on the table. He writes on the sheet. The coat is blue and he leans over.

It is hot. The light shines in.

He writes. He looks at the book.

There is a shout. He looks up. He looks at the light. He looks behind.

There is a shout. He looks at the door. The door is open.
There is the corridor.

The sun is through the window. The sun is on the table. The sun is on the paper. The sun is on the book.

The shout is again. The paint peels above the door. He looks at the book in sun.

They shout. They shout. They laugh and he smiles.

He sweats.

The pen is black. The book is open. He puts the pen in the spine. The letters are black and on the white. The pen is in light on the pages.

He looks back. He stands. The chair scrapes.

The coat is blue. He walks to the door.

The paint peels. The paint is white.

It is hot.

He crosses the corridor. He stands in a doorway.

The chair is plastic and the man is in it. The hair is round him. The chairs are plastic and the men are in them. They watch her cutting.

The hair is on the floor.

suck

suck in

suck in

hold

hold

eyes closed

out

suck in

hold

hold

warmth

heat sweat

out

smoke grey

smoke turn in light beam

sun

crack

coffee taste

wet

swallow warm

suck in

warmth

out

smoke curl

suck in

out

smoke turn in beam of sun

smoke

coffee

warmth sun

smoke

coffee

smoking

coffee

bend

paper folds

bends in

stub out grey ash glass

ash on fingers

trousers wipe

grey

swallow coffee

coffee end

to stand

unbutton

unzip

down

step out

throw bed

smoke curls light

warmth

white buttons shirt

unbutton

shirt blue

pull down arms

to bed

naked

warmth

chair

back

towel

flowers white big green patterned orange

wrap waist

wardrobe

light crack

shelf soap

toothbrush toothpaste

wardrobe close

door

out

left

into kitchen

lino

red

cross

door bathroom

blue carpet

white walls

lock steel bolt silver shine

small

brown net

sink

steel taps stained

put down soap

toothpaste left right thumb open top

toothbrush right

squeeze

cold water

mint

brush

brush

sound water

brushing

spit

brush

spit

rinse toothbrush

down toothbrush

hands

cup

water

mouth

rinse

spit

again rinse

spit

tap turn stop

left

bath white stained brown

plughole

tap hot

turn

steel shower over jolts

water

water falling

falls shining

sunlight through brown net

noise with water hitting down

water

noise

room

water falling

It hops. The foot is gone.
It hops round feet.

water falling

noise

water

falling hitting bath

undo towel

to sink

bath

touch

water hot

cold

cold tap

wait naked

warm

touch

test

cold tap

touch

step over

step in

to cold splashing

wet water

across naked

wet

warmer

wet

running

running wet

curtain plastic pull

blue stripes white

turn face water

shower

splashing

chest

splashing down

to curtain

turn

pull back

lean

sink

soap back

curtain pull

turn

back to water water falling warm back

soap

soap chest

bubbles white

soap arms

under arms

to side

left foot bath edge

soap foot

toes

balancing

leg

thigh

crotch

down foot

right foot bath edge

soap foot

toes

balancing

soap leg

thigh

crotch

white bubbles

water

falling sliding

heat

turn

face shower

head tip back

from falling water

soap shoulders

back

buttocks

soap arms

water

falling

stains bath white

bubbles falling

sunlight warm

window glaze

curtain net brown

sun

soap down

take shower

rinse chest

crotch

shoulders rinse

back

falling

legs feet

rinsing

bubbles

taps off

replace shower

right hand wipe left arm

left hand wipe right arm

wet drop

skin

sunlight

goose pimples

curtain pull

rattle

blue white stripes stained

step out

carpet blue

sink

towel

dry

dry face

goose pimples

dry chest

hands

arms

shoulders

left foot bath edge

dry foot

between toes

pull cloth

leg

thigh

crotch

right foot bath edge

toes

foot

between pull cloth

leg thigh

crotch

stand

right hand hang towel right shoulder

left hand behind back

towel

dry back

dry buttocks

sunlight

wrap towel

sink

toothbrush

toothpaste

bath

soap

to door

steel bolt back slot out red lino

kitchen cross out corridor

door open right room

door close

sun breaking

sun breaking curtains crack

bar of light

dust

It opens. The dog is looking up.

He jumps. He jumps up.

She bends. She calls his name. She smiles and she bends and the tail wags. He whimpers. She pushes the door more open. The sun opens onto the floor.

He wags. She steps up. He jumps up. She steps in. She calls his name and he jumps. He jumps against the skirt. She calls the name.

She sweats.

She puts the bag on the floor. She puts the bag on the floor by the wall.

He wags. He whimpers. She is talking smiling.

She pushes the door back. She walks in. She walks into the hall more.

He jumps up. The paws are on the skirt. She bends.

She strokes. The door swings. She turns. She looks up. She pushes the door. The door shuts.

She turns. She bends again. The dog jumps. The paws are on the skirt.

She kneels. She catches him. He is up on the back legs. He whimpers. The tongue licks the face. The tail wags. She smiles. She calls the name. The tongue is pink.

She ruffles the fur. The fur is white. He licks. She speaks. She speaks to him.

The sun shines through the colours of the glass in the door onto the carpet.

She stands.

She looks back at the letters.

The letters are on the carpet. The paws are on the skirt. The colours are on the carpet. The colours are on the letters. The hairs are on the skirt.

He jumps. She bends. She speaks. She ruffles the fur.

She turns. She looks at the letters.

She bends. He jumps. She picks them up.

The dog jumps against the skirt. He barks.

She looks at the letters.

The phone is on the table. The chair is beside.

He barks. He jumps. The hair is on the skirt.

She turns. She sits. She pulls it open.

The sun comes through in colours.

The two front paws rest on the knees.

She reads.

The eyes watch the face.

through dust in light

soap

tooth brush

toothpaste

dust table

bar of light

undo towel

naked

warmth

dry

towel white rough

green and orange

dry arms

under arms

neck

back

chest

foot bed

thigh

crotch

leg

other foot bed

dry foot toes

rough cloth

leg thigh

buttocks

stand

towel bed

trousers bed black

down

right foot slide in

pull up

left foot slide in

pull up

pull up

pull up zip

button

wardrobe

door open

shirt green

buttons white

hot

sweat

left arm in

right arm

pull

round

button buttons white

tuck in

bed sit

towel

feet dry

lean left

drawer

socks black two

lift foot right

sock

slide in

pull up

left

sock

slide in

pull

bar light cross carpet

dust

heat

to stand

to chair

bend under shoes black pull out

right foot shoe bend pull lace black tight tie

left foot bend sock black straighten

in shoe pull lace tie

stand

wipe hands green shirt

light cracks white yellow

to curtains hands pull

dust white light white white white light bright

curtain pull

white light fill brightness dust spin

street

light sky sun shine cars parked

light white

white falling

blue sky

light

falls fills

white light

falling

turn

bend

mug blue

to door

light off

left

red lino

kettle switch

cupboard

jar

drawer

spoon

unscrew lid

brown

blue mug

lid cupboard

close cupboard

spoon in mug

mug blue sideboard

light from sun through window

hot

steam

click

water pour brown into black

kettle down stirring black

fridge white door carton green white

coffee smell

mug blue steel spoon in black liquid

spoon pour milk black to brown

milk fridge shelf shut door

to mug stir

sink water cold

rinse spoon to side

rinse spoon

to side

drawer

drying cloth dry hands

cloth back hang from drawer

to mug lift

out right

into room

door behind close

chair

sip

sip wet hot

bend

papers

tobacco

roll

roll

lick

stick under

pull ends brown

to lips

lighter floor

flick

flick

flame

red catch

suck in

suck in

suck in

grey smoke out

light bar dust curl

light

grey curl

coffee sip hot

coffee

cigarette suck

suck in

out

smoke

light

sunlight from street

smoke

The men are in the front. The women are in the back. The cars are queued.

There is half an hour.

They talk. They look at the traffic. They look ahead. The light shines the cars.

He turns left. The other man holds the map. He tells him and they drive. They turn. They follow the streets.

Then right. They follow the map.

Then right.

It is the dual carriageway clear.

He turns onto it. He drives.

There are fifteen minutes.

There is the front. There are the trolleys.

They sweat. He stops. There is the sun.

They get out. One takes the trolley. He pushes it to the car.

The driver opens. He takes them out. He puts them on the trolley.

The engine is on. He slams.

The men shake. He and the women kiss.

As they kiss he turns. He pushes towards the doors.

The sky is blue. The car is blue.

The women turn.

The door is open. He gets in. He slams. He ducks his head to look and waves. The women wave.

The doors slide back. It is darker. It is cool.

He looks in the mirrors. He turns out looking.

He pushes to the desk. The women are behind. The woman is behind the desk. She smiles.

He speaks.

She takes the tickets. She looks at the tickets. She smiles.

The hat is blue.

The lipstick is red. The nail polish is red.

His hands are wet. He wipes these hands on the trousers. She hands the tickets back. He looks at her.

The women watch.

She smiles at him. She speaks. She points. She smiles.

They turn. He points. He speaks. She smiles. She nods her head.

He smiles. They smile.

The glass is wide. The glass is wide and the glass is tall. The glass is wide and the glass is tall and the sun shines in. The sun shines in on these people.

sun

smoke

light

smoke

smoke

coffee

fold dead end paper ash glass heat under finger crush

smoke curl sunlight

last coffee

lick lip

mug blue floor

up

to drawer

open

paper oblong notes coins round silver gold pocket

close drawer

to wardrobe

to table

dust

soap toothpaste toothbrush lift

wardrobe

soap toothpaste toothbrush shelf

bed

wipe hands towel

towel back chair

wardrobe

jacket black

pull off hanger steel

wire swings

sweat

left arm into jacket

reach round

right arm into jacket

straighten

close door wardrobe

to chair

kneel

green foil yellow

wrap end closed

papers

to pocket jacket left

lighter pocket jacket left

look round

door

keys in door keys from lock

door open

turn

look round

out

carpet dust hall

close door

key lock

turn lock door