

# BOOK CLUB

with DEIRDRE O'BRIEN

## THE KINDNESS

Polly Samson

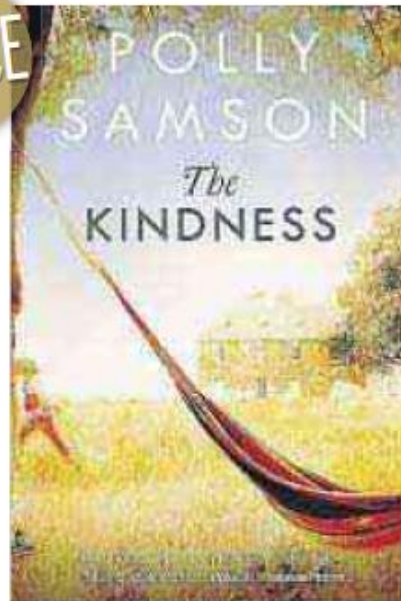
Bloomsbury. Out Thursday

CHOICE

Brilliant student Julian has two great obsessions – his childhood home Firdaws, and Julia, a beautiful married woman eight years his senior.

The passionate affair that follows their chance meeting leads to a hard-won happiness that's later destroyed when, once they are settled at Firdaws, their baby daughter becomes gravely ill.

There are some really clever structural tricks to this wistful story. Samson writes beautifully – particularly about nature – and her deceptively simple narrative produces a smart and torrid tale of the consequences of sexual obsession and jealousy.



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