

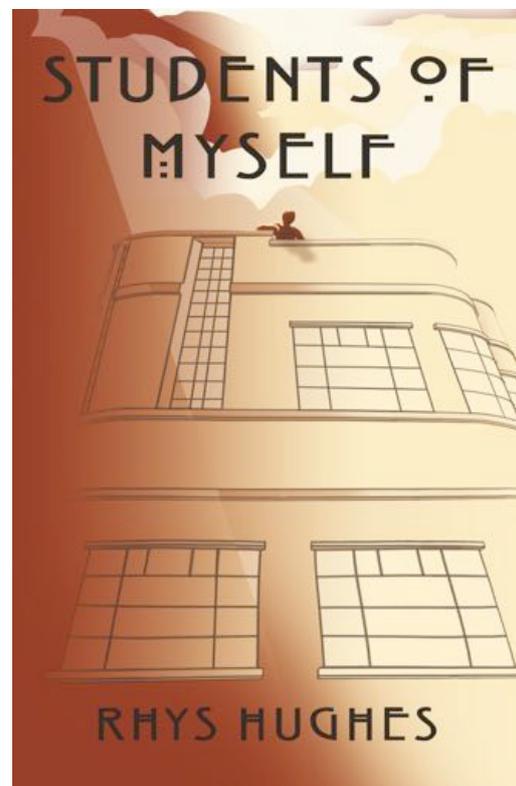


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There are few students in my class. When one considers what the subject is, this isn't surprising. I teach myself.

In other words, I impart to my students facts and fancies based on my life and ideas. It's the least popular class in the university and I doubt it will be funded for another term. But none of that is my fault. I wanted to teach a proper discipline such as ecology, but the authorities wouldn't let me. They insisted that I teach myself; and as a result, I do so.

The students are given an assignment. They each have to write a short piece about how I spend my free time. But this is information I've always kept secret. I can't imagine how they're expected to know anything about my private life, certainly not in detail.

Clearly I'm being spied on. Unless it's guesswork?

I read the essays anxiously.

Yes, only some of them have got it right...

Visit bit.ly/StudentsOfMyself

Rhys Hughes was born in Wales but has lived in many countries in Europe and Africa. He graduated as an engineer but currently works as a tutor of mathematics. University life has been good to him and his experiences in no way resemble those of the narrator of *Students of Myself*. In his spare time he keeps writing. He is nearing the end of a thirty-year project to write exactly one thousand linked short stories. He has also written plays, poems, articles and puzzles for a variety of international publications, and his work has been translated into ten languages.

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