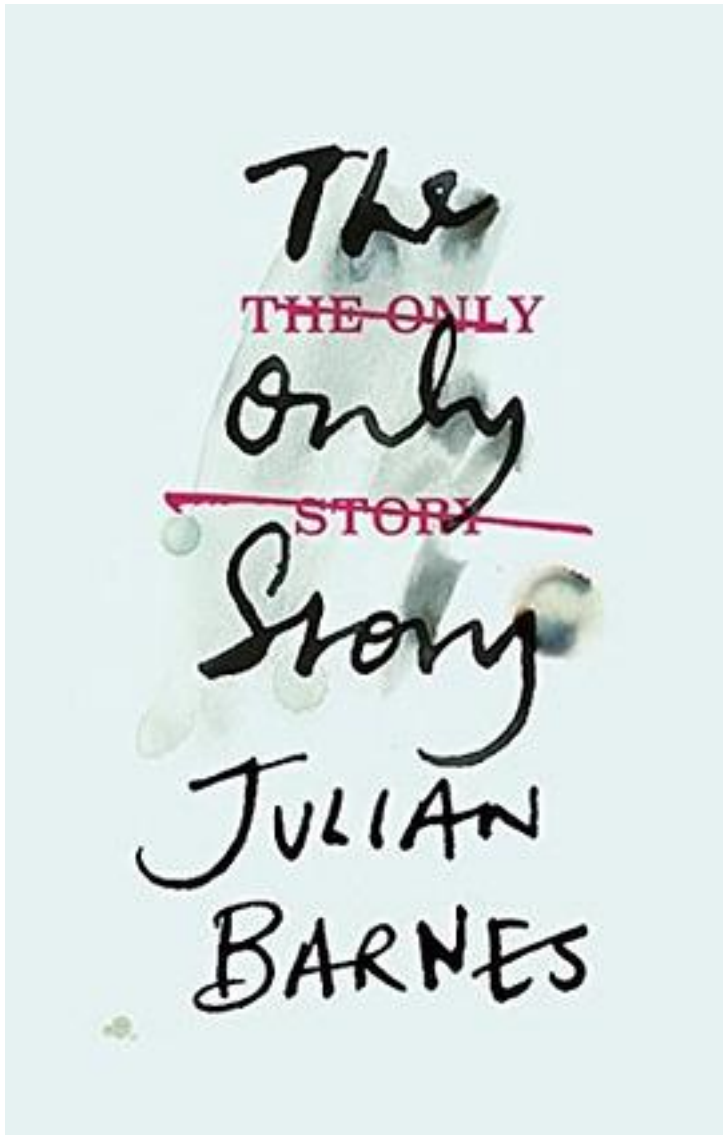


# The Only Story



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著者:Julian Barnes

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Most of us have only one story to tell. I don't mean that only one thing happens to us in our lives: there are countless events, which we turn into countless stories. But there's only one that matters, only one finally worth telling. This is mine.

One summer in the sixties, in a staid suburb south of London, Paul comes home from university, aged nineteen, and is urged by his mother to join the tennis club. In the mixed-doubles tournament he's partnered with Susan Macleod, a fine player who's forty-eight, confident, ironic, and married, with two nearly adult daughters. She is also a warm companion, their bond immediate. And they soon, inevitably, are lovers. Clinging to each other as though their lives depend on it, they then set up house in London to escape his parents and the abusive Mr. Mcleod.

Decades later, with Susan now dead, Paul looks back at how they fell in love, how he freed her from a sterile marriage, and how--gradually, relentlessly--everything fell apart, as she succumbed to depression and worse while he struggled to understand the intricacy and depth of the human heart. It's a piercing account of helpless devotion, and of how memory can confound us and fail us and surprise us (sometimes all at once), of how, as Paul puts it, "first love fixes a life forever."

作者介绍:

Born in Leicester in 1946, Julian Barnes is the author of nine novels, a book of stories, and a collection of essays. He has won both the Prix Médicis and the Prix Fémina, and in 1988 was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He lives in London.

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标签

英国

fiction

JulianBarnes

English

## 评论

Barnes大概是有几个分身。我还是喜欢the Lemon Table和the Noise of Time那一个。

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后半部分很不忍读下去，结尾太赞

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“著名作家”的待遇就是多短一本小书都会排版成一本很厚的精装。sigh  
小说情节很少，我就不剧透了。中心句是Susan说的：每人都自有一个关于爱情的故事。主人公Paul端个小本儿把关于爱情的警句都记下，再逐一思考排除。但是情爱分析太多，就像一条香喷喷的清蒸鱼端上了桌，你偏要把每根刺都摘得干干净净才吃，那还有啥味道捏？

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## 书评

也没什么特别值得“剧透”的，故事很简单：上世纪六十年代，19岁的大学生Paul在网球场上遇到48岁的中产主妇Susan，Susan已婚并有两个快成年的女儿。Paul和Susan从网球搭档渐渐变成情人，甚至“抛弃家庭”另组新居，后来二人分开，直至Susan的老死。Paul在多年后回忆起这段爱...

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新年第一本，看来基本上还是on track的。第一部分读了很久，一直在想要不要放弃算了，因为实在很闷。一个老人回忆初恋，略有点前言不搭后语，想到哪里说到哪里，很多地方都觉得于情理不符，不合逻辑。当然也有很多金句（Barnes真是特别会写句子，看他之前两本书也是恨不得通篇h...

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