



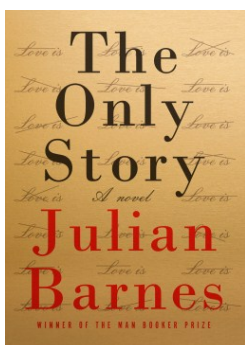
# Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

## Readalikes for *Lessons*

Dundee Library Book Club, June 2023

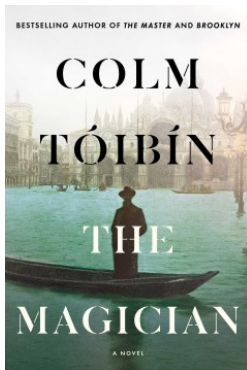
### Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



#### *The only story*

by Julian Barnes

A man who ran away as a teen university student with a married woman more than twice his age reflects on how they fell in love, how he freed her from a sterile marriage and how their relationship fell apart as she succumbed to depression. By the award-winning author of *The Sense of an Ending*.



#### *The magician : a novel*

by Colm Tóibín

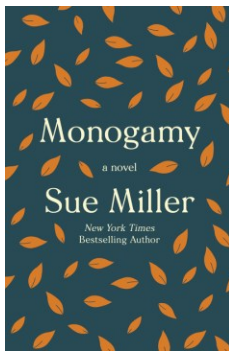
An intimate, astonishingly complex portrait of writer Thomas Mann, a man profoundly flawed and unforgettable, his magnificent and complex wife Katia, and the times in which they lived—the first world war, the rise of Hitler, World War II, the Cold War, and exile.



#### *Little foxes took up matches*

by Katya Kazbek

After suffering horrific abuse from his cousin who has returned broken from war, Mitya embarks on a journey across underground Moscow where he hopes to find a place to belong, and escapes into a fantasy world to deal with the brutalities of everyday life.



## *Monogamy : a novel*

by Sue Miller

Derailed by the sudden passing of her husband of 30 years, an artist on the brink of a gallery opening struggles to pick up the pieces of her life before discovering harrowing evidence of her husband's affair.

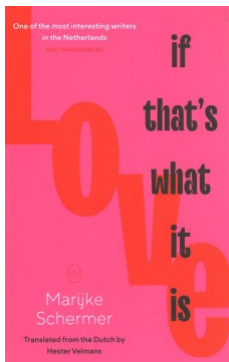


## *The hummingbird : a novel*

by Sandro Veronesi

This saga of a Florentine family from the 1960s to the present follows Marco Carrera, a man with an almost supernatural ability to remain still amid the chaos of an ever-changing world, as he deals with life's trials and tribulations.

## Books at other libraries in our consortium

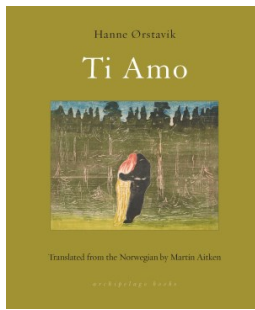


## *Love, If That's What It Is*

by Marijke Schermer

Falling in and out of love—a sharp and unsettling modern take on the meaning of it all

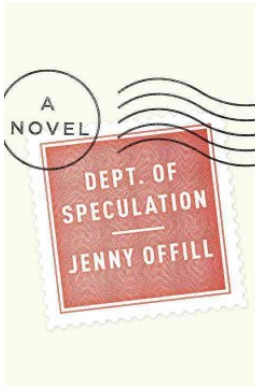
Terri runs off with a lover, abandoning her children and her marriage of twenty-five years. Her husband, David, is left to take care of their two daughters, one of whom is falling in love for the first time. These four people start to question their identity outside the nuclear family. What remains of a disintegrated home, and what changes? Marijke Schermer's *Love, If That's What It Is* gives a kaleidoscopic view of a divorce, permitting the reader to enter the heads of not only the spouses, but also of the two daughters and the divorcees' new lovers. Through several characters, the reader is presented with just as many views on relationships, while Schermer remains impartial and thus confronts readers with their own—perhaps shaky—romantic principles. What is love? With fresh flair and provocative perspectives, Schermer manages to provide an original and versatile answer.



## *Ti amo*

by Hanne Ørstavik

Ti Amo brings a new, deeply personal approach, as the novel is based in Ørstavik's own experience of losing her Italian husband to cancer. By facing loss directly, she includes readers in an experience that many face in isolation. Written and set in the early months of 2020, its themes of loss and suffering are particularly well suited for a time of international mourning.



## *Dept. of speculation*

by Jenny Offill

An unflinching portrait of marriage by the award-winning author of Last Things features a heroine simply referred to as "the Wife," who transitions from an idealistic woman who once exchanged love letters with her husband and who confronts an array of universal difficulties.



## *A Fine Couple*

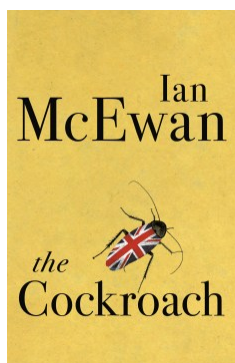
by Gert Loschutz

**The story of the paradoxical relationship of two parents.**

As he clears out his parents' house, Philipp, a photographer, comes across an object that has played a major role in his parents' lives. Herta and Georg made a fine couple when they first met. Their son imagines the early days of their relationship and remembers how his father was forced to flee across the inner-German border to the West. When Herta and Philipp joined him a few days later, this could have signaled the start of a new era of happiness, but the seeds of their separation had already been sown. In gentle, probing prose, Gert Loschütz describes how Philipp gradually unravels the paradoxical nature of his parents' relationship: it was love that destroyed their love. To his astonishment, Philipp discovers that Herta and Georg had been in contact all those years in a way they kept secret even from one another.

## Also by Ian McEwan

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### *The cockroach*

by Ian McEwan

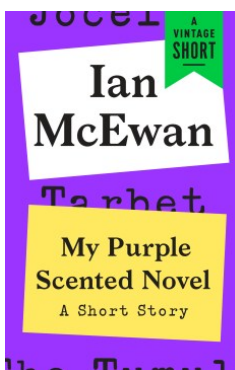
"Jim Sams has undergone a metamorphosis. In his previous life he was ignored or loathed, but in his new incarnation he is the most powerful man in Britain--and it is his mission to carry out the will of the people. Nothing must get in his way: not the opposition, nor the dissenters within his own party. Not even the rules of parliamentary democracy."



### *Machines like me : and people like you*

by Ian McEwan

The National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *Atonement* presents the story of two lovers in an alternative 1980s London who construct a perfect synthetic human before finding themselves in a morally complex love triangle.

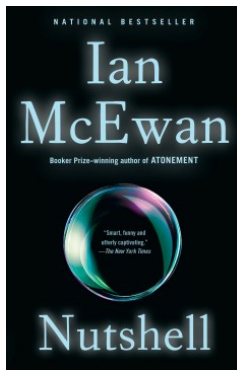


### *My Purple Scented Novel*

by Ian McEwan

'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.'

*My Purple Scented Novel* follows the perfect crime of literary betrayal, scrupulously wrought yet unscrupulously executed, published to celebrate Ian McEwan's 70th birthday.



### **Nutshell : a novel**

by Ian McEwan

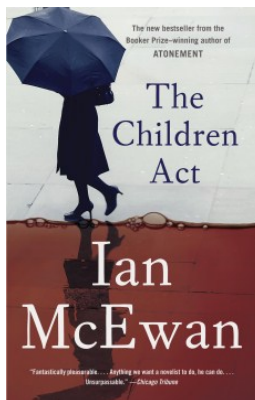
The Whitbread Award-winning author of Atonement presents a classic story of murder and deceit from the perspective of an unconventional narrator.



### **On Chesil Beach : a novel**

by Ian McEwan

On their wedding day, a young couple--Florence, daughter of an Oxford academic and a successful businessman, and Edward, a history student with little experience of women--looks forward to the future while worrying about their upcoming wedding night



### **The children act : a novel**

by Ian McEwan

A highly respected London judge hides behind her professional accomplishments her decision to separate from a husband who wants an open marriage, a loss that challenges her beliefs throughout a case involving parents whose faith forbids a life-saving transfusion for their son.