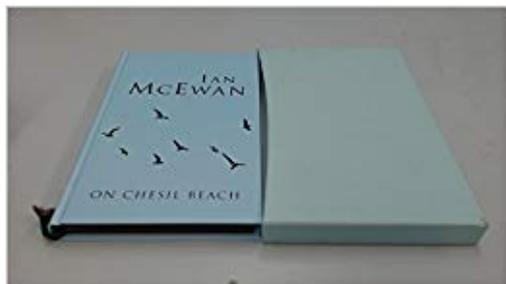


On Chesil Beach (Signed Edition) *by* Ian McEwan



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Reviews of the **On Chesil Beach (Signed Edition)** *by* Ian McEwan

Kerdana

Here a few thoughts about Chesyl Beach, a novel a I read years ago.

- 1) The two main characters are well described. Their inner complex lives, their past lack of experiences, in particular their sexual innocence and naivety are quite credible in the period when the novel takes place.
- 2) The fact that there are only two characters makes the plot very dense and tight. One cannot escape the tragic climax that looms inevitably between or above or below the two heroes, who know so little about each other and about themselves.
- 3) The action switches constantly from the present to the past and between the two lives of the main characters. In this way the reader, who obviously knows a lot more In his / her vantage point about

them is lead by the omniscient narrator forward and backward inexorably in the inevitable destructive course of the novel, which has a tragic touch in the antique Greek sense of the term. The action reminds me of the virgin journey of the Titanic towards the iceberg in the Atlantic.

4) After the great clash between the two, after their devastating encounter, their final departure from Chesyl Beach, the actions takes up incredible speed. In the last chapter the biography of the two lives with their two different trajectories is telescoped into very few pages. While the first part of the book is narrated at very slow pace, the second part brings together 20 , 30, 40 years, in fact the whole biography/destiny. The reader gets to know only the very gist of the two plots and has no possibility any more to keep in emotional touch with the two main characters, to sympathize with them. I have unfortunately forgotten their two names since, as I have already mentioned before, it is such a long time that I read the novel the first and only time.

MrCat

A beautiful novella from the very first word until the next-to-last page. Then: it is stunning. The final page is perhaps one of the most amazing pieces of writing I have ever read. Poetic and fraught with emotion, it struck me to the core -- I probably spent almost as much time re-reading it because it was so precise and symphonic as I spent on the rest of the piece. I could go back and read it again as many times. It's a lesson for all but also a most fitting ending to the story. Swoon.

Stoneshaper

On Chelsie Beach was an engrossing and enjoyable book. Short, but packed with sensitive writing about a delicate subject in a particular time. He seems able to write both the male and female characters with equal ease and without cliché, and renders the joys and pain of love, the agony of uncertainty, and the sense deep loss and regret with great depth of understanding.

olgasmile

Wonderful story beautiful writing. I was so surprised by the ending I did not expect that at all. Can't wait to see the movie!

Hiclerlsi

A very interesting novel set on one location yet moves back and forward in time. Intimate, detailed and very rich descriptions are given of the two characters to create a very touching, evocative, thought provoking story.

Jogas

Sad, existential tale of a marriage that crumbles on the couple's wedding night. The damage might have been repaired, but isn't due to what is not said as well as what is said. That's what the crux of the story is - it's about how many things happen on our lives because of the words that go unspoken. I'm eager to see how this is interpreted on the large screen.

Fani

I have never read a book quite like this, it has made me stop and think, "what if"? I grew up in the 1960's, so I can easily relate to that era, but in America, not England. Thank you to the author for a story that built ever so slowly to a totally different climax that I was definitely not expecting! A book that will stay with me for a long time.

Beautifully written exploration of inner turmoil and how the inability to expose one's innermost self even to the one loved most can lead to tragedy.

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