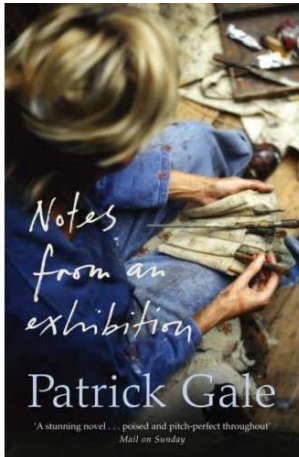


Notes from an Exhibition by Patrick Gale



troubled artist Rachel Kelly dies painting obsessively in her attic studio in Penzance, her husband and children have more than the usual mess to clear up. She leaves behind an extraordinary and acclaimed body of work -- but she also leaves a legacy of secrets and emotional damage it will take months to unravel. A wondrous, monstrous creature, she exerts a power that outlives her. To her children she is both curse and blessing and only their father's Quaker gifts of stillness and resilience give them any chance of withstanding her destructive influence and the suspicion that they came a poor second to her art. The reader becomes a detective, piecing together the clues of a life as artist, lover, mother, wife and patient. What emerges is a story of enduring love, and of a family which weathers tragedy, mental illness and the intolerable strain of living with genius.