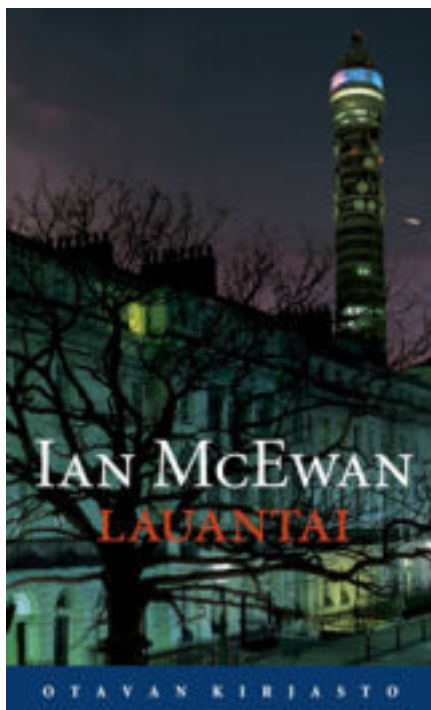

Ian McEwan

Lauantai



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Description

Eräänä vuoden 2003 lauantaina neurokirurgi Henry Perownen rauhallinen elämä järkkyy. Kolari, johon hän ei ole syypää, sysää hänet mukavasta keskiluokkaisesta maailmastaan vastatusten arvaamattoman, väkivaltaisen pikkurikollisen kanssa.

Perowne tekee ahdistajastaan nopean diagnoosin - Huntingtonin tauti - ja uskoo pelastaneensa nahkansa. Mutta illalla rikollinen tovereineen tunkeutuu Perownen hienoon taloon, valmiina kostamaan nöyryyttäjälleen kaikin tavoin.

Lupaavasti alkanut lauantaipäivä johtaa kahdenkymmenen tunnin piinaan; josta osallisiksi joutuvat myös Henry Perownen rakkaimmat.

Insightful reviews

Lain: Rare is the author who can write a compelling story in clear prose. Rarer still is the author who can create fine and distinct layers of meaning while maintaining that clear narrative. Ian McEwan is one of those authors.

In the tradition of "Mrs. Dalloway," "Saturday" traces the ordinary activities of an ordinary man, neurologist Henry Preowne. Against the backdrop of a huge anti-war march in London, Henry goes about his daily activities -- a squash game, checking in on his patients at the hospital, getting ready for a dinner with family. Much as the world changed irrevocably after September 11, this day is one that will never be forgotten. A minor car accident with a neurologically impaired man has cataclysmic effects for Henry, his family, and the man himself.

Taking on issues of terrorism, war, and duty, "Saturday" is a touching story of the ordinary man trying to do the right thing when "the right thing" isn't clear.

I think that some of the other readers may have had issues with the disparate themes -- brain surgery, al Qaida, war, terrorism, family -- because they are not easily tied together, other than to say that those of us who look like terrorists (i.e., Baxter) may have other, non-apparent reasons for our actions. Terrorism is in the eye of the beholder, and the world is full of shades of grey. Those of us who try to take simple stances on tough questions are guilty of limited thinking.

This book is worth a read -- let it sit with you, and see what connections you make for yourself.

Lori: Ok. I usually force myself to finish each novel I start. (with the two exceptions so far being Catch 22 and Atlas Shrugged).. I do this (1) to at least get my moneys worth, and (2) because I know somewhere in there, there must be a part worth waiting for.

This book fell into the (2) catagory. It was an impossible bore throughout most of the novel, with one interesting fight in an alley due to a fender bender.... until you hit the last 50 pages. For me, hitting those last chapters was like breaking the surface of the water after holding your breath

for an uncomfortably long time, and getting that first great gasp of cool, refreshing, life-continuing air!!!!

I would really not recommend this book to anyone who isn't willing to be bored to sleep whilst reading. (Which happened to me quite often). I can read a book in a matter of days, this one was dragged out for almost 2 weeks. I just couldn't stay awake long enough to complete it.... (Yawn)!

Siobhan: I thoroughly disliked this book. It's the only Ian McEwan book I've read and if this is typical of him, I'm not going back for me.

Each character, and each event, seems to have a massive backstory to get through before we can get back to the present moment. That got tedious fast.

As for the characters, with their perfect lives in a toney London neighborhood, they're not particularly interesting. The bad guys who do show up and give the book a little texture are caricatures and really not worth consideration here. But what do you know, all's well that ends well for the main character and his lovely little family. Amazing!

As the book draws slowly to its conclusion -- and I emphasize the word "slowly" -- my impatience mounted. But then this whole family is held hostage and when the hostage situation ends, the main character, a neurosurgeon, ends up operating on one of the bad guys. Not bloody like, and the author does nothing to make this unlikely scenario more believable. Even more unbelievable, once this crisis is over, the family sits down to a convivial meal, discussing the high points of their day and how isn't it swell that we all came through this together. Somehow, I don't think people who come through such an incident are all going to experience the euphoria that seemed to grip this group. Apparently, McEwan is unfamiliar with the concept of PTSD, or the fact that the same situation will affect different people, and therefore, one would hope, different characters, DIFFERENTLY. But not in McEwan's precious world.

Interestingly, although I didn't read *Atonement*, I saw the movie and I thoroughly enjoyed it, but as I was watching it, I was aware of doubting that I would have enjoyed the book as well. Which is to say, McEwan's stories may be interesting, but his writing? Not so much.

Lobstergirl: Godawful. "Saturday" used to be ponderous, labored, rhetorically thick and for this reason possibly to my brain pretentious, or do I suggest pompous? It used to be like a major bloated beer gut, yet a lager intestine bloated - indeed, rendered distended, turgid, and tumescent - through the best chardonnays, Gewurztraminers, and Sauvignon Blancs, sipped (quaffed?) whereas hearing Bach Partitas. It used to be bereft of conciseness, brevity, midgetude, terseness, laconism, abbreviation, and pith, its really meaningless, hole sentences curled round one another like vines choking a tree trunk, perhaps a turkey oak. Paragraphs wended, labyrinthinely, towards a daft and pat conclusion. even if issues happened, they have been narrated besides the protagonist's meandering strategies - and by way of thoughts, I suggest these electric impulses touring from synapse to synapse among the neurons and glial

cells within the nodes of the mind - as he moved via that final day of the week, sometimes called Saturday. this can be how i might describe the publication if I have been writing within the sort of, say, Ian McEwan.

Petra: My moment ebook via Ian McEwan and i am completely having fun with it. Like Atonement, McEwan's prose and pacing all through this publication is fantastic. He can upload pressure and hassle to bland concepts & events. Henry Perowne appears to be like in the midst of near to every little thing in his life: he's center aged, in among little ones (his youngsters are grown & there are not any grandchildren yet), he's among generations (his & his wife's mom and dad and his kids), he lives in the course of London, etc. Also, the area is within the middle, stuck among 9-11 and the start of the Iraq war. It's a time of pivot and change, it seems. and alter it does. during a day, Henry has to stand lots of his suggestions & principles after a war of words places his relatives into jeopardy. The booklet occurs in Henry's minds, with all its minutia and wandering thoughts, its worries, prejudices, ideas. It's a desirable examine one man's internal life, techniques and reasoning. Henry Perowne is his personal guy and but he's each of us, too.

Bonnie: loved this even more than Atonement!

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