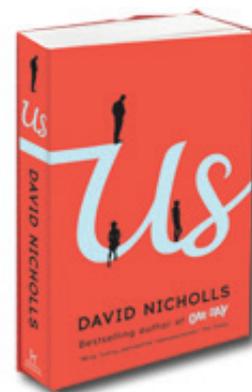
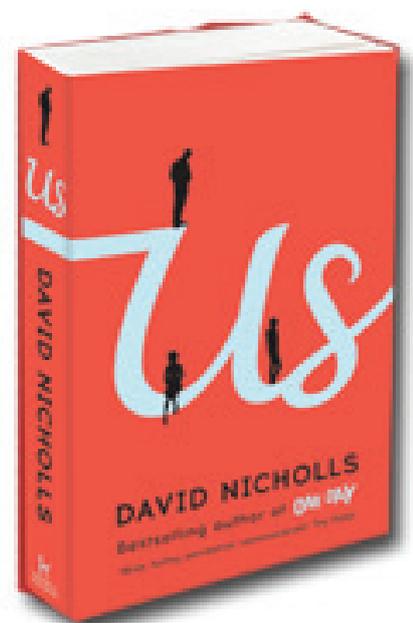


Book Club Notes



Title	Us
Author	David Nicholls
Publisher	Hachette Australia
Other novels by David Nicholls	Starter for Ten (Hodder & Stoughton, 2004) The Understudy (Hodder & Stoughton, 2005) One Day (Hodder & Stoughton, 2009)
About the author	<p>David Nicholls trained as an actor before making the switch to writing. His TV credits include the third series of <i>Cold Feet</i>, <i>Rescue Me</i>, and <i>I Saw You</i>, as well as a much-praised modern version of <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> and an adaptation of <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>, both for BBC TV. David has continued to write for film and TV as well as writing novels, and he has twice been nominated for BAFTA awards.</p> <p>David's bestselling first novel, <i>STARTER FOR TEN</i>, was selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club in 2004, and David has written the screenplays for film versions of both <i>STARTER FOR TEN</i> (released in 2006, starring James McAvoy) and <i>THE UNDERSTUDY</i> (not yet released).</p> <p>David Nicholls' third novel, <i>ONE DAY</i>, was published in hardback in 2009 to extraordinary critical acclaim, and stayed in the <i>Sunday Times</i> top ten bestseller list for ten weeks on publication. It has since gone on to sell over 2 million copies and has been translated into thirty-seven languages. <i>ONE DAY</i> won the 2010 Galaxy Book of the Year Award. David wrote the screenplay for Lone Scherfig's film adaptation starring Jim Sturgess and Anne Hathaway, which was released in 2010.</p>
Us	<p><i>'I was looking forward to us growing old together. Me and you, growing old and dying together.'</i></p> <p><i>'Douglas, who in their right mind would look forward to that?'</i></p> <p>Douglas Petersen understands his wife's need to 'rediscover herself' now that their son is leaving home.</p> <p>He just thought they'd be doing their rediscovering together.</p> <p>So when Connie announces that she will be leaving, too, he resolves to make their last family holiday into the trip of a lifetime: one that will draw the three of them closer, and win the respect of his son. One that will make Connie fall in love with him all over again.</p> <p>The hotels are booked, the tickets bought, the itinerary planned and printed.</p> <p>What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><i>David Nicholls brings to bear all the wit and intelligence that graced One Day in this brilliant, bittersweet new book, which will delight his fans and bring him many new readers. A novel about love and family, husbands and wives, parents and children, its publication will undoubtedly be one of the major events in the world of books in 2014.</i></p>

<p>Discussion points</p>	<p>Why do you think David Nicholls chooses to tell the story through Douglas? What are the advantages and disadvantages to an author of first-person narrative?</p> <p>To what extent do you think Douglas and Connie have been shaped by their parents and their parents' marriages?</p> <p>How important a factor is Albie in the way Connie and Douglas relate to each other?</p> <p>Is Douglas an archetypal Englishman?</p> <p>How does David Nicholls use the various locations, both at home and abroad, to gain a perspective on his characters?</p> <p>What is the significance of Douglas being a scientist and Connie an artist?</p> <p>Of the three main characters, Douglas is the one who claims to appreciate art the least. How does David Nicholls portray his reaction to the art encountered on the journey?</p> <p>In his previous novel, <i>One Day</i>, David Nicholls used the device of showing what his characters were doing on one particular day - July 15th - each year. <u>How does he handle the time scheme here?</u></p>
<p>Themed reading</p>	<p>And When Did You Last See Your Father, Blake Morrison; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon; Gilead, Marilynne Robinson</p> <p>Mrs Bridge and Mr Bridge, Evan S Connell</p> <p>The Ambassadors, Henry James</p> <p>Girl with a Pearl Earring, Tracy Chevalier; Tulip Fever, Deborah Moggach; Embarrassment of Riches, Simon Scharma</p> <p>Venice, Jan Morris</p> <p>Barcelona, Robert Hughes; The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafon; As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning, Laurie Lee; Homage to Catalonia, George Orwell</p>
<p>Useful links</p>	<p>www.themanbookerprize.com</p> <p>www.facebook.com/davidnichollsauthor</p> <p>https://www.hodder.co.uk/search.page?SearchText=david+nicholls</p>



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