

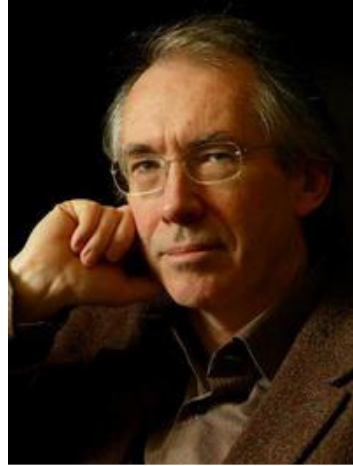
# Ian McEwan

(1948-)

Ian Russell McEwan was born in Aldershot on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June in 1948, the son of Rose Lilian Violet (née Moore) and David McEwan. He spent much of his childhood in East Asia, Germany and North Africa, where his father, a Scottish army officer, was posted. He was educated at Woolverstone Hall School, the University of Sussex and the University of East Anglia, where he was the first graduate of Malcolm Bradbury's pioneering creative writing course.

He has been married twice. His second wife, Annalena McAfee, was formerly the editor of *The Guardian's* Review section. In 1999, his first wife, Penny Allen, took their 13-year-old son after a court in Brittany, France, ruled that the boy should be returned to his father, who had been granted sole custody over him and his 15-year-old brother.

In 2002, McEwan discovered that he had a brother who had been given up for adoption during World War II; the story became public in 2007. The brother, a bricklayer named David Sharp, was born six years earlier than McEwan, when his mother was married to a different man. Sharp has the same two parents as McEwan but was born from an affair between McEwan's parents that occurred before their marriage. After her first husband was killed in combat, McEwan's mother married her lover, and Ian was born a few years later. The two are in regular contact, and McEwan has written a foreword to Sharp's memoir.



McEwan's first published work was a collection of short stories, *First Love, Last Rites* (1975), which won the Somerset Maugham Award in 1976. *The Cement Garden* (1978) and *The Comfort of Strangers* (1981) were his two earliest novels. The nature of these works caused him to be nicknamed "Ian Macabre." These were followed by three novels of some success in the 1980s and early 1990s.

His 1997 novel, *Enduring Love*, about the relationship between a science writer and a stalker, was extremely popular with critics, although it was not shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 1998, he was awarded the Booker Prize for his novel *Amsterdam*. His next novel, *Atonement*, received considerable acclaim; *Time Magazine* named it the best novel of 2002, and it was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 2007, the critically acclaimed movie "Atonement", directed by Joe Wright and starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy, was released in cinemas worldwide. His next work, *Saturday*, follows an especially eventful day in the life of a successful neurosurgeon. *Saturday* won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for 2005. He wrote an article for *Chinadialogue* about climate change in 2005. His most recent novel, *On Chesil Beach*, was shortlisted for the 2007 Booker Prize. McEwan has also written a number of produced screenplays, a stage play, children's fiction, and an oratorio.

McEwan's most recent completed work is the libretto to an opera called *For You* composed by Michael Berkeley, which tells the story of a composer whose sexual

and professional powers have passed their peak. It is set to be performed in November 2008 by Music Theatre Wales.

McEwan is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the Shakespeare Prize by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation, Hamburg, in 1999. He is also a Distinguished Supporter of the British Humanist Association. He was awarded a CBE in 2000.

In 2005, he was the first recipient of Dickinson College's prestigious Herold and Ethel L. Stellfox Visiting Scholar and Writers Program Award, in Carlisle, PA, USA, and in 2008, McEwan was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by University College, London, where he used to teach English literature.

*"Girls can wear jeans and cut their hair short, wear shirts and boots, because it's OK to be a boy,  
but for a boy to look like a girl is degrading, because you think that being a girl is degrading."  
The Cement Garden*