



Running Upon the Wires: Poems

Kate Tempest

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“*Running Upon the Wires* is full body art, smack against love in all its stages, a battle to the finish—or the beginning—the epic struggle (and ecstasy) as only Kate Tempest could record.” —Bob Holman

From award-winning poet, novelist, playwright, rapper, and recording artist Kate Tempest, an unabashedly intimate poetry collection that confirms her as one of our most important poetic truth tellers.

My body was like a harp and her words and gestures were like fingers running upon the wires (James Joyce, *Dubliners*).

Award-winning writer, spoken-word star, and spellbinding performer Kate Tempest is as bold an observer of the human heart as she is of social and political change. Her raw and exhilarating new collection of poems throbs with love’s extremes: the end of one relationship, the budding of another, and what happens when the heart is pulled both ways at once.

Calling in its title upon the classical poet’s harp, the technological wires of communication, and the neural wires of feeling, Tempest’s electrifying new verse weaves interpersonal struggle into a cathartic and memorable work of art about joy and despair, confusion and clarity, self-destruction and revival. Explosively lyrical and pulsing with feeling, *Running Upon the Wires* is frayed yet powerful in its pain, determined to speak and find love in a human community of “terrifying beauty.”

Running Upon the Wires: Poems Details

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From Reader Review Running Upon the Wires: Poems for online ebook

Marina says

I honestly cannot rate this. I am a super fan of Kate Tempest's poetry and I love everything she touches, I'd tattoo Let Them it Chaos in its entirety on my face if it fit, honestly. This collection, though, this collection is something else. It's beautiful, the images are nitid and authentic, as one's come to expect from her, also deep-felt and modern. It's just more difficult to connect to, simply because they're very personal love poems. I liked all of them and some I will come back to many times in the future, I feel, but it just didn't make my heart swell the way her other poems did. And that's fine, it wasn't healthy, what LTIC did to my mind & body, I couldn't withstand it regularly.

Jess says

A poem collection from Kate Tempest. I have not read much poetry before but this year I have been introduced to Hollie McNish, Carol Anne Duffy and now Kate Tempest.

The subject is love and relationships. It is written in three parts, the breakdown of a relationship, the messy bit in the middle when you still mourning the person and everything is still so raw and the intensity of a new relationship.

Poignant words written with strength.

Quotes

But Every Soppy F***g Love Song.

Careful with the radio
All songs might be the straw.

That whips the camels broken back
And leaves you on the floor.

No matter that you've heard the song
Six thousand times before.

Kate says

I first became aware of this volume of poetry through a blog post by Chris Riddell, my favourite illustrator. He had created an illustration around the text of the first poem, "Awake all night thinking of you." Reading that first poem, it instantly struck a cord with me. This volume of work charts the breakup of one relationship, the blurring of another, and then the start of that new relationship. To reflect this, the volume starts with a section called "The End" and then finishes with "The Beginning."

I loved this poetry collection and you do not have to be a female, or a lesbian to find something that should resonate with you here. After all, love is an emotion that unites us all.

Kate Wyver says

Gently sad and full. She gets such an ache out of words.

(listened to audiobook, her voice and lilt are just too good to keep pinned to the page)

Maria says

"You know, it used to keep me up at night,
The lack of you"

Juliano says

Kate Tempest's latest work, a collection of poetry titled 'Running Upon The Wires', is published today and is an incredible output from an artist consistently working at the top of her game. Progressing from a breakup to the formation and continuation of new love, and beautifully/brutally covering the messy period in between, this is arguably the most personal work that Kate Tempest has released; there are no characters as in her previous works - and, unlike Let Them Eat Chaos, her previous long-poem/album, there is little in the way of synoptic political or social commentary. Instead Tempest writes (as corny as it sounds) from the heart as a place of love as well as passion, as a solitary human trying to make sense of the world around us by seeking out a connection with someone. My favourite poems are the breathlessly chaotic "Aftershowparty" (and especially the line 'Whole body ringing like cymbals') and the titular final poem, its sense of openness and resolution: 'You are not her. / This is not then.' Unashamedly queer and erotic, bold and celebratory of love and its excesses, this collection is further proof for any doubters that Kate Tempest is a poet par excellence.

??rika Kosciuszko says

Doposia? najosobnejšia, najintímnejšia zbierka poézie od Kate Tempest je vystavaná ako uzavretý kruh-za?ína rozpadom dlhoro?ného vz?ahu a kon?í zamilovaním sa. Medzi týmito dvoma brehmi je všetko ?o medzi ne patrí- momenty zúfalstva, promiskuita, váše?, romantické momenty.

Pre umocnenie dojmu si odporú?am pozrie? performance- resp. ?íta?ku celej zbierky autorkou (nájdete ?ahko na youtube).

Michael says

I've loved each of Kate Tempest's previous books of poetry, so I had high expectations for this, her newest

collection. Unfortunately, I found myself rather disappointed by her efforts this time ("efforts" sounds dismissive as I look at the word I've written, and I'm not inclined to change it).

Kate's subject matter this time is herself, the ending and aftermath of one relationship and the start of a new one from the ashes of the old. There are some nice turns of phrase, but too few. There are some poems that seem half-thought fragments of ideas scribbled on scraps of paper, discarded, then swept back together. It all seems a little self-indulgent, although it improves slightly towards the end.

I get a feeling of Kate having mined her emotions for material, rather than having expressed her emotions through the poems. (Yet she still speaks to me as "Kate" rather than "Tempest").

My rating of 2.5/5 stars rounded down rather than up for Goodreads, after some thought about which way to go. I'll let it sit for a while and come back to it later to see if anything's changed for me. At present, though, it feels like a misstep.

Pamela Scott says

<https://thebookloversboudoir.wordpress...>

I'm an uber fan of Kate Tempest and could not wait to listen to her latest poetry collection. Tempest is an amazing performer and I would prefer to listen to her rather than just read her words. Running upon the Wires was a treat. This is very different from her usual poetry because the poems are undeniably personal focusing on the end of a relationship and the aftermath while trying to tread softly in a developing one. Her other collections deal with gods and myths and legends so it was good to read something closer to home. I could listen to this over and over and never grow tired of the sound of her voice or the poems. Running upon the Wires is proof this woman is fearless.

Angela says

I'm a big fan of this multi talented writer and her new collection of love poems does not disappoint. I'd recommend listening to the podcast with her poetry editor, where they chat about the process of writing and editing this collection (Guardian Books podcast) as it gives some insight into the process. I will re-read and recommend this.

Molly says

Another absolute banger from Kate Tempest

Eloise Mcallister says

Enjoyable but nothing really stuck out for me

Chris Roberts says

The poetess is estranged from the reader,
simply by investing in a relentlessly, inconsequential form.

Love? love is tentative, predatory,
the heart must be given absent effusive embarrassments,
acts of intimacy exploratory
and displayed true love achingly.

Self-love, only and always, is first, last true-true love
leave this world, my love,
bedlam devotion, slice-to-the-bone-motion,
bleed out...lovely and silken...a prostrate sculpture.

#love #poetry

Chris Roberts, God of Face Shifting Wayfarers

Katie says

3.5 /5

“The whole world is a sick joke about how beautiful you are” – Kate Tempest, Running Upon the Wires

I adored Kate Tempest’s previous collections *Hold Your Own* and *Let Them Eat Chaos*, and they both hold very special places in my heart. Understandably, I was very excited to get my hands on her latest collection.

Running Upon the Wires shows us a different side to the poet, this collection is definitely her most raw and personal. The collection follows the breakdown of one relationship, the beginning of a new relationship and the messy period in between.

I enjoyed the structure of the book, the poems were grouped into three sections, starting with *‘The End’*, followed by *‘The Middle’* and ending with *‘The Beginning’*.

Some of my favourite poems were: *‘Keeping Busy’*, *‘Moving On, Crawling Back’*, *‘Heel’* and *‘Running Upon the Wires’*. Through her writing, we witness how complex, agonising, scary and ultimately how beautiful love can be. I noticed that I preferred the poems from *‘The End’*, as they were more passionate, powerful, longer and flowed better.

I had high hopes for this collection; unfortunately, I found it a bit of a letdown. I was less affected by this collection and struggled to connect with many of the poems, as they just felt too personal. I also found that the poems didn’t have the same passion, angst, rhythm and personality of her other poetry. Perhaps I would have enjoyed her poetry more if I had listened to them recited by Tempest herself.

I did enjoy *Running Upon the Wires*, however, I don't think it is as clever, powerful or memorable as her previous works.

Fiona says

I read this mostly in one bus journey from work while listening to a Marika Hackman, because it felt appropriate. The two seem pretty close together in the way they write about relationships especially as this book's about the breakdown of a relationship, the start of a new one and the messy part in the middle where the two overlap. It would actually have been more appropriate to listen to I'm Not Your Man to completely match up the two, as I listened to We Slept At Last instead and that's a slightly more impersonal album.

Anyway, back to this book. Given the subjects it covers in the poems it's clearly a pretty personal book. There's still the same humour there is in parts of Hold Your Own or Let Them Eat Chaos but less in the way of politics. I don't think she'd be able to completely avoid it in her work as it seems like such a big part of who she is and what she cares about so there is a hint of that too, even if it's just in the background. In all it covers a wide enough spectrum of experiences that even someone who hasn't had the same history in terms of relationships can still find something to relate to, even if it's just in the longing for someone and the complicated nature of some romantic relationships.

I'm sure this is the kind of book which I'll come back to and find more to connect with as I have new experiences. I'm looking forward to that already.
