

# Contents

Acknowledgements	viii
Introduction	1
Julian Barnes in 10½ Chapters	
Provides a brief biography, refers to the essential works of criticism on Barnes, and outlines the contents of the Guide.	
CHAPTER ONE	8
A Witty Bildungsroman: <i>Metroland</i> (1980)	
Interviews with Barnes about the autobiographical basis of the novel; mixed reviews by Paul Bailey, Bernard Levin and David Williams about wit, irony and characterisation; Matthew Pateman and Richard Todd on intertextuality; discussion of the film adaptation.	
CHAPTER TWO	17
When Horror Meets Comedy: <i>Before She Met Me</i> (1982)	
Philip Larkin's sympathetic letter; reviews by Anthony Thwaite and Frank Kermode about the mixture of comedy and tragedy; perceptive examination of retrospective jealousy and imaginary cuckoldry by Frédéric Monneyron, Mark K. Millington and Alison S. Sinclair.	
CHAPTER THREE	28
Barnes/Kavanagh, a Janus-faced Writer: <i>Duffy</i> (1980), <i>Fiddle City</i> (1981), <i>Putting the Boot In</i> (1985) and <i>Going to the Dogs</i> (1987)	
Interviews with Barnes about the use of a pseudonym and the original style and tone; Merritt Moseley's analysis of the handling of the detective genre in the Duffy novels and of their relationship with Barnes's other fiction; significant observations on this relationship by Alexander Stuart, Mark Lawson, Richard Brown and Charles Moritz.	

- CHAPTER FOUR 37
- Postmodernist Experimentation: *Flaubert's Parrot* (1984)
- Philip Larkin and David Lodge on genre; examination of the lists and catalogues by Patti White; computerised linguistic analysis by Tania Shepherd; James B. Scott's deconstructionist approach; Neil Brooks's poststructuralist reading; Alison Lee's classification of the book as historiographic metafiction; William Bell's exploration of the subversion of biography; debate between Neil Brooks and Erica Hateley about the oscillation between modernism and postmodernism; examination of the figure of the narrator by Alison Lee, David Leon Higdon and Georgia Johnston.
- CHAPTER FIVE 51
- An Ordinary Miracle: *Staring at the Sun* (1986)
- Carlos Fuentes's enthusiastic review; perceptive reviews by Ann Hulbert and Alison Hennegan; Pateman on the three dominant social discourses; Richard Pédot on the relation of knowledge to power.
- CHAPTER SIX 61
- A Re-vision of History: *A History of the World in 10½ Chapters* (1989)
- Insightful reviews by Joyce Carol Oates and Salman Rushdie; analysis of the echoes and connections by Brian Finney and Merritt Moseley; thorough examination of 'Shipwreck' by Catherine Bernard, Liliane Louvel and Alan Clinton; Gregory Salyer and Claudia Kotte on the problematising of historical discourse.
- CHAPTER SEVEN 73
- The Polyphony of Love and Truth: *Talking It Over* (1991) and *Love, etc* (2001)
- Helpful reviews by John Bayley and Mick Imlah on intertextual echoes, and by Peter Kemp, Elaine Showalter and James Wood on the theme of love; Craig Hamilton on the narrative technique which creates a polyphony of contrasting monologues; Richard Todd and Erica Hateley on the love triangle; allusion to the French film adaptation of *Talking It Over*.
- CHAPTER EIGHT 85
- Politics and Fiction: *The Porcupine* (1992)
- References to Barnes's thoughtful 1990 and 1992 essays on the situation of Bulgaria and on the blurring frontier between fiction and reality; reviews by Michael

Scammel and John Bayley focusing on intertextual echoes; Pateman on the fragility of truth.

PARENTHESIS 96

The Brilliant Essayist: *Letters from London* (1995), *Something to Declare* (2002) and *The Pedant in the Kitchen* (2003)

John Walsh and James Wood considering Barnes as essentially an essayist; Moseley's account of the first volume; interesting reviews by Patrick Cockburn, Alain de Botton, Claire Messud and Jane Jakeman.

CHAPTER NINE 104

The Simulacrum of National Identity: *England, England* (1998)

Challenging views of the novel as satire by reviewers, and as farce by the author; perceptive essay by Vera Nünning on the construction of Englishness and the invention of tradition; comparative analysis by James J. Miracky, drawing on the theories of Jean Baudrillard.

CHAPTER TEN 115

In Search of Lost Times: *Cross Channel* (1996) and *The Lemon Table* (2004)

James Wood and Adrian Kempton on the predominance of facts; thoughtful reviews by Michiko Kakutani, Michael Wood and Robert MacFarlane on the nostalgia for the past and for lost loves, and on the mechanisms of memory.

CONCLUSION 127

Endings and New Beginnings: *Arthur & George* (2005)

Discussion of Barnes's latest novel, which mixes biography and imagination; consideration of its narrative technique, its echoes of detective fiction and its introduction of a new topic for Barnes, that of racial prejudice.

NOTES 133

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 151

INDEX 161