

Ian McEwan

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Atonement Ian McEwan 2007 In 1935 England, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses an event involving her sister Cecilia and her childhood friend Robbie Turner, and she becomes the victim of her own imagination, which leads her on a lifelong search for truth and absolution. Reissue. (A Focus Features film, written by Christopher Hampton, directed by Joe Wright, releasing Fall 2007, starring Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, Vanessa Redgrave, & Romola Garai) (General Fiction)

Ian McEwan Sebastian Groes 2013-09-12 With a new chapter on Solar, this is an up-to-date guide to critical writing on Ian McEwan, including an interview with the author.

Black Dogs Ian McEwan 2011-02-02 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 a marriage, as witnessed by an outsider. Jeremy is the son-in-law of Bernard and June Tremaine, whose union and estrangement began almost simultaneously. Seeking to comprehend how their deep love could be defeated by ideological differences Bernard and June cannot reconcile, Jeremy undertakes writing June's memoirs, only to be led back again and again to one terrifying encounter forty years earlier—a moment that, for June, was as devastating and irreversible in its consequences as the changes sweeping Europe in Jeremy's own time. In a finely crafted, compelling examination of evil and grace, Ian McEwan weaves the sinister reality of civilization's darkest moods—its black dogs—with the tensions that both create love and destroy it.

Lessons Ian McEwan 2022-09-13 From the best-selling author of *Atonement* and *Saturday* comes the epic and intimate story of one man's life across generations and historical upheavals. From the Suez Crisis to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall to the current pandemic, Roland Baines sometimes rides with the tide of history, but more often struggles against it. When the world is still counting the cost of the Second World War and the Iron Curtain has closed, eleven-year-old Roland Baines's life is turned upside down. Two thousand miles from his mother's protective love, stranded at an unusual boarding school, his vulnerability attracts piano teacher Miss Miriam Cornell, leaving scars as well as a memory of love that will never fade. Now, when his wife vanishes, leaving him alone with his tiny son, Roland is forced to confront the reality of his restless existence. As the radiation from Chernobyl spreads across Europe, he begins a search for answers that looks deep into his family history and will last for the rest of his life. Haunted by lost opportunities, Roland seeks solace through every possible means—music, literature, friends, sex, politics, and, finally, love cut tragically short, then love ultimately redeemed. His journey raises important questions for us all. Can we take full charge of the course of our lives without causing damage to others? How do global events beyond our control shape our lives and our memories? And what can we really learn from the traumas of the past? Epic, mesmerizing, and deeply humane,

Lessons is a chronicle for our times—a powerful meditation on history and humanity through the prism of one man's lifetime.

Sweet Tooth Ian McEwan 2013 Recruited into MI5 against a backdrop of the Cold War in 1972, Cambridge student Serena Frome, a compulsive reader, is assigned to infiltrate the literary circle of a promising young writer whose politics align with those of the government, a situation that is compromised when she falls in love with him. By the award-winning author of Solar.

Machines Like Me Ian McEwan 2020-03-03 ****Number One Sunday Times Bestseller**** 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 batch of synthetic humans. With Miranda's assistance, he co-designs Adam's personality. This near-perfect human is beautiful, strong and clever - and soon a love triangle forms, which leads Charlie, Miranda and Adam to a profound moral dilemma. Can you design the perfect partner? What makes us human? Our outward deeds or our inner lives? Provocative and moving, *Machines Like Me* explores whether a machine can ever truly understand the human heart. 'Funny, thought-provoking and politically acute...' Sunday Times 'Dazzling' Guardian 'An unsettling examination of the human condition. Bold, clever' Sunday Telegraph

Ian McEwan Jonathan Noakes 2012-03-31 In Vintage Living Texts teachers and students will find the essential guide to the works of Ian McEwan. This guide will deal with his themes, genre and narrative technique, and a close reading of the texts will be accompanied with likely exam questions, and contexts and comparisons - as well as providing a rich source of ideas for intelligent and inventive ways of approaching the novels.

THE DEAD (English Classics Series) James Joyce 2017-11-15 Considered as one of the greatest short stories in the Western Canon, James Joyce's complex narrative "The Dead", explores the intricate issues of identity and power through the lens of language, patriarchy, and imperialism. These issues are directly tied to the longstanding political turmoil of his native Ireland and the social questions of his day. Joyce's story reveals that we often achieve what we tried to avoid by pretending to be what we are not. At 15,672 words *The Dead* is often considered a novella and the best of Joyce's shorter works. James Joyce (1882-1941) was an Irish novelist and poet, considered to be one of the most influential writers in the modernist avant-garde of the early 20th century. Joyce is best known for *Ulysses* (1922), a landmark work in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, perhaps most prominent among these the stream of consciousness technique he perfected. Other major works are the short-story collection *Dubliners* (1914), and the novels *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) and *Finnegans Wake* (1939). His complete oeuvre also includes three books of poetry, a play, occasional journalism, and his published letters.

In Between the Sheets Ian McEwan 2011-02-08 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

On Chesil Beach Ian McEwan 2009-02-24 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.

Conversations with Ian McEwan Ian McEwan 2010 Over thirty years of interviews with the British author of such highly praised novels as *Enduring Love*, *Atonement*, *Saturday*, and *On Chesil Beach*

The Innocent Ian McEwan 1990 When British technician Leonard Marnham descends into the underground of electronic surveillance in postwar Berlin and begins a clandestine affair with a beautiful divorcee, his life takes a terrifying turn

The Child in Time Ian McEwan 2011-02-08 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

Solar Ian McEwan 2010-03-30 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?

Ian McEwan Dominic Head 2013-07-19 In this survey Ian McEwan emerges as one of those rare writers whose works have received both popular and critical acclaim. His novels grace the bestseller lists, and he is well regarded by critics, both as a stylist and as a serious thinker about the function and capacities of narrative fiction. McEwan's novels treat issues that are central to our times: politics, and the promotion of vested interests; male violence and the problem of gender relations; science and the limits of rationality; nature and ecology; love and innocence; and the quest for an ethical worldview. Yet he is also an economical stylist: McEwan's readers are called upon to attend, not just to the grand themes, but also to the precision of his spare writing. Although McEwan's later works are more overtly political, more humane, and more ostentatiously literary than the early work, Dominic Head uncovers the continuity as well as the sense of evolution through the oeuvre. Head makes the case for McEwan's prominence - pre-eminence, even - in the canon of contemporary British novelists.

Saturday Ian McEwan 2009-02-24 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 Ian McEwan 1999 Joe and Clarissa Rose's spring idyll in the park is cut short when Joe helps rescue a child from a balloon accident, one man is killed, and Joe becomes the target of suspicion and ultimately an assassination attempt

My Purple Scented Novel Ian McEwan 2018-06-19 A jewel of a short story from the bestselling, award-winning author of *Atonement*—“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.”

AMSTERDAM Ian McEwan 2001-01 Alle haben sie dieselbe Frau geliebt, die nun nicht mehr ist: ein Politiker, ein Chefredakteur, ein Komponist. Als desto gegensätzlicher erweisen sich ihre Ambitionen: Ein Freundschaftspakt wird zum Teufelspakt, als es in Amsterdam zum Showdown kommt. Ian McEwan

erhielt 1998 den Booker-Preis für diese ebenso witzige wie gnadenlose Geschichte über die Mechanismen der Medien und der Macht.

Science Ian McEwan 2019-10-03 'This is a history of intellectual courage, hard work, occasional inspiration and every conceivable form of human failing. It is also an extended invitation to wonder, to pleasure' How far have we come in our understanding of the world around us? In this eye-opening collection, Ian McEwan looks back at the history of scientific discovery from Darwin to Dawkins as well as exploring, with brilliant originality, what a future with AI and climate change could hold for us. Selected from *Solar*, *Enduring Love*, *Machines Like Me* VINTAGE MINIS: GREAT MINDS. BIG IDEAS. LITTLE BOOKS. A series of short books by the world's greatest writers on the experiences that make us human Also in the Vintage Minis 'Great Ideas' series: Religion by Karen Armstrong Art by Simon Schama

Enduring Love Ian McEwan 2010-07-20 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.

Nutshell Ian McEwan 2017-05-29 The Sunday Times Number One Bestseller Trudy has betrayed her husband, John. She's still in the marital home - a dilapidated, priceless London townhouse - but not with John. 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.

Family and Relationships in Ian McEwan's Fiction Tomasz Dobrogoszcz 2018-02-23 The book reflects on the representations of relationships between partners and between family members in Ian McEwan's fiction. The analysis is undertaken from the perspective of the psychoanalytic theory developed by Jacques Lacan.

Understanding Ian McEwan David Malcolm 2002 This is a discussion of the work of one of Britain's most highly regarded novelists and the winner of the 1998 Booker Prize. David Malcolm places Ian McEwan's work in the context of British literature's particular dynamism in the last decades of the 20th century. He also examines McEwan's relationship to feminism, concern with rationalism and science, use of moral perspective, and proclivity toward fragmentation.

First Love, Last Rites Ian McEwan 2011-02-11 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

The Children Act Ian McEwan 2014-09-09 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.

Ian McEwan Jack Slay 1996 This study examines how Ian McEwan, author of stories, novels, screenplays and filmscripts. uses fictional relationships to reflect the social world in which they are enacted. It also discusses his presentation of feminism, and how his approach fits into the feminist theory of recent literature and criticism. Also explored are the nature of contemporary literature, the portrayal of violence and the creation of a nether-hero in contemporary fiction.

Machines Like Me Ian McEwan 2019-04-23 From the Booker Prize winner and bestselling author of *Atonement*—"a sharply intelligent novel of ideas" (The New York Times) that asks whether a machine can understand the human heart, or whether we are the ones who lack understanding. Set in an uncanny alternative 1982 London—where Britain has lost the Falklands War, Margaret Thatcher battles Tony Benn for power, and Alan Turing achieves a breakthrough in artificial intelligence—*Machines Like Me* powerfully portrays two lovers who will be tested beyond their understanding. 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 generation of synthetic humans. With Miranda's assistance, he codesigns Adam's personality. The near-perfect human that emerges is beautiful, strong, and smart—and a love triangle soon forms. Ian McEwan's subversive, gripping novel poses fundamental questions: What makes us human—our outward deeds or our inner lives? Could a machine understand the human heart? This provocative and thrilling tale warns against the power to invent things beyond our control. Don't miss Ian McEwan's new novel, *Lessons*, coming in September!

The Cockroach Ian McEwan 2019-10-01 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.

Nutshell Ian McEwan 2016-09-13 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.

Amsterdam Ian McEwan 1999 Two old friends, Clive Linley and Vernon Halliday, both former lovers of the late Molly Lane, meet to pay their last respects and make a pact that will have unforeseen consequences

Saturday Ian McEwan 2006 Saturday, February 15, 2003. Henry Perowne is a contented man a successful neurosurgeon, the devoted husband of Rosalind and proud father of two grown-up children. Unusually, he wakes before dawn, drawn to the window of his bedroom and filled with a grow

The Daydreamer Ian McEwan 2011-08-03 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 Innocent Ian McEwan 2014-05-13 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.

Atonement Ian McEwan 2009-03-19 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.

Ian McEwan Kiernan Ryan 1994 Providing an introduction to the whole range of Ian McEwan's work, examining his novels, short stories and screenplays, this title draws on McEwan's obsessions with childhood and the body, with regression and abjection, showing how these are deployed to raise disturbing political questions about gender, power, pleasure and narrative.

The Fiction of Ian McEwan M. Hutton 2005-09-19 Ian McEwan is one of Britain's most established, and controversial, writers. This book introduces students to a range of critical approaches to McEwan's fiction. Criticism is drawn from selections in academic essays and articles, and reviews in newspapers, journals, magazines and websites, with editorial comment providing context, drawing attention to key points and identifying differences in critical perspectives. The book features selections from published interviews with Ian McEwan and covers all of the writer's novels to date, including his latest novel *Saturday*.

Sweet Tooth Ian McEwan 2012-11-13 In this stunning new novel, Ian McEwan's first female protagonist since *Atonement* is about to learn that espionage is the ultimate seduction. Cambridge student Serena Frome's beauty and intelligence make her the ideal recruit for MI5. The year is 1972. The Cold War is far from over. England's legendary intelligence agency is determined to manipulate the cultural conversation by funding writers whose politics align with those of the government. The operation is code named "Sweet Tooth." Serena, a compulsive reader of novels, is the perfect candidate to infiltrate the literary circle of a promising young writer named Tom Haley. At first, she loves his stories. Then she begins to love the man. How long can she conceal her undercover life? To answer that question, Serena must abandon the first rule of espionage: trust no one. Once again, Ian McEwan's mastery dazzles us in this superbly deft and witty story of betrayal and intrigue, love and the invented self.

Nutshell Ian McEwan 2016-09-13 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 Cement Garden Ian McEwan 2011-02-08 Orphaned siblings create a macabre secret world for themselves in this "irresistibly readable" novel by the New York Times-bestselling author (*The New York Review of Books*). This "powerful and disconcerting" novel by the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Children Act* and *Atonement* (*The Daily Telegraph*) tells the story of a dying family who live in a dying part of the city. A father of four children decides, in an effort to make his garden easier to control, to pave it over. In the process, he has a heart attack and dies, leaving the cement garden unfinished and the children to the care of their mother. Soon after, the mother too dies and the children, fearful of being separated by social services, decide to cover up their parents' deaths: they bury their mother in the cement garden. The story is told from the point of view of Jack, one of the sons, who is entering adolescence with all of its attendant curiosity and appetites. Julie, the eldest, is almost a grown woman. Sue is rather bookish and observes all that goes on around her. And Tom is the youngest and the baby of the lot. The children seem to manage in this perverse setting rather well—until Julie brings home a boyfriend who threatens their secret by asking too many questions. "[A] beautiful but disturbing novel."—*The AV Club* "McEwan's evocative detail and perfect British prose lend a genteel decorum to the death and decay that surround the family."—*The New Yorker*