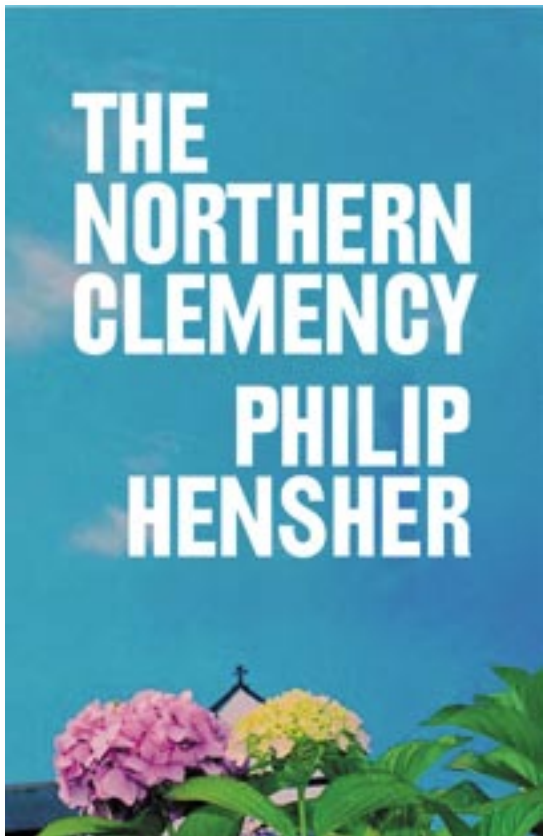




Reader's Guide



Other books by Philip Hensher

The Bedroom of the Mister's House

The Fit

Kitchen Venom

The Mulberry Empire

Other Lulus

Pleased

The Northern Clemency by Philip Hensher

Published by Fourth Estate

Hardback RRP £17.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

About the author

Philip Hensher is a columnist for *The Independent*, Chief Book Reviewer for *The Spectator* and a Granta Best of Young British novelist. His previous novel *Kitchen Venom* won the Somerset Maughan Award and *Pleased* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

The Northern Clemency

Set in Sheffield, *The Northern Clemency* charts the relationship between two families: Malcolm and Katherine Glover and their three children; and their neighbours the Sellers family, newly arrived from London.

Philip Hensher has created a deeply moving portrait of Britain's social landscape through the Thatcher era and *The Northern Clemency* shows him to be one of the greatest chroniclers of English life.

Discussion points

Why do you think the author chose to call this novel *The Northern Clemency*?

Authors often use historical events, speech or fashions to place a novel in a particular decade or era, but how does the reader know from the opening scenes that *The Northern Clemency* is set in the 1970s?

Is *The Northern Clemency* a political novel? Why do you think socio-political events of the time aren't included, such as cheap public transport and the creation of a nuclear free zone?

In the early stages of the book Philip Hensher gives few physical descriptions of the characters, what impact does this have on the reader?

The ending of *The Northern Clemency* has been described as 'frustrating', do you agree?

Themed reading

War and Peace Leo Tolstoy

Once Upon a Time in England Helen Walsh

Something to tell You Hanif Kureishi

Useful links

www.themanbookerprize.com

www.harpercollins.co.uk

www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth47