Burton et al./Book review


Research has demonstrated that many people have sexual problems they are unable to talk about. Ian McEwan gives us a compelling story about ‘doing nothing’. He chooses a different time and he chooses Florence and Edward with their separate narrations. But it could be now. It could be anyone.

The early part of the book affords us a growing intimacy with these people. It hints at their lack of knowledge of each other. The narrative brings them separately to the moment of truth: their wedding night, both the semen and narrative brings them separately to the moment their lack of knowledge of each other. The growing intimacy with these people. It hints at anyone.

narratives. But it could be now. It could be

On Chesil Beach? I don’t know. It reminds me that

solutions may not be easily accessible. Perhaps

the most important message is that not knowing the answers to Florence and Edward, we listen to our patients and reflect with them.

Reading a novel is something wonderfully

personal. There is always something more immediate to read. Not this time. It is difficult to think that anyone reading this Journal would not benefit from reading this book. It could even be evidence of learning for next year’s appraisal.

Reviewed by Alex Connan, MRCP, MPM
General Practitioner, Edinburgh, UK

BOOK REVIEW


Starting in this issue with On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan, the journal will review a full work of modern fiction that has as a core theme a topic likely to be of interest and relevance to healthcare professionals working in the fields of sexual and reproductive health care.

The journal will announce the title to be reviewed in the next issue so that interested readers may choose to ‘read along’ with the reviewer and thus see whether their view of the book mirrors that of the guest reviewer. The title to be reviewed in the July issue is We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver (500 pages, Serpent’s Tail, 2006, ISBN: 1-85242-467-2).

Finally, if any journal readers would like to offer to review an appropriate fiction title of their own choosing then they should contact the Journal Editorial Office by e-mail (journal@fhr.org) in the first instance with details of their nominated title.

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