



LITERARY

**POLLY SAMSON**

**THE KINDNESS**

BLOOMSBURY,  
12TH, £16.99, HB,  
9781408861875

The second novel from the author of *Lying in Bed* and short story collections *Out of the Picture* and *Perfect Lives* is the story of a passionate love affair and an explosive secret. It opens with Julian, sunk into a deep depression and full of rage and regret. It transpires that Julia—eight years his senior and the love of his life—and their beloved young daughter Mira are no longer with him, and as the novel unfolds we learn why. I read this in near enough one sitting. Samson has always written beautiful, even lyrical prose, but it's the masterful plotting here that makes it stand out even more. A gem of a novel.