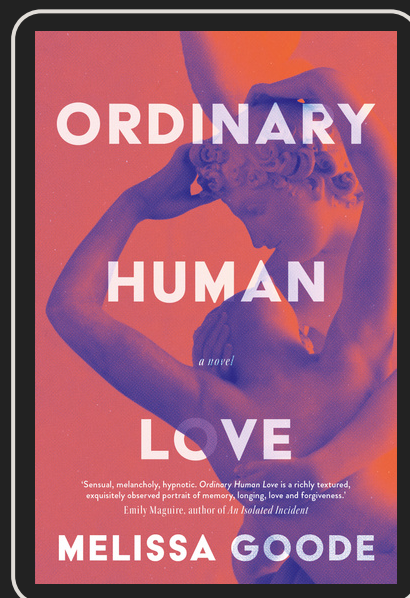


READING GROUP NOTES

ORDINARY HUMAN LOVE MELISSA GOODE

Set between country New South Wales, inner city Sydney, and Europe, 'Ordinary Human Love' follows Mardi as she discovers that the greatest love she will ever feel is for the man she left. In this powerful and complex debut, Melissa Goode interrogates what makes a life worthwhile, and has created a vivid, intricate portrait of the relationships that shape and connect us, and the all-consuming nature of desire.



May 2024

Paperback: \$34.99 | 9781761153266 | 352pp | TPB

Ebook: \$16.99 | 9781761153273

Mardi's departure from Ian without explanation is a pivotal event in the story. Do you sympathise with her reasons for leaving, or do you believe she owed Ian an explanation? How does her inability to communicate affect the dynamics of their relationship?

Love takes centre stage in this story. How does the portrayal of love in the novel challenge conventional notions of romance and relationships?

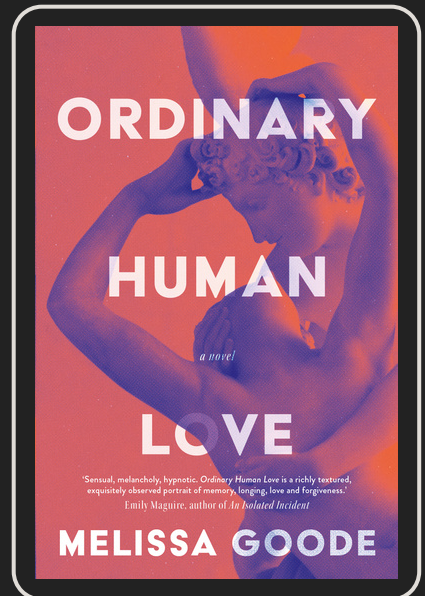
Mardi's relationship with her mother plays a significant role in her life. How do you think her mother's death - and the revelations that come from it - impacts the choices Mardi makes going forward?

Ian and Claudia both serve as significant figures in Mardi's life and in the novel. How do their personalities and relationships with Mardi contribute to her understanding of love?

Class and privilege are subtle yet present themes in the narrative. How do the characters' backgrounds influence their decisions? What does Mardi have to reckon with in order to build the life she wants?

LOVE. LONGING. ATONEMENT.

'Sensual, melancholy, hypnotic. 'Ordinary Human Love' is a richly textured, exquisitely observed portrait of memory, longing, love and forgiveness.'
Emily Maguire, author of 'An Isolated Incident'



Art and literature are a constant throughout the book, but also hold great meaning for the character of Mardi. What works of art or literature have influenced you in your life?

The setting shifts between the Blue Mountains, Sydney, and Europe. How does each setting influence the characters and their development throughout the story?

Morality, desire and consequences are explored throughout the novel. Which character's moral compass do you find most relatable, and why?

The book explores the theme of forgiveness and redemption. How do you think Mardi's actions throughout the story affect her chances of finding forgiveness from Ian and herself?

The title, 'Ordinary Human Love', suggests an experience that is both universal and everyday. How does the author explore the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of love through Mardi's relationships? What do you think an ordinary human love is?