
THE BEST NEW FICTION

The Kindness

Polly Samson

Bloomsbury £14.99



When a bright student falls for a married woman nearly ten years his senior, he is too in love to see the danger signs. Even their names – Julian and Julia – seem auspicious. But as the couple set up home in London, the storm clouds are gathering. Their baby daughter becomes dangerously ill. And it turns out Julia has been keeping a secret, like a ticking bomb in their marriage. Beautifully written and plotted with serpentine cunning, Samson's novel is what might be called a love story for adults: unsentimental, at times harsh, but ultimately uplifting.