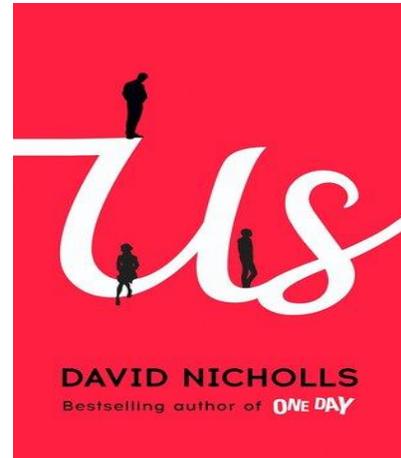


June 15, 2016

*Spotlight on Books:*

*Us* by David Nicholls; audiobook performed by David Haig

The season of the holiday road trip is now upon us and Yellowknife Public Library is delighted to offer a robust collection of audiobooks to enhance your driving pleasure. There is something very special about being sequestered with your nearest and dearest and to leave behind, for a while at least, the cares and pressures of the daily world. Listening together to an audio book can bring a family even closer as they pause the story to discuss plot and characters and to share their varied points of view.



Those readers who enjoyed David Nicholls' *One Day* will be equally delighted by his current romantic comedy *Us*. Sure to have generational appeal, *Us* tells the story of the introverted and pragmatic Douglas Petersen, his charismatic, artistically inclined wife Connie and their moody, seventeen year-old son Albie. Douglas and Connie have been married thirty years, happily he thought, and when the story opens she delivers shocking news – Connie thinks that she wants a divorce. They decide to postpone a final decision until after the month-long grand tour of Europe that they had planned to take with the alienated Albie to celebrate his high school graduation.

What ensues is both heartbreaking and very funny as the narrative shifts back and forth from Douglas and Connie's courting days to the over-planned (and under-appreciated by Albie!) vacation. Thoughtful and insightful reflections about marriage and family relationships abound encouraging the reader to ponder such gems as "... *Married life is not a plateau, not at all. There are ravines and great jagged peaks and hidden crevasses that send both of you scabbling into darkness...sometimes you can't see the other person at all, sometimes they drift off very far away from you, quite out of sight, and the journey is hard...*"

*Us* is a pleasure to listen to due to the pitch-perfect, witty dialogue and nuanced characterization. As well, the narrator, David Haig, gives a rich and smooth delivery and listeners are quickly drawn into the tender story of a family in crisis. *Us* is a perfect holiday book and awaits your check-out from the library's audiobook display. We are offering extended loans this summer to better support our patrons' travel plans so be sure to take advantage of this. Happy travels/happy reading!

- *Review prepared by Deborah Bruser*