

Us: A Novel

By David Nicholls

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David Nicholls brings the wit and intelligence that graced his enormously popular *New York Times* bestseller, *One Day*, to a compellingly human, deftly funny new novel about what holds marriages and families together—and what happens, and what we learn about ourselves, when everything threatens to fall apart.

Douglas Petersen may be mild-mannered, but behind his reserve lies a sense of humor that, against all odds, seduces beautiful Connie into a second date . . . and eventually into marriage. Now, almost three decades after their relationship first blossomed in London, they live more or less happily in the suburbs with their moody seventeen year-old son, Albie. Then Connie tells him she thinks she wants a divorce.

The timing couldn't be worse. Hoping to encourage her son's artistic interests, Connie has planned a month-long tour of European capitals, a chance to experience the world's greatest works of art as a family, and she can't bring herself to cancel. And maybe going ahead with the original plan is for the best anyway? Douglas is privately convinced that this landmark trip will rekindle the romance in the marriage, and might even help him to bond with Albie.

Narrated from Douglas's endearingly honest, slyly witty, and at times achingly optimistic point of view, *Us* is the story of a man trying to rescue his relationship with the woman he loves, and learning how to get closer to a son who's always felt like a stranger. *Us* is a moving meditation on the demands of marriage and parenthood, the regrets of abandoning youth for middle age, and the intricate relationship between the heart and the head. And in David Nicholls's gifted hands, Douglas's odyssey brings Europe—from the streets of Amsterdam to the famed museums of Paris, from the cafés of Venice to the beaches of Barcelona—to vivid life just as he experiences a powerful awakening of his own. Will this summer be his last as a husband, or the moment when he turns his marriage, and maybe even his whole life, around?

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Us: A Novel By David Nicholls Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, November 2014: At an ungodly hour one summer morning, a time when most of us cannot digest a simple greeting let alone any grand revelation, Douglas Petersen's wife, Connie, informs him that she doesn't want to be married anymore. Or rather, she's not sure. Mind you, this is no fickle woman and this is not an admission she makes lightly. Connie and Douglas have been together, and happily so, for almost two decades. They have a son, Albie, more a chip off his artistic mum than biochemist dad, and that has strained the father-son dynamic. Will an ill-timed family vacation provide the opportunity Douglas needs to repair both relationships? With humor and with heart, David Nicholls of *One Day* fame takes us through every bumbling but well-meaning attempt in service to this goal. Lest you think the premise wreaks of a rom-com starring Hugh Grant, it is not a story tied up with a neat little bow. Nor is the precarious marriage portrayed as a consequence of cinematically-friendly scenes like slamming doors, flying frying pans, or people leaving the toilet seat up on purpose. Instead, *Us* delicately and intelligently untangles one of the more complex, heart-wrenching and relatable of relationship struggles—one in which there isn't a villain to blame. You'll be rooting for this family, and for another fine achievement from David Nicholls.
–Erin Kodicek

Review
"The Petersen family travels through Europe with more emotional baggage than luggage in Nicholls's winning follow-up to his 2009 bestseller *One Day*….Few authors do messed-up relationships better than Nicholls." (*People*, Book of the Week)

"Nicholls is a deft craftsman, a skilled storyteller and a keen observer of contemporary mores." (Jay McInerney, *New York Times Book Review*)

"In his latest…Mr. Nicholls again deals with love lost and possibly found, offering an unpredictable (and less grim) ending…. Mr. Nicholls mines the setup for laughs, as he should, but he also provides a poignant story of regret in middle age." (*New York Times*)

"A great novel...Nicholls is a master of nuanced relationships. He's also a pro at delivering a tight, clever structural narrative, as he proved in his terrific previous novel *One Day*." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"I loved this book. Funny, sad, tender: for anyone who wants to know what happens after the Happy Ever After." (Jojo Moyes, author of *Me Before You* and *One Plus One*)

"Wonderful. A novel that manages to be both truly hilarious and deeply affecting. I loved it." (S.J. Watson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before I Go to Sleep*)

"Nicholls is a delightfully funny writer…and this over-planned vacation makes ripe material for comedy…*Us* evolves into a poignant consideration of how a marriage ages, how parents mess up and what survives despite all those challenges." (*Washington Post*)

"A smartly optimistic romantic comedy that uses angst and humor to illuminate the resilience of the human heart… Part requiem, part reboot, Douglas's...efforts to preserve his disintegrating family take him on

another kind of journey, too, from despair to unexpected joy." (*O* Magazine, November 2014)

"A thoughtful, funny, authentic story…Pitch-perfect dialogue and seamless action propel the story forward in a way that feels cinematic.…This is the kind of book that reminds us what it means to be alive. How often does a reader get to feel that?" (*Good Housekeeping*)

"But for all of their burdens and battles, Douglas and Connie have moments of real joy in their marriage and while it doesn't always seem like a pleasure, reading about it sure is." (*Time* magazine)

"*Us* is a quick read but a charming one; a portrait of two journeys—one measured in kilometers, the other in the heart." (*Seattle Times*)

"What happens when domestic bliss becomes rote? Is the past strong enough to bind us together when it happens? Nicholls' answer is complicated, poignant, wise—and disarmingly human." (*Miami Herald*)

"It's a great combination of laughs and heart…Just what you need on these too-short days, no?" (Sophie Kinsella, *Redbook*)

"David Nicholls's latest… is a smartly optimistic romantic comedy that uses angst and humor to illuminate the resilience of the human heart…. Part requiem, part reboot, Douglas's endearingly inept efforts to preserve his disintegrating family take him on another kind of journey, too, from despair to unexpected joy." (Oprah.com)

"From the author of *One Day*—which was infinitely better than the movie—comes a pathos-laden love story about marriage on the brink of collapse." (*Entertainment Weekly*, "A Dozen Books We're Dying to Read This Fall.")

"The bestselling author of *One Day*…is back with another crowd-pleaser, this time about a man trying to save his collapsing marriage and connect with his teenage son during a family tour of Europe." (*People*, Best Books of the Fall (2014))

"Complex family drama...perfect read for the holidays!" (*Huffington Post*, Top 10 Books to Read This Winter)

"A smartly optimistic romantic comedy that uses angst and humor to illuminate the resilience of the human heart." (Oprah.com, "Paperbacks that Dazzle")

"Nicholls is a master of the braided narrative, weaving the past and present to create an intricate whole…. A funny and moving novel." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"Nicholls brings his trademark wit and wisdom to this by turns hilarious and heartbreaking examination of a long-term marriage…. This tender novel will further cement Nicholls' reputation as a master of romantic comedy." (*Booklist* (starred review))

"For those who loved *One Day*, the author's latest is another heart-grabber about discovering what makes us happy and learning to let go." (Library Journal (starred review))

"Liked *One Day*? Then you'll find this absolutely fabulous.… Very funny and very moving, often at the same time." (*Daily Mail* (London))

From the Back Cover

Douglas Petersen may be mild mannered, but behind his reserve lies a sense of humor that, against all odds, seduces beautiful Connie into a second date . . . and eventually into marriage. Now, almost three decades after their relationship first blossomed in London, they live more or less happily in the suburbs with their moody seventeen-year-old son, Albie.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Babb:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Us: A Novel. Try to stumble through book Us: A Novel as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let us make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Phyllis Tucker:

The book Us: A Novel can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a good thing like a book Us: A Novel? A number of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you can give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book Us: A Novel has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by wide open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Shirley Akins:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something

different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled Us: A Novel can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Anne Braden:

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