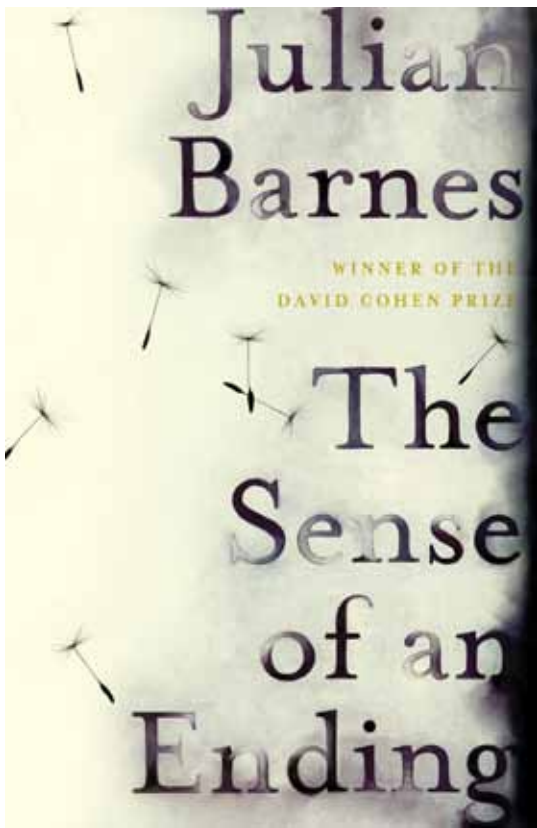




The Man
Booker
Prize
2011

Reader's Guide



Other novels by Julian Barnes

Duffy (as Dan Kavanagh) (1980)
Fiddle City (as Dan Kavanagh) (1981)
Before She Met Me (1982)
Flaubert's Parrot (1984)
Putting the Boot In
(as Dan Kavanagh) (1985)
Staring at the Sun (1986)
Going to the Dogs
(as Dan Kavanagh) (1987)
*A History of the World in
10 1/2 Chapters* (1989)
Talking It Over (1991)
The Porcupine (1992)
Cross Channel (1996)
England, England (1998)
Love, etc (2000)
The Pedant in the Kitchen (2003)
The Lemon Table (2004)
Arthur and George (2005)
Nothing To Be Frightened Of (2008)
Pulse (2011)

The Sense of an Ending Julian Barnes

Jonathan Cape / Random House
Price £12.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

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About the author

Julian Barnes was born in Leicester in January 1946. He has written nine novels, including *Flaubert's Parrot*, which was shortlisted for the 1984 Booker Prize, won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and led to Barnes being the first Englishman to be awarded the Prix Medicis; (*England, England*, which was shortlisted for the 1998 Booker Prize); and *Arthur and George*, which was shortlisted for The Man Booker Prize in 2005. He lives in London.

The Sense of an Ending

A truly wonderful novel that will have the reader immersed in the story from the very first page, and all the while marvelling at the precision of Barnes' prose. Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. Maybe Adrian was a little more serious than the others, certainly more intelligent, but they all swore to stay friends for life. Now Tony is in middle age. He's had a career and a single marriage, a calm divorce. He's certainly never tried to hurt anybody. Memory, though, is imperfect. It can always throw up surprises, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove. *The Sense of an Ending* is the story of one man coming to terms with the mutable past. Laced with trademark precision, dexterity and insight, it is the work of one of the world's most distinguished writers.

Discussion points

Would you describe Tony Webster as an 'unreliable yet sincere narrator'?

To what extent do you think Julian Barnes uses "peripeteia", the unexpected twist in plot, to encourage the reader to adjust their expectations?

Do you agree with Anita Brookner's review, "his (Julian Barnes) reputation will surely be enhanced by this book". *The Telegraph*, July 2011.

The Sense of an Ending is a novel about the imperfections of memory. What insight does it give the reader into ageing and memory?

Is the ending unforeseen, does it leave you with a sense of unease?

Themed reading

Henry James *Turn of the Screw*
Ford Maddox Ford *The Good Solider*
Philip Larkin's poem *Dockery & Son*
Frank Kermode *The Sense of an Ending*
Ian McEwan *On Chesil Beach*

Useful links

Julian Barnes' website

<http://www.julianbarnes.com>

Extract

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/8637429/Julian-Barnes-The-Sense-of-an-Ending-novel-extract.html>

Publisher's website

<http://www.randomhouse.co.uk>