



The Yips: A Novel

Nicola Barker

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The Man Booker Prize–nominated novel by one of the most original authors of our time

Storm clouds are gathering above the bar of the less-than-exclusive Thistle Hotel. Stuart Ransom, a jet-setting, supermodel-chasing pro golfer with an extravagant ego and a career nearing the end of a spectacular decline, is drinking his way through the night. Desperate for attention, he strikes up free-flowing conversations with anyone who will listen. But as he banters with Jen, the impish barmaid with a talent for telling tall tales rivaled only by Stuart's own, the night takes an extraordinary turn.

Among those caught up in the unfolding drama are a tattooist with a mad mother and a love of anything from the 1940s; a free-thinking Muslim sex therapist and his considerably more conservative wife; the mysterious Vicki, the sister of Stuart's defiant yet curiously devoted manager; and a misguided female vicar of the Church of England and her husband, Gene, the Thistle's hapless bartender.

They are a highly entertaining and eccentric bunch, but there's more to them than meets the eye. "There enter in questions of what it is to be consumed by love or lust, by shame, by the longing to be someone else or nobody" (*The Guardian*), and *The Yips* unites them in an absorbing, exhilarating tour de force.

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