

Simon Armitage



Simon Armitage was born in West Yorkshire, England, where he still lives. He received a BA from Portsmouth University in geography, and an MS in social work from Manchester University, where he studied the impact of televised violence on young offenders. He worked as a probation officer for six years before focusing on poetry. His formally assured, often darkly comic poetry is influenced by the work of Ted Hughes, W.H. Auden, and Philip Larkin and by music, a connection he pursues in his nonfiction book *Gig* (2008). Armitage has also performed as a member of the band The Scaremongers.