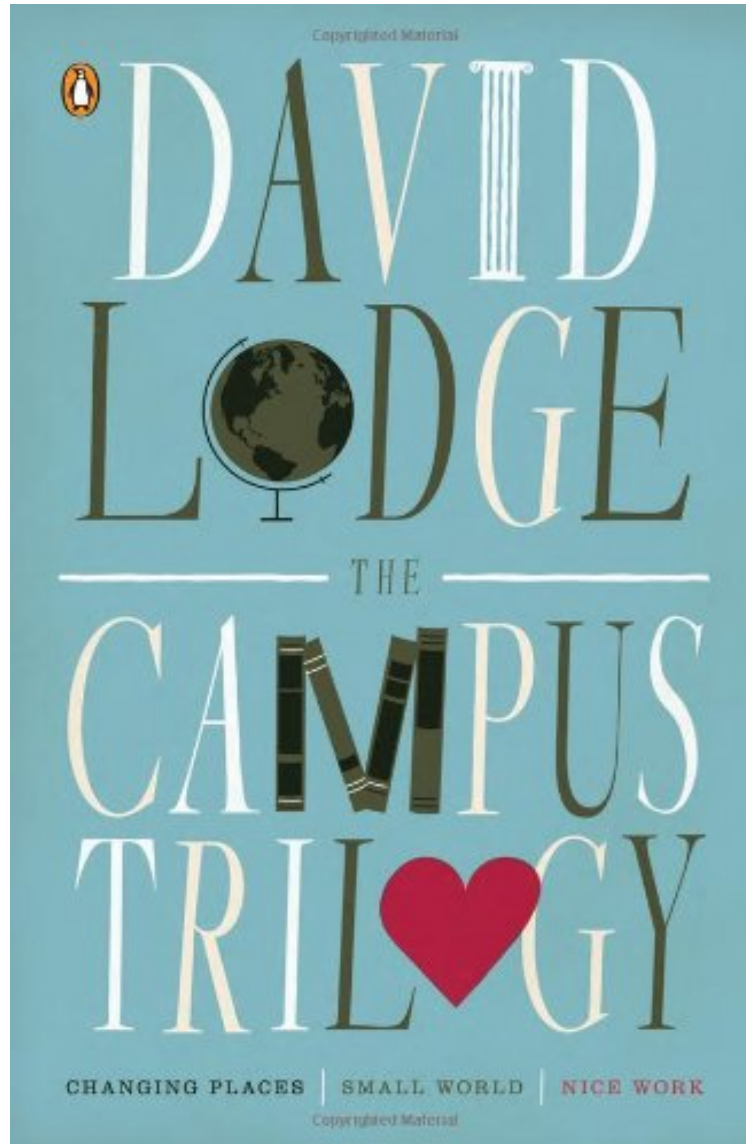


(Library ebook) The Campus Trilogy: Changing Places; Small World; Nice Work

## The Campus Trilogy: Changing Places; Small World; Nice Work

David Lodge

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#46555 in Books Lodge David 2011-10-04 2011-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.43 x 1.75 x 5.531, 1.50 #File Name: 0143120204832 pagesThe Campus Trilogy Changing Places Small World Nice Work | File size: 44.Mb

**David Lodge : The Campus Trilogy: Changing Places; Small World; Nice Work** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Campus Trilogy: Changing Places; Small World; Nice Work:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Funny, clever and entertaining look at academic lifeBy Robert AshtonA professor friend of mine recommended this book. I bought it but didn't start to read it for months but once I

started I read all three books over a period of a couple of weeks. They are a funny and intelligent look at academic life and its interactions with the outside world as well as the emotional entanglements of the characters. The three novels cover a period from the late 1960s to the 1980s and follow the lives of various academic characters but primarily Morris Zapp from Euphoria (UC Berkeley, California ) and Philip Sparrow from Rummidge University (Birmingham, England), both teachers of English Literature. (So there is quite a bit of critical jargon throughout the book, usually explained.) These two swap jobs in a professorial exchange in the first novel "Changing Places" and Lodge gets a lot of his humor from the significant differences between life in Britain and the US at that time. Both individuals engage in the exchange for more personal reasons than career but both manage to make an impact in unexpected ways. "Small World" is set in 1979 and is centered on the extensive and expensive conference circuit that academics enjoyed at that time. Of the three novels, it is probably the most specific to the world of academia and has a very large cast of characters whose stories intermingle. However, with a strong story and terrific pacing the somewhat esoteric world is brought to life although occasionally it's a struggle to remember who's who. The final novel, "Nice Work" is set primarily back in the UK in the midst of the Thatcher reforms, during which both industry and the universities were under significant pressures. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer, a postmodernist, deconstructionist feminist, is pushed into being a "shadow" of Vic Wilcox, a "down-to-earth" managing director of an engineering firm. The clash of these two alien cultures produces a number of issues, including a strike, but in the end both learn important lessons from the other. The ending is rather "deus ex machina" as a whole series of issues are resolved but you are still interested at the end in what happens to these characters and that's usually a sign of a well written novel. The time frame and events covered by these novels is very much aligned with my own life. I was an exchange high school student from the UK to the US in 1970 and was heavily involved in the Thatcher years working in industry so there are many direct experiences that I relate to specifically. Whether it would be as relevant and as funny to other people I don't know. However, the fact that I enjoyed "Small Worlds", the setting of which is outside my experience, suggests that the quality of writing and story telling overcomes lack of immediate knowledge. For non-British readers I thought, particularly in "Nice Work", that some of the points being made would be lost without further explanation. For example, can you really understand why unions are being hypocritical by offering discounted BUPA if you don't know that it is private medical insurance that enables one to get preferential treatment? However, these concerns are relatively small and I'd recommend this very clever trilogy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. David Lodge's novels  
By Aimee Brant This one was his best.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. funny, and still good social commentary although it is ...  
By Janet Cherry Very clever, funny, and still good social commentary although it is now dated reflection on academia from late 1960s to 1980s. 'Nice Work', the third in the trilogy, is particularly astute commentary on the relationship between academics and industrialists in Thatcherite Britain. Entertaining reading, unusual and still relevant today (especially for aspirant academics!)

"A trio of dazzling novels in a comic mode that the author has now made completely his own...a cause for celebration." -The New York Times Book Review  
David Lodge's three delightfully sophisticated campus novels, now gathered together in one volume, expose the world of academia at its best-and its worst. In Changing Places, we meet Philip Swallow, British lecturer in English at the University of Rummidge, and the flamboyant American Morris Zapp of Euphoric State University, who participate in a professorial exchange program at the close of the tumultuous sixties. Ten years later in Small World, older but not noticeably wiser, they are let loose on the international conference circuit-along with a memorable and somewhat oversexed cast of dozens. And in Nice Work, the leftist feminist Dr. Robyn Penrose at Rummidge University is assigned to shadow the director of a local engineering firm, sparking a collision of ideologies and lifestyles that seems unlikely to foster anything other than mutual antipathy.

"Lodge's wit... like that of Wodehouse, froths around and out of characters.. hugely enjoyable" \* Spectator \* "Clever enough to confirm him as one of the leading comic writers of his generation" \* Guardian \* "All funny, clever and beautifully paced" \* Daily Mail \*  
About the Author David Lodge is the prize-winning author of over a dozen novels and many works of literary criticism.