# David Nicholls Explores Midlife Adventures in 'You Are Here'



David Nicholls, renowned for his bestselling novel "One Day," returns with his latest book, "You Are Here." The novel centers on two characters, Michael Bradshaw and Marnie Walsh, who embark on a group hike across the English countryside. Michael, a 42-year-old geography teacher, and Marnie, a 38-year-old proofreader, are both recently divorced and have adapted to solitary lives in York and London, respectively.

Their journey is initiated by their mutual friend Cleo, who organizes the multi-day hike. Michael initially plans to complete the 180-mile coast-to-coast walk alone but is diverted by meeting Marnie, compounded by inclement weather.

The idea for "You Are Here" stemmed from Nicholls' own experiences with walking holidays and exploring themes of loneliness and social withdrawal, especially post-pandemic. The novel intricately weaves a narrative of melancholy and humor, focusing on midlife challenges and the possibilities of new connections.

David Nicholls meticulously planned the novel by walking the same route over a span of 10 to 11 days. The trek's physical and emotional landscapes influenced his writing, enriching the story with authenticity and lived experience. "You Are Here" blends comedy and introspection, offering a nuanced exploration of love, regret, and the potential for change in middle age.