

# Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



Nov/Dec 2011

## AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



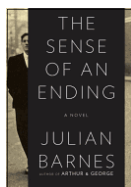
### Julian Barnes

British writer Julian Barnes has written numerous novels, short stories and essays. His writing has earned him numerous awards, including the 2011 Man Booker Prize for his most recent novel, *The Sense of an Ending*. His many works incorporate the themes of history, reality, truth and love.

#### Partial list of titles by the prolific Julian Barnes:

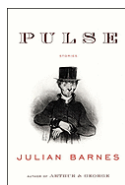
##### *The Sense of an Ending* (2011)

Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. They would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. 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. Memory, though, is imperfect. It can always throw up surprises, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove.



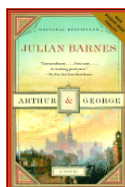
##### *Pulse* (2011)

A collection of short stories that range through time and deal with humans' need for love, friendship, passion and longing.



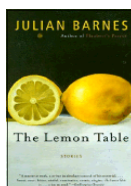
##### *Arthur and George* (2005)

Chronicles the lives of two boys--one who is forgotten by history, and one who becomes the creator of the world's most famous detective--as they pursue their separate destinies until they meet in a remarkable alliance.



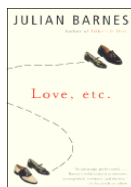
##### *The Lemon Table* (2004)

A collection of tales featuring aging characters facing the ends of their lives includes "The Silence," in which a composer longs for companionship, and "Knowing French," in which an octogenarian begins corresponding with an author.



##### *Love, etc.* (2000)

Stuart, his wife Gillian, and his former best friend and his wife's lover, Oliver discuss the mysteries of human relationships, emotion, and love.



*A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* (1989)  
Offers an idiosyncratic, revisionist history of life on planet Earth, from a playful account of Noah by a stowaway on the Ark, to the spiritual odyssey of a American astronaut.



##### *Staring at the Sun* (1984)

In the course of what is, superficially, an ordinary life, whose dates span the 1920s to the year 2021, Jean Serjeant, a woman of exceptional curiosity, muses on diverse questions, great and small.



##### *Flaubert's Parrot* (1984)

Interwoven with the story of obsessive amateur Flaubert scholar Charles Braithwaite are speculations on life and art and on the difficulty of knowing another person and above--and throughout --all is the brooding presence of Flaubert.



## SAVE THE DATE

Ridgefield Library and Books on the Common present:

### An Author Talk with Linda Urbach about her novel *Madame Bovary's Daughter*

Thursday, December 8

7:00 PM

Dayton Program Room

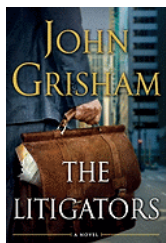
No registration required.



Emma Bovary is one of literature's most beloved and debated heroines. But little discussed is the daughter, Berthe, that Emma left behind. Now, in an epic tale of perseverance and pluck, Urbach picks up where Flaubert left off.

# NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



**The Litigators** by John Grisham.  
The incomparable master of the legal thriller takes us deeper into the labyrinth that is the American justice system, always drawing us in with an irresistible hook, pulling the thread of tension tighter and tighter, and then knocking us out with a conclusion that's never "by the book." Maybe that's why, after more than twenty years of consecutive #1 *New York Times* best sellers, a new novel by America's favorite storyteller is still a major publishing event.

**The Lady of the Rivers** by Philippa Gregory.  
Gregory weaves witchcraft, passion, and adventure into the story of Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, a woman who navigated a treacherous path through the battle lines in the War of the Roses. A sweeping, powerful story based on history and rich in passion and legend, *The Lady of the Rivers* tells the story of the real-life mother to the White Queen.



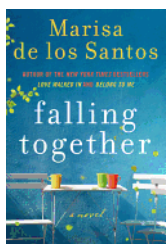
**When She Woke** by Hilary Jordan.  
**BookPage Notable Title**  
*When She Woke* is a fable about a stigmatized woman struggling to navigate an America of the not-too-distant future. Hannah unknowingly embarks on a path of self-discovery that forces her to question the values she once held true and the righteousness of a country that politicizes faith.

**White Truffles in Winter** by N.M. Kelby.  
Fact and imagination waltz arm in arm through N.M. Kelby's genre-bending novel *White Truffles in Winter*. Measure by measure, the personal history of the renowned, real-life chef Auguste Escoffier (1846-1935) spins whimsically into fictive memories—intricate scenes of passion and taste.



**Nightwoods** by Charles Frazier.  
**BookPage Notable Title**  
The extraordinary author returns with a dazzling new novel of suspense and love set in small-town North Carolina in the early 1960s. Frazier puts his remarkable gifts in the service of a lean, taut narrative while losing none of the transcendent prose, virtuosic storytelling, and insight into human nature.

**Falling Together** by Marisa de los Santos.  
**BookPage Notable Title**  
Marisa de los Santos has established herself as a deft chronicler of human emotion. With her first two successful novels, *Love Walked In* and *Belong to Me*, she has explored the landscape of a variety of relationships: friendly, romantic, neighborly, maternal. And in her latest novel, de los Santos traverses all of that relational terrain at once.



For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at [www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org)

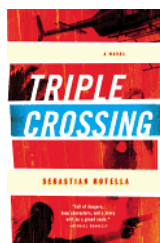
## STAFF PICKS

### Elise's Picks

**No One You Know** by Michelle Richmond.  
On a professional coffee buying trip to Nicaragua, Ellie Enderlin stumbles upon Peter McConnell, the brilliant mathematician who was her sister Lila's research partner and secret lover. Twenty years earlier a "true crime" bestseller theorized that he was Lila's murderer. Shaken by the encounter and her perceptions of Peter, Ellie begins to have her doubts about his guilt and whether other leads were thoroughly pursued. Known for her compassionate novels about family tragedies, and for making scientific subjects accessible, Michelle Richmond's latest literary mystery also raises profound questions about the standards and temptations of true crime writing, and the responsibility of all authors to their characters.



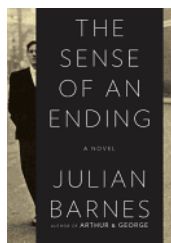
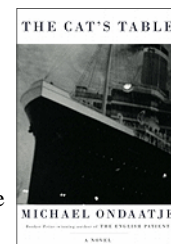
**Triple Crossing** by Sebastian Rotella.



When a young US Border Patrol agent is recruited to infiltrate a powerful Mexican drug cartel, his undercover assignment takes him to South America's notorious Triple Border region. A lawless "smuggler's paradise," the intersection of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina is a porous haven for every type of illegal activity and contraband from narcotics and gun running to money laundering and jihadist plots. Written by an award winning investigative reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, who covered this area for close to a decade, *Triple Crossing* is an intense, atmospheric thriller that paints a chilling picture of the double agent's dangerous life and the growing globalization of crime.

### Dorothy's Picks

**The Cat's Table** by Michael Ondaatje.  
In 1950, an eleven year-old boy embarks on an ocean liner from Sri Lanka bound for England, where he is to be reunited with his estranged mother. Michael and two boys he befriends onboard encounter an intriguing assortment of fellow travelers, including a mysterious prisoner who traverses the ship in shackles. Looking back from the perspective of adulthood, he reflects on how the experiences of this six-week journey shaped the rest of his life. Ondaatje, a prize-winning author who also writes poetry, infuses this stunning novel with luminous imagery that captures the past reflected through the prism of age.



**The Sense of an Ending** by Julian Barnes.  
This year's winner of the Man Booker Prize also deals with how memories of youth are transformed by time. Tony Webster is in his mid-sixties, divorced, retired, and leading a comfortable life. When he is bequeathed a journal that belonged to his friend Adrian, who committed suicide at 22, suppressed memories slowly surface. How accurate are Tony's recollections of what transpired between himself, his former lover Veronica, and Adrian? The *New York Times* called this thought-provoking novel "a sort of psychological detective story." It will leave you pondering its subtleties long after you've turned the last page.