

## **THE KINDNESS**

by **POLLY SAMSON**

*Bloomsbury £8.99*

Samson's novel is cumulatively addictive: intriguing, cleverly structured, lyrical and engrossing. At its centre is an emotional mystery: what destroyed the love between Julian and Julia? First we see the past from Julian's perspective. He becomes a successful writer while Julia sets up a gardening business. The latter part of the novel is seen through her eyes. And this is where things become interesting. Secrets, around which we have been circling, come slowly into focus. We see the same events from Julia's perspective, filling in some crucial details until, slowly, it all makes sense. **Lucy Atkins**