

* drama - U.K. Lesbian and gay - Spain - U.S.A.*
 * Classics - yiddish USSR - Film Noir - India - Comedy Germany
 * Children's - Australia - documentaries - China - Japan - Sweden - France
 * Italy - Silent - Canada - Netherlands - Ireland

SECRET TREASURE!
 The best of foreign and independent films
 Critic's Choice VIDEO
 2015 Göttingen St.
 423#5095

RD... MARITIME CAMPUS... QUIN
 POOL RD... MARI
 TIME CAMPUS... MARITIME CAMP

Champion[®]
 SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

arts

Black Dogs
explores evil

by Robert Currie

Black Dogs is a novel of subtle dread, understated hope, and a sense of the human scale of great events. Author Ian McEwan has alloyed mystery and fear, fear built not from the enormity of the narrative, but from its apparent inconsequence. *Black Dogs* lays bare the terrible weight of history on the everyday lives of ordinary people.

what I've done, single out a certain event, find in something ordinary and explicable a means of expressing what might otherwise be lost to you—a conflict, a change of heart, a new understanding.

Bernard, ever the sceptic, denies anything but his empirical perceptions of that day:

I'll tell you something. You can forget all that nonsense about "face to face with evil." Religious cant. But you know, I was the one who told her about Churchill's black dog. You remember? The name he gave to the depressions he used to get from time to time.... So June's idea was if one dog was a personal depression, two dogs were a kind of cultural depression, civilization's worst moods.

McEwan writes with precision and economy; *Black Dogs* is less than 200 pages long, but never succumbs to the

BOOK REVIEW
Black Dogs
 Ian McEwan
 Vintage Books

Although *Black Dogs* takes place against a background of momentous events — the holocaust, the doomed rebellions behind the Iron Curtain, the reunification of Germany — it dwells on none of these. Instead, it is an incident in post-war France, a confrontation between a newlywed English woman and two fearsome dogs which McEwan places at the novel's nexus.

The Tremaines, Bernard and June, in-laws of the narrator, Jeremy, are two minor intellectuals whose lives have taken divergent paths since June's confrontation with the dogs on their honeymoon in the French countryside of 1946.

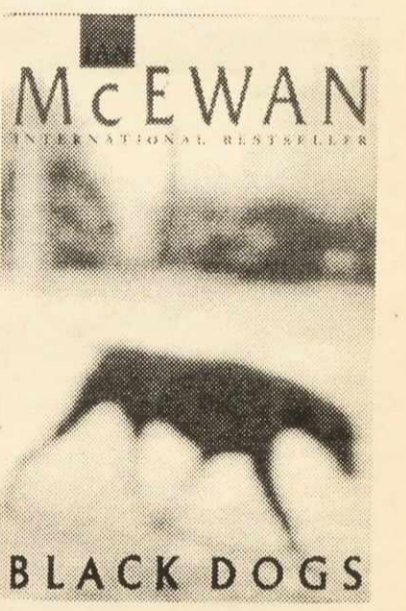
Jeremy plays the part of the investigator, the explainer, as he researches the lives of his wife's parents. Blandly likable, the type destined to become a favourite son-in-law, Jeremy roots out the stories Bernard and June offer as explanations for the same event, June's encounter with the black dogs.

From that day onwards, Bernard and June's lives spin centripetally apart, their contrary interpretations of the incident emblematic of their diametrically opposed views of life, and of the conflicts of ideology and secular faith which have torn apart the continent.

The acerbic Bernard Tremaine believes in Reason and Atheism, renouncing his weakly-held Communism only after years of agonizing; his wife discovers evil, hope, and God. Moving backward in time with the now elderly Tremaines, Jeremy strives to understand the miniscule incident which has shaped and informed their lives for the next forty years.

On her deathbed, June remembers

Wait until you come to make sense of your life. You'll either find you're too old and lazy to make the attempt, or you'll do



generic prose of minimalist dullards such as Raymond Carver. There is something of Hemingway in McEwan's ability to map catastrophe onto human lives, and something of Graham Greene in his understanding of modern evil.

Never lagging, never digressing, *Black Dogs* touches down in different times and places, but never leaves behind the unnameable menace of the black dogs, and everything June believes them to signify, and all Bernard denies. Wars, debates of ideology, and human relations all are drawn into the orbit of June's epiphany in the countryside. McEwan has crafted a fiction of sinister simplicity, of evil embodied not in the spasms of war and rebellion, but in the lives of unexceptional people.

Quality affirmed

To the editor:

Thank you for your belated but enjoyable review of *Lila*. It's always nice to see a reviewer who really tries to grasp the significance of a difficult but deeply important book like Pirsig's. Congratulations to Amir Izadi!

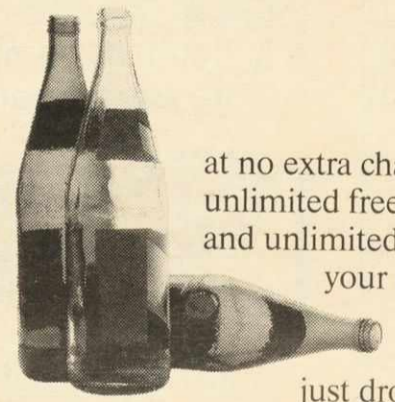
Yes, Mr. Izadi is right — this book can revolutionize the way in which people experience the world. But he thinks that "most people should find [Pirsig's] ideas highly illuminating" — something that rarely happens with a book as innovative as this one. As he himself says, most reviewers don't like

(or probably don't even understand) it. As the old cliché goes, Rob Pirsig is ahead of our time.

One more point: it was clever of your reviewer to avoid discussing static/dynamic quality, Pirsig's central idea, but I would have liked to see him mention the profoundly alienating effects of our current dualistic thought. Quality is crucial because it overcomes the "secret loneliness" of the twentieth century!

Sincerely,
 Mark Paddock

Does
 fabulous
 wealth
 mean taking
 the empties
 back?



Day-to-day banking charges on your account can add up. So if you're trying to stretch every dollar, drop in to Bank of Montreal where you can get a package of handy banking services, at one low fee of \$2.75 a month, only for students.*


You can use our Instabank[®] machines as often as you want, and other Interac[™] banking machines two times a month,

at no extra charge. Plus there's unlimited free cheque writing and unlimited withdrawals from your Bank of Montreal accounts.

To find out more, just drop by your nearest branch. And while you're there, ask us how else we can make your life easier — low-interest Student Loans, Bank of Montreal MasterCard[®] + cards, and more. You might not have to take the empties back so often.

Visit a branch near you.

*Available to full-time students. See your local branch for complete details. [®]Registered trade-mark of Bank of Montreal. [™]Interac and design are registered trade marks of Interac Inc. Bank of Montreal is a registered user. [™]MasterCard is a registered trade mark of MasterCard International Inc. Bank of Montreal is a registered user.

 **Bank of Montreal**
 We're Paying Attention