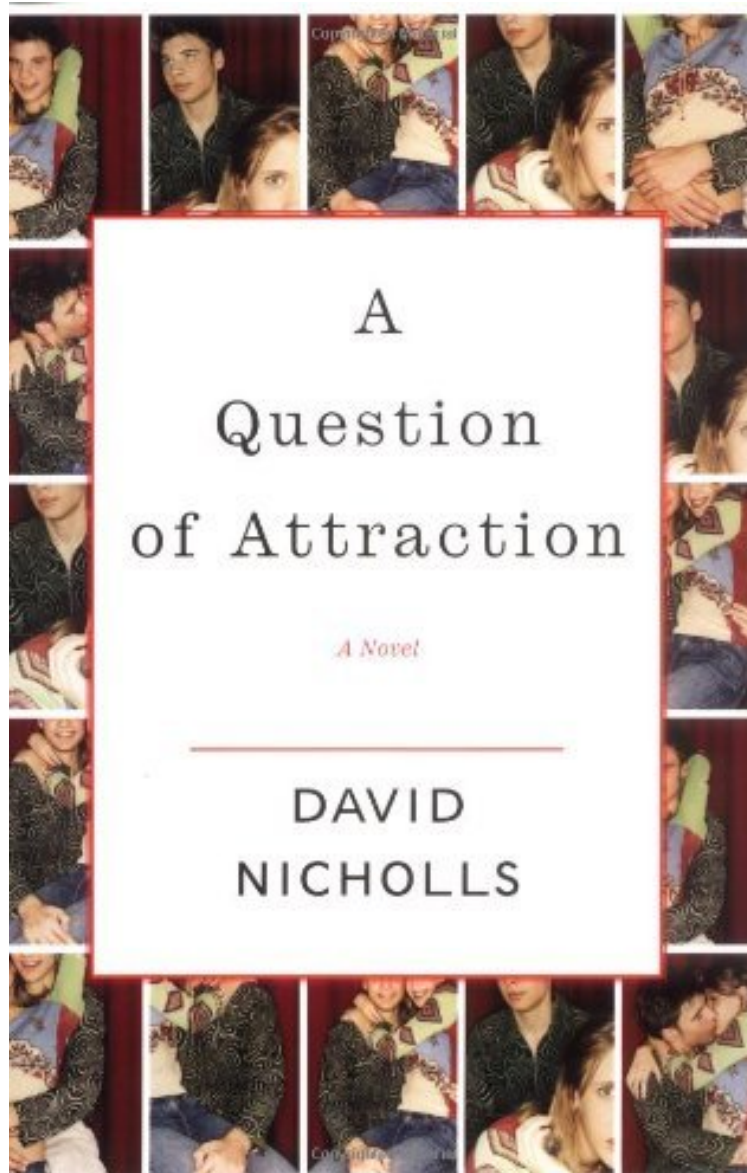


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## A Question of Attraction: A Novel

Von David Nicholls

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**Von David Nicholls : A Question of Attraction: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Question of Attraction: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wo bleibt der nchste David Nicholls?Von AliEigentlich liegt es schon eine Weile zurck, dass ich diesen Roman von Nicholls gelesen habe und ich beabsichtige an dieser Stelle nicht, mich auf das Glatteis einer Inhaltsangabe zu

begeben, der ich nicht mehr ganz gewachsen wre und die man ohnehin an anderer Stelle gut nachlesen kann. Bin aber eben bei der Suche nach einer heiss ersehnten Neuerscheinung dieses Autors (leider gibt es noch nichts ...) wieder auch auf diesen Titel gestossen. Wer gerne lacht ohne sich dafr in die Abgrnde der Albernheiten begeben zu wollen, wer sich gerne gut und dabei doch intelligent unterhalten lsst, ist auch bei diesem Coming-of-age-Roman gut bedient. Wie bei seinen anderen Bchern liegt eine der Strken des Autors, aber bei Weitem nicht die einzige, in seinen brillanten Dialogen und seiner messerscharfen Darstellung von all den kleinen Peinlichkeiten, die letztendlich nicht nur einem jungen Erwachsenen wie Brian in dieser Geschichte widerfahren, sondern in irgendeiner Form doch jedem von uns bekannt sind. Ich habe brigens noch nichts von Nicholls in Deutscher bersetzung gelesen und kann mir auch nicht vorstellen, dass das eine gute Idee wre. Wer also ber gegend Englischkenntnisse verfgt (ist wirklich kein schwieriges Englisch), der sollte sich auch hier fr die Originalversion entscheiden.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Boo-Hoo, I Got Friendzoned Von xIn David Nicholls' "Starter For Ten" we meet Brian, a first-class pretentious dude that is hopelessly friendzoned and doesn't quite get the hint. After watching the movie version of "One Day", I got quite interested in David Nicholls and thought that I should try reading one of his novels. When my local bookstore had a ridiculously cheap offer for this one, I couldn't pass. Maybe I should have. What plays the biggest part in me disliking this one - yes, I'm starting my review off by just telling it like it is - is that he tries way too hard to make the characters relatable. Since the main character Brian just finished high school, we are obviously dealing with a New Adult story, but honestly, the characters are extremely off. You can tell immediately that this is a grown man writing, trying to sound hip and cool and totally missing the essence of what it is like to be eighteen. Yes, you might argue that the novel is set in the 1980s, but if I met a guy like Brian who just won't stop bragging about how smart and sophisticated he is while just thinking he's having a normal conversation - uhm. You get the picture. Nicholls even tries to use this as a stylistic device. Brian is an annoying person to befriend and therefore nobody wants to hang out with him. He is basically a slightly older version of Dash from "Dash and Lily's Book of Dares". Except Brian is also not very good-looking, which Nicholls makes sure to emphasize at least fifteen times throughout the novel. While I do encourage to have ugly, unpopular characters instead of having everyone look like the archetypical greek god models, this is taking it too far. It's not relatable. It's not funny. You're trying too hard. Maybe, given the fact that I am not a teenage boy, I just don't relate to this, but this isn't the kind of novel an author wants to create, right? Everyone should be able to enjoy this, your target audience shouldn't be only boys like Brian. Another problem with the characters is that they are only characterized by how they feel about Brian. There's hardly anyone who can stand him unless they want something from him. While the protagonist is explored thoroughly, everyone else remains pretty flat. Especially love interest Alice, who is just interesting because she's hot. (Characters 1/5) Usually I would have continued and forced myself to finish this, had there been an interesting plot. The novel revolves around five university students applying to a quiz show called University Challenge. Except this isn't even the focus. There are random bits of more or less unconnected events that are supposed to illustrate what a loser Brian is (e.g. girls rejecting/arguing/insulting him 24/7), and then after another three chapters something relevant to the plot happens. As a reader, I got bored pretty easily, because the plot is just so inconsistent. And hell, I could have not cared less about that annoying game show. There's nothing keeping me to want to continue reading! After about 150 pages I was done, completely and utterly through with this. Neither could I stand another second of Brian talking, nor of Nicholls trying to speak the "lingo". And actually, this whole business of Alice rejectign him times and times over and him not understanding it - just - as a woman about her age I know this too well. Dudes who won't back off no matter what you do. No, I don't want to read a novel about it. No, I don't want to sympathize with poor Brian who does everything for her but still doesn't get laid. Women don't owe you s\*\*\*. Not even when they're hot.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Schade, da htte mehr draus werden knnen Von H. Karin Nach "One Day", das mir sehr gut gefallen hat, hatte ich groe Erwartungen an "Starter for Ten". Die Grundidee finde ich nach wie vor reizvoll- Underdog geht zum Studieren und trifft auf StudentInnen aus besseren Kreisen, muss sich zurechtfinden und macht unterschiedlichste Erfahrungen. Aber die Charaktere sind merkwrdig blass, weder konnte ich die Hauptfigur richtig sympathisch finden, noch fand ich die Entwicklung der Handlung nachvollziehbar. Alles wabert unentschlossen vor sich hin, und so manche Wendung scheint mehr als nur ein wenig an den Haaren herbeigezogen. Auch die angerissenen Klassenunterschiede zwischen der Hauptfigur und der unglcklichen Liebe Alice werden nicht wirklich konsequent behandelt, es fehlt jeglicher Hhepunkt in der Entwicklung der Figuren, mal abgesehen vom Quiz-Finale. Die Sprache ist stellenweise sehr witzig und die (ber)Zeichnung mancher Figuren wunderbar, aber alles in allem war ich direkt ein wenig irritiert und unzufrieden, als ich das Buch ausgelesen hatte. "Adrian Mole" ist vielleicht oberflchlicher, aber tut wenigstens nicht so, als wre es mehr als ein witziger Roman ber das Heranwachsen und seine Tcken, und macht genau deswegen viel mehr Spa. Schade!

**Kurzbeschreibung** The year is 1985. Brian Jackson, a working-class kid on full scholarship, has started his first term at university. The usual freshman anxiety over fitting in is compounded by the gap between his own humble origins and

the privileged backgrounds of his better-off classmates. Brian also has a dark secret long-held, burning ambition (stoked by his late father) to appear on the wildly popular TV quiz show *University Challenge* and now, finally, it seems the dream is about to become reality. He's made the school team, and they've completed the qualifying rounds and are limbering up for their first televised match. (And, what's more, he's fallen head over heels for one of his teammates, the beautiful, brainy, and intimidatingly posh Alice Harbinson.) Life seems perfect and triumph inevitable but as his world opens up, Brian learns that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. Reminiscent of such classic coming-of-age works as *The Graduate* and *Goodbye, Columbus*, *A Question of Attraction* marks the literary debut of David Nicholls, one of England's most highly praised television writers. It is an unforgettable story of love, class, finding one's place in the world, and the all-important difference between knowledge and wisdom. From the Hardcover edition.

Is David Nicholls' *Starter for Ten* a throwback? Many readers look back with nostalgia to a recent golden age of comic writing, when David Lodge, Malcolm Bradbury and Tom Sharpe were producing some achingly funny work, with brilliantly realised characters. But Nicholls' sharp-as-nails novel has all the comic acumen of his great predecessors (along with their frequently-utilised university campus milieu) and, like Lodge and co., Nicholls writes real characters, not just boobies suitable only for pratfalls and sexual embarrassment. So even though the situations may often be ridiculous, we're still engaged by the protagonists. Here, they are university student Brian Jackson and aspiring actress Alice Harbinson. Brian has arrived at his place of learning with a stronger desire than the acquisition of knowledge: he's going to be a star of TV's hottest quiz. But his progress on "The Challenge" is somewhat stymied by his growing desire for the beguiling Alice, struggling to make her mark as an actress. And as obstacles impede their affair, Brian becomes more and more convinced that only overwhelming success on the quiz show will win her. What makes this novel such a delight, apart from the strongly drawn characters (both major and minor) is the coruscating dialogue: Nicholls writes comic dialogue like a dream, and his targets are many and varied: the idiocies of love and sex, the ludicrous pursuit of meaningless TV celebrity, fat cat businessmen lining their pockets--you name it, and it's probably here; *Starter for Ten* is a panoply of modern Britain with all its glories and excesses writ large. Nicholls wrote the third series of the hit TV series *Cold Feet*, which is as good a demonstration of his credentials as one could wish for. But *Starter for Ten* is his best work; there are no false notes struck by miscast actors, just prose that has a comic energy not often encountered these days. --Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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