

## Amsterdam Ian Mcewan

The Child in Time Music and Sexuality in Ian McEwan's Amsterdam Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida The Fiction of Ian McEwan On Chesil Beach The Unsaintly My Purple Scented Novel Vanity of Vanities Wolf Hall Nutshell Machines Like Me Atonement Orpheus Girl The Innocent Amsterdam Middle C Amsterdam In Between the Sheets Amsterdam Condensed The Imitation Game and Other Plays Black Dogs Divorcing Enduring Love Little Hometown, America Amsterdam Ian McEwan Bestsellers The Daydreamer The Stranger's Child The Children Act The Scorpion God Amsterdam The Idea That Is America The Comfort of Strangers Saturday Solar The New America The Cockroach First Love, Last Rites A Time to Love in Tehran Ian McEwan

### The Child in Time

In one of the most striking opening scenes ever written, a bizarre ballooning accident and a chance meeting give birth to an obsession so powerful that an ordinary man is driven to the brink of madness and murder by another's delusions. Ian McEwan brings us an unforgettable story—dark, gripping, and brilliantly crafted—of how life can change in an instant.

### Music and Sexuality in Ian McEwan's Amsterdam

A jewel of a short story from the author of *Atonement* and *Nutshell*—“My Purple Scented Novel” follows the perfect crime of literary betrayal, scrupulously wrought yet unscrupulously executed. Published to celebrate Ian McEwan’s 70th birthday. “You will have heard of my friend the once celebrated novelist Jocelyn Tarbet, but I suspect his memory is beginning to fade. . . . You’d never heard of me, the once obscure novelist Parker Sparrow, until my name was publicly connected with his. To a knowing few, our names remain rigidly attached, like the two ends of a seesaw. His rise coincided with, though did not cause, my decline. . . . I don’t deny there was wrongdoing. I stole a life, and I don’t intend to give it back. You may treat these few pages as a confession.”

### Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida

A delightful literary foray for adults and children alike, from the inexhaustible imagination of Booker Prize-winning, best-selling author Ian McEwan. In these seven exquisitely interlinked episodes, the grown-up protagonist Peter Fortune reveals the secret journeys, metamorphoses, and adventures of his childhood. Living somewhere between dream and reality, Peter experiences fantastical transformations: he swaps bodies with the wise old family cat; exchanges existences with a cranky

infant; encounters a very bad doll who has come to life and is out for revenge; and rummages through a kitchen drawer filled with useless objects to discover some not-so-useless cream that actually makes people vanish. Finally, he wakes up as an eleven-year-old inside a grown-up body and embarks on the truly fantastic adventure of falling in love. Moving, dreamlike, and extraordinary, *The Daydreamer* marks yet another imaginative departure for Ian McEwan.

### **The Fiction of Ian McEwan**

A best-selling work of wit from the Booker Prize-winning author, *Solar* brilliantly traces the arc of a Nobel Prize-winning physicist's ambitions and self-deception. Dr. Michael Beard's best work is behind him. Trading on his reputation, he speaks for enormous fees, lends his name to the letterheads of renowned scientific institutions, and halfheartedly heads a government-backed initiative tackling global warming. Meanwhile, Michael's fifth marriage is floundering due to his incessant womanizing. When his professional and personal worlds collide in a freak accident, an opportunity presents itself for Michael to extricate himself from his marital problems, reinvigorate his career, and save the world from environmental disaster. But can a man who has made a mess of his life clean up the messes of humanity?

### **On Chesil Beach**

From the reign of the Tsars in the early 19th century to the collapse of the Soviet Union and beyond, the short story has long occupied a central place in Russian culture. Included are pieces from many of the acknowledged masters of Russian literature - including Pushkin, Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Solzhenitsyn - alongside tales by long-suppressed figures such as the subversive Kryzhanowsky and the surrealist Shalamov. Whether written in reaction to the cruelty of the bourgeoisie, the bureaucracy of communism or the torture of the prison camps, they offer a wonderfully wide-ranging and exciting representation of one of the most vital and enduring forms of Russian literature.

### **The Unsaintly**

Darkly brilliant short fiction by the New York Times-bestselling, Booker Prize-winning author of *Machines Like Me* and *Atonement*. A two-timing pornographer becomes the unwilling object in the fantasies of one of his victims. A jaded millionaire buys himself the perfect mistress and plunges into a hell of jealousy and despair. Over the course of a weekend, a guilt-ridden father with his teenage daughter discovers the depths of his own blundering innocence. Whether these are the written transcripts of dreams or deadly accurate maps of the tremor zones of our psyche, all seven stories in this collection implicate us in the most fearful ways imaginable. "His stories are complex and his prose, like Orwell's, is as clear as windowpane... McEwan's comic edge gives these stories a moral force. They are not meant simply to shock and horrify

middle-class readers. Rather, like all good satire, they seek to unmask hypocrisy and cruelty.”—The Washington Post Book World

## **My Purple Scented Novel**

A National and International Bestseller A Globe and Mail Notable Book of 1998 On a chilly February day two old friends meet in the throng outside a crematorium to pay their last respects to Molly Lane. Both Clive Linley and Vernon Halliday had been Molly's lovers in the days before they reached their current eminence — Clive as Britain's most successful modern composer, Vernon as editor of the broadsheet *The Judge*. But gorgeous, feisty Molly had other lovers too, notably Julian Garmony, the Foreign Secretary, a notorious right-winger poised to be the next prime minister. What happens in the aftermath of her funeral has a profound and shocking effect on all her lovers' lives, and erupts in the most purely enjoyable fiction Ian McEwan has ever written.

## **Vanity of Vanities**

What values does America truly stand for? In *The Idea That Is America*, a preeminent foreign policy scholar elegantly reminds us of the essential principles on which our nation was established: liberty, democracy, equality, tolerance, faith, justice, and humility. Our ongoing struggle to live up to America's great promise matters not only to us, but also to the billions of people everywhere who look to the United States to lead, protect, and inspire the world. In *The Idea That Is America*, Anne-Marie Slaughter shows us the way forward.

## **Wolf Hall**

These three bestselling novels by the Booker Award-winning author explore the dark sides of love, family and sexuality. *The Child in Time* On a routine Saturday morning trip to the supermarket, a father's brief moment of distraction turns his life upside down when his daughter is kidnapped. His spiral of guilt and bereavement has effects on his marriage, his psyche—and time itself. *The Cement Garden* When their mother suddenly dies, four siblings hide her body in the basement to prevent others from discovering her death and placing them in foster care. But their dark secret sets them on a path of isolation and boundary-crossing intimacy. *The Comfort of Strangers* Colin and Mary are vacationing in Venice in hopes of reigniting their relationship. But after losing their way in the winding streets, their acquaintance with another couple takes turns that are likewise erotic and violent in nature.

## **Nutshell**

Now a Major Motion Picture starring Emma Thompson, Stanley Tucci, and Fionn Whitehead. One of the Best Books of the Year: The Washington Post, NPR, Vogue, BookRiot Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge who presides over cases in the family division. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude, and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: Adam, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, is refusing for religious reasons the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents echo his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely expressed faith? In the course of reaching a decision, Fiona visits Adam in the hospital—an encounter that stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

## **Machines Like Me**

The Booker Prize-winning contemporary morality tale—cleverly disguised as a comic novel—from the acclaimed author of *Atonement*. On a chilly February day, two old friends meet in the throng outside a London crematorium to pay their last respects to Molly Lane. Both Clive Linley and Vernon Halliday had been Molly's lovers in the days before they reached their current eminence: Clive is Britain's most successful modern composer, and Vernon is a newspaper editor. Gorgeous, feisty Molly had other lovers, too, notably Julian Garmony, Foreign Secretary, a notorious right-winger tipped to be the next prime minister. In the days that follow Molly's funeral, Clive and Vernon will make a pact with consequences that neither could have foreseen...

## **Atonement**

Now back in print for the first time since 1969, a stunning novel about childhood, marriage, and divorce by one of the most interesting minds of the twentieth century. Dream and reality overlap in *Divorcing*, a book in which divorce is not just a question of a broken marriage but names a rift that runs right through the inner and outer worlds of Sophie Blind, its brilliant but desperate protagonist. Can the rift be mended? Perhaps in the form of a novel, one that goes back from present-day New York to Sophie's childhood in pre-World War II Budapest, that revisits the divorce between her Freudian father and her fickle mother, and finds a place for a host of further tensions and contradictions in her present life. The question that haunts *Divorcing*, however, is whether any novel can be fleet and bitter and true and light enough to gather up all the darkness of a given life. Susan Taubes's startlingly original novel was published in 1969 but largely ignored at the time; after the author's tragic early death, it was forgotten. Its republication presents a chance to discover a splintered, glancing, caustic, and lyrical work by a dazzlingly intense and inventive writer.

## Orpheus Girl

New from Ian McEwan, Booker Prize winner and international bestselling author of *Atonement* and *The Children Act* *Machines Like Me* takes place in an alternative 1980s London. Charlie, drifting through life and dodging full-time employment, is in love with Miranda, a bright student who lives with a terrible secret. When Charlie comes into money, he buys Adam, one of the first synthetic humans and—with Miranda's help—he designs Adam's personality. The near-perfect human that emerges is beautiful, strong, and clever. It isn't long before a love triangle soon forms, and these three beings confront a profound moral dilemma. In his subversive new novel, Ian McEwan asks whether a machine can understand the human heart—or whether we are the ones who lack understanding.

## The Innocent

A twisted relationship between two couples reaches a terrible climax in this novel by the New York Times-bestselling author of *Machines Like Me*. Colin and Mary are lovers on holiday in Italy, their relationship becoming increasingly problematic as they become increasingly alienated from one and other. They move from place to place in this foreign land but seemingly without aim or purpose, seemingly bored and without attachment. Then they meet a man named Robert and his disabled wife, Caroline. Colin and Mary seem happy for the diversion—happy to meet another couple that takes their focus off of each other for a while. But things become strange when they attempt to leave: Robert and Caroline insist that they stay with them for a while longer. While Mary and Colin do rediscover an erotic attraction to each other during this time, they also find that their relationship with Robert and Caroline is taking a dreadful and horrific turn, in this “fine novel” by the Booker Prize-winning author of *Saturday* and *On Chesil Beach* (New Statesman). “McEwan perfectly captures the thrill of travel when one is divorced from familiar surroundings and the chance of something unusual and out-of-character seems possible. Of course, this being a McEwan fiction, the possibility is a brutal truth about how people find love in extreme ways.”—The Daily Beast

## Amsterdam

## Middle C

\*\*\*WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE\*\*\* Two old friends - Cline Linley and Vernon Halliday - meet at the funeral of gorgeous, witty Molly Lane. Both men had been Molly's lovers years before their dazzling success; Clive is Britain's most eminent modern composer and Vernon is the editor of the respected broadsheet, *The Judge*. In the weeks that follow, Clive and

Vernon's lives become bound together in ways neither could have imagined. Two dubious moral decisions and a pact made in extremis lead them both to the heart of Amsterdam.

### **Amsterdam**

Set in late 1980s Europe at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, *Black Dogs* is the intimate story of the crumbling of Bernard and June Tremaine's marriage, as witnessed by their son-in-law, Jeremy, who seeks to comprehend how their deep love could be defeated by ideological differences that seem irreconcilable. In writing June's memoirs, Jeremy is led back to a moment, that was, for June, as devastating and irreversible in its consequences as the changes sweeping Europe in Jeremy's own time. Ian McEwan weaves the sinister reality of civilization's darkest moods — its black dogs — with the tensions that both create love and destroy it.

### **In Between the Sheets**

### **Amsterdam Condensed**

New from the bestselling author of *Atonement* and *The Children Act* Trudy has betrayed her husband, John. She's still in the marital home—a dilapidated, priceless London townhouse—but John's not there. Instead, she's with his brother, the profoundly banal Claude, and the two of them have a plan. But there is a witness to their plot: the inquisitive, nine-month-old resident of Trudy's womb. Told from a perspective unlike any other, *Nutshell* is a classic tale of murder and deceit from one of the world's master storytellers.

### **The Imitation Game and Other Plays**

*The Stranger's Child* is Alan Hollinghurst's masterpiece, the book that cements his position as one of the finest novelists of our time. In its scope, intelligence and elegance. Sixteen-year-old Daphne Sawle is reading Tennyson in a hammock in the garden of Two Acres, the family home in suburban London. Her brother George arrives to visit with his Cambridge friend Cecil Valance, a handsome, assured and sometimes outrageous young man with a burgeoning reputation as a poet. After a tantalizing and dramatic weekend Cecil writes a long poem in Daphne's autograph album as a parting gift. It is titled "Two Acres," and both Daphne and George (whose feelings for Cecil also go well beyond mere friendship) immediately see how important the poem is - but none of them can foresee the complex and lasting effects it will have on all their lives. When the next section of the novel begins, everything has changed: Daphne is married to Cecil's brother Dudley Valance; George

to a historian named Madeleine; and Cecil is dead, killed by a sniper in World War One. A Cabinet officer and man of letters named Sebastian Stokes is compiling an edition of Cecil's poems. He is especially curious about Cecil's personal (and passionate) letters and unpublished poems, papers that seem to have gone missing. The book leaps forward to a party to celebrate Daphne's seventieth birthday. We meet Peter Rowe, a music teacher, and his boyfriend, Paul Bryant, a bank employee with a feeling for Cecil's poetry. Soon Paul is taking up an idea that Peter abandoned: to write a biography of Cecil Valance. It means making some startling discoveries about a past that the Valance family would prefer to keep in sepia and shadows. *The Stranger's Child* is that rare thing, a historical novel whose characters, in their passions and betrayals, constantly surprise the reader, and will surely be read for generations to come.

## **Black Dogs**

From the Booker Prize winning author of *Amsterdam*, a brilliant new novel. On the hottest day of the summer of 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis sees her sister Cecilia strip off her clothes and plunge into the fountain in the garden of their country house. Watching her is Robbie Turner, son of the Tallis's cleaning lady, whose education has been subsidized by Cecilia's and Briony's father, and who, like Cecilia, has recently come down from Cambridge. By day's end, their lives will be changed – irrevocably. Robbie and Cecilia will have crossed a boundary they had not imagined at its start. And Briony will have witnessed mysteries, seen an unspeakable word, and committed a crime for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone... Brilliant and utterly enthralling in its depiction of love and war and class and childhood and England, *An Atonement* is a profound – and profoundly moving – exploration of shame and forgiveness, of atonement and of the possibility of absolution.

## **Divorcing**

From the pen of a master — the #1 bestselling, Booker Prize-winning author of *Atonement* — comes an astonishing novel that captures the fine balance of happiness and the unforeseen threats that can destroy it. A brilliant, thrilling page-turner that will keep readers on the edge of their seats. *Saturday* is a masterful novel set within a single day in February 2003. Henry Perowne is a contented man — a successful neurosurgeon, happily married to a newspaper lawyer, and enjoying good relations with his children. Henry wakes to the comfort of his large home in central London on this, his day off. He is as at ease here as he is in the operating room. Outside the hospital, the world is not so easy or predictable. There is an impending war against Iraq, and a general darkening and gathering pessimism since the New York and Washington attacks two years before. On this particular Saturday morning, Perowne's day moves through the ordinary to the extraordinary. After an unusual sighting in the early morning sky, he makes his way to his regular squash game with his anaesthetist, trying to avoid the hundreds of thousands of marchers filling the streets of London, protesting against the war. A minor

accident in his car brings him into a confrontation with a small-time thug. To Perowne's professional eye, something appears to be profoundly wrong with this young man, who in turn believes the surgeon has humiliated him — with savage consequences that will lead Henry Perowne to deploy all his skills to keep his family alive.

### **Enduring Love**

This book is an inquiry with God regarding some tough questions we humans have been reluctant to ask. It comes out of a background in which the author has had his job threatened and his integrity as a Christian doubted because of questions he has asked regarding what both religion and society have told him is true. The author believes that we still live in the dark ages of relationships because we have been afraid to ask those questions that, had we asked and found answers to them, could have delivered us from the kind of suspicion, distrust and hatred that permeates life around the world. The author calls into question the very purpose of some religions because they have often placed shackles on the best resource God has given us, which is none other than our magnificent brains. Some religious leaders claim to know everything humans will ever need to know, and, therefore, require their followers to accept without question what they tell them to believe. This claim is nothing other than an attempt to play God, for it is only God who knows all there is to know. By limiting ourselves to knowledge given in the past, we have no chance to discover truth that continues to evolve in many different areas of life. The intention of this book is to help us realize that it is okay to ask God some tough questions, and that it is through asking about things we do not yet understand that life will become more meaningful, not only for us, but for those with whom we live.

### **Little Hometown, America**

A love story for the ages. In 1974, CIA Officer John Lockwood falls in love with Leila Bakr in the years leading up to the Iranian revolution.

### **Amsterdam**

When U.S. Historian John Abbott moves to modern day Vietnam, he is emotionally torn between his past and his future. In 1969 his father went missing in Vietnam, but not before fathering a son with a local woman named Chi. Mỹ Linh, Abbott's girlfriend and Vietnamese national, accidentally uncovers the forty-year-old secret claiming to have found Abbott's lost step-brother, Nguyen, and possibly providing Abbott hope of once again having a family to call his own. They both decide to track down Nguyen and discover he has a family, including a daughter named Phuong. Meanwhile, Mỹ Linh is pregnant with twins and Abbott is confronted with the fortieth anniversary of his grandfather's death that he witnessed tragically. Only his

best friend, Maddox, seems to have an explanation for the turmoil Abbott faces and acts like a beacon of light for the lost soul. When Maddox is found dead in a hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia he leaves Abbott with a coded message, leading him to the Angkor temples and to the possibility of a long undiscovered treasure. Abbott and Danielle, a secret companion to the American, are accidentally found in a plot of murder and betrayal that could cost them their lives, if not the temple's fortune. The mystery becomes deeper as Abbott enters the forgotten sanctuary of the temple and encounters a supernatural force ready to end the fate of mankind once and for all. *Vanity of Vanities* is a story filled with romance and heartache while revolving within a richly historical and modern account of Texas and Vietnam. Life often takes daunting and surprising paths with the power of fate guiding true love through an unforgettable story in a strange new land hidden behind a veil of ancient and modern mystery.

### **Ian McEwan Bestsellers**

The setting is Berlin. Into this divided city, wrenched between East and West, between past and present; comes twenty-five-year-old Leonard Marnham, assigned to a British-American surveillance team. Though only a pawn in an international plot that is never fully revealed to him, Leonard uses his secret work to escape the bonds of his ordinary life -- and to lose his unwanted innocence. The promise of his new life begins to be fulfilled as Leonard becomes a crucial part of the surveillance team, while simultaneously being initiated into a new world of love and sex by Maria, a beautiful young German woman. It is a promise that turns to horror in the course of one terrible evening -- a night when Leonard Marnham learns just how much of his innocence he's willing to shed.

### **The Daydreamer**

Kafka meets the world of Brexit in a biting funny political satire from Ian McEwan That morning, Jim Sams, clever but by no means profound, woke from uneasy dreams to find himself transformed into a gigantic creature. Jim Sams has undergone a metamorphosis. In his previous six-legged existence he was ignored or loathed, but in his new incarnation he has woken up to discover he is the most powerful man in Britain: the Prime Minister. His mission: a nationalist revival, with or without Europe. Nothing must get in his way: not the opposition, nor the dissenters within his own party. Not even the rules of parliamentary democracy. In this biting funny, Kafkaesque satire, Ian McEwan engages with scabrous humour a very recognizable political world and turns it on its head.

### **The Stranger's Child**

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE The #1 bestselling author of *Saturday* and *Atonement* brilliantly illuminates the collision of

sexual longing, deep-seated fears and romantic fantasy in his unforgettable, emotionally engaging novel. The year is 1962. Florence, the daughter of a successful businessman and an aloof Oxford academic, is a talented violinist. She dreams of a career on the concert stage and of the perfect life she will create with Edward, the earnest young history student she met by chance and who unexpectedly wooed her and won her heart. Edward grew up in the country on the outskirts of Oxford where his father, the headmaster of the local school, struggled to keep the household together and his mother, brain-damaged from an accident, drifted in a world of her own. Edward's native intelligence, coupled with a longing to experience the excitement and intellectual fervour of the city, had taken him to University College in London. Falling in love with the accomplished, shy and sensitive Florence--and having his affections returned with equal intensity--has utterly changed his life. Their marriage, they believe, will bring them happiness, the confidence and the freedom to fulfill their true destinies. The glowing promise of the future, however, cannot totally mask their worries about the wedding night. Edward, who has had little experience with women, frets about his sexual prowess. Florence's anxieties run deeper: she is overcome by conflicting emotions and a fear of the moment she will surrender herself. From the precise and intimate depiction of two young lovers eager to rise above the hurts and confusion of the past, to the touching story of how their unexpressed misunderstandings and fears shape the rest of their lives, *On Chesil Beach* is an extraordinary novel that brilliantly, movingly shows us how the entire course of a life can be changed--by a gesture not made or a word not spoken.

### **The Children Act**

An epic story of growing up in 1980s America. *Little Hometown, America* is an American realist novel that chronicles a cast of characters living in Texas creating dramatic encounters between modern life and mythology. While exploring a harsh but beautiful reality in a historical setting of small-town America, the narrative of *Little Hometown, America* shows the intricate details of multiple characters in their unique journeys dealing with love, death, family, despair, spirituality and friendship. The forty-year adventure of angst and alienation describes the superficiality of society and tells of what it's like for one white-American, multi-generational Texan struggling as a boy, born crippled and poor, to become what some critics call an "everyman," (the L.A. culture critic Mary McNamara described the typical American "everyman" as being "male, white, Christian, physically able, mentally stable, financially sound and essentially kind,") all the while dealing with poverty and its shame, unexpected deaths of close friends and family, and the challenge to love while trying to make an honest living from writing. Evoking suffering misfortunes and arousing sympathy, the novel *Little Hometown, America* reveals a saga based on true events of a boy growing up in a small Texas town in the 1980s and the man he will one day become to travel the world, which will lead to a self-awakening and fantastical end, like Holden Caulfield, in New York's Central Park.

### **The Scorpion God**

Somerset Maugham Award winner: Dark early fiction by the author of *Nutshell*—“a splendid magician of fear” (*Village Voice Literary Supplement*). Taut, brooding, and densely atmospheric, the stories here show us how murder can arise out of boredom, perversity from adolescent curiosity—and how sheer evil can become the solution to unbearable loneliness. These short fiction pieces from the early career of the *New York Times*-bestselling and Man Booker Prize-winning author of *Atonement* and *On Chesil Beach* are claustrophobic tales of childhood, twisted psychology, and disjointed family life as terrifying as anything by Stephen King—and finely crafted with a lyricism and an intensity that compels us to confront our secret kinship with what repels us. “A powerful talent that is both weird and wonderful.” —*The Boston Sunday Globe* “Ian McEwan’s fictional world combin[es] the bleak, dreamlike quality of de Chirico’s city-scapes with the strange eroticism of canvases by Balthus. Menace lies crouched between the lines of his neat, angular prose, and weird, grisly things occur in his books with nearly casual aplomb.” —*The New York Times*

### **Amsterdam**

Joseph Skizzen's family fled from Austria in 1938 to London where his father disappeared, he and his family then relocated to small town Ohio and Joseph grows up to be a decent piano player with a deeply fractured sense of identity.

### **The Idea That Is America**

Ian McEwan's work is paradigmatic for the intricate relationship between art and politics in British fiction. Whereas his early work is more concerned with the family and its perversions, there is a definite politicization after 'The Comfort of Strangers' (1981). The years between McEwan's Venetian novel and 'The Child in Time' (1987) was a period of gestation: he wrote the libretto 'Or Shall We Die?' (1983) and the script for 'The Ploughman's Lunch' (1985) taking up nuclear disarmament and Thatcherism. McEwan saw these works as 'A Move Abroad' (1989) and returned to the novel with the caustically political 'The Child in Time'. All his later novels have strong political undertones most drastically visualized in 'The Innocent' (1990): Otto's mutilated corpse as an image of Berlin. In 'Saturday' (2005), the mass rally against the Iraq War in 2003 is the background against which the Perowne's Bloomsday takes place. Similarly, in 'Black Dogs' (1992) or 'Amsterdam' (1998) politics are shown in their complex relationship to art which is also celebrated in 'The Atonement' (2001).

### **The Comfort of Strangers**

A child’s abduction sends a father reeling in this Whitbread Award-winning novel that explores time and loss with “narrative daring and imaginative genius” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review). Stephen Lewis, a successful author of children’s books, is on a routine trip to the supermarket with his three-year-old daughter. In a brief moment of distraction, she suddenly

vanishes—and is irretrievably lost. From that moment, Lewis spirals into bereavement that effects his marriage, his psyche, and his relationship with time itself: “It was a wonder that there could be so much movement, so much purpose, all the time. He himself had none at all.” In *The Child in Time*, acclaimed author Ian McEwan “sets a story of domestic horror against a disorienting exploration in time” producing “a work of remarkable intellectual and political sophistication” that has been adapted into a PBS Masterpiece movie starring Benedict Cumberbatch (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). “A beautifully rendered, very disturbing novel.” —Publishers Weekly

### **Saturday**

In her debut novel, award-winning poet Brynne Rebele-Henry re-imagines the Orpheus myth as a love story between two teenage girls who are sent to conversion therapy after being caught together in an intimate moment. Abandoned by a single mother she never knew, 16-year-old Raya—obsessed with ancient myths—lives with her grandmother in a small conservative Texas town. For years Raya has fought to hide her feelings for her best friend and true love, Sarah. When the two are outed, they are sent to Friendly Saviors: a re-education camp meant to “fix” them and make them heterosexual. Upon arrival, Raya vows to assume the role of Orpheus, to return to the world of the living with her love—and after she, Sarah, and the other teen residents are subjected to abusive and brutal “treatments” by the staff, Raya only becomes more determined to escape. In a haunting voice reminiscent of Sylvia Plath and the contemporary lyricism of David Levithan, Brynne Rebele-Henry weaves a powerful inversion of the Orpheus myth informed by the disturbing real-world truths of conversion therapy. *Orpheus Girl* is a story of dysfunctional families, trauma, first love, heartbreak, and ultimately, the fierce adolescent resilience that has the power to triumph over darkness and ignorance. CW: There are scenes in this book that depict self-harm, homophobia, transphobia, and violence against LGBTQ characters.

### **Solar**

A magnet for trade and travellers from all over the world, stylish, cosmopolitan Amsterdam is a city of dreams and nightmares, of grand civic architecture and legendary beauty, but also of civil wars, bloody religious purges, and the tragedy of Anne Frank. In this fascinating examination of the city's soul, part history, part travel guide, Geert Mak imaginatively recreates the lives of the early Amsterdammers, and traces Amsterdam's progress from waterlogged settlement to a major financial centre and thriving modern metropolis

### **The New America**

## **The Cockroach**

In the ruthless arena of King Henry VIII's court, only one man dares to gamble his life to win the king's favor and ascend to the heights of political power England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years, and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe opposes him. The quest for the king's freedom destroys his adviser, the brilliant Cardinal Wolsey, and leaves a power vacuum. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell. Cromwell is a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist, astute in reading people and a demon of energy: he is also a consummate politician, hardened by his personal losses, implacable in his ambition. But Henry is volatile: one day tender, one day murderous. Cromwell helps him break the opposition, but what will be the price of his triumph? In inimitable style, Hilary Mantel presents a picture of a half-made society on the cusp of change, where individuals fight or embrace their fate with passion and courage. With a vast array of characters, overflowing with incident, the novel re-creates an era when the personal and political are separated by a hairbreadth, where success brings unlimited power but a single failure means death.

## **First Love, Last Rites**

The Unsaintly is the journey of Isabel, the daughter of Louis VII and Blanche of Castile, who devoted her entire life to the servitude of God. When Isabel begins to suffer from stigmata, she learns that it is just the beginning of her role in the fight between Heaven and Hell. Her sacrifice is not great enough when the abuse inflicted by the stigmata she suffers leaves is then replaced by the real horrors inflicted by God's rival; Lucifer. All that she's learned up to this point will be tested along with her faith, in this horrific story of good, evil, and everything in between.

## **A Time to Love in Tehran**

A collection of three of William Golding's stories with an introduction by Craig Raine.

## **Ian McEwan**

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