

**Top Reviews**  
**amazon.co.uk**



A. Cantwell

**5/5 star** **Just Read It! Riveting from the First Page.**

9 October 2019

Format: Kindle Edition

**Verified Purchase**

This is my first review of any book but having just finished reading "Waiting for Amy" and having recently completed another stage of the Camino, it is my pleasure to do so. My ambition is to walk from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela in one go, I look forward to doing it alone and to meeting whoever crosses my path. Unfortunately time does not allow this at present but this book, although fictional, carried me from the first step the main character Wade took in SJPP all the way through to his last step in Santiago. I could completely immerse myself in the journey and loved getting to know him and the various characters he met along the way. I loved how characters were left behind at times and then re-emerged days later as is the case when you walk the Camino and I loved the kindness and camaraderie portrayed between the pilgrims. Anyone who has walked the Camino knows that everyone you meet has a story, sometimes this is voiced and other times held secret as in the case of Wade, everyone has their reasons be it spiritual, emotional, physical or mental. Wade's secret kept the reader involved in his journey until the very end and I have to say it was completely credible, poignant and a thoroughly enjoyable read. Waiting for Amy is a true reflection of what walking the Camino is all about and if you can't walk it, then this is as close as you can get to the real thing, in my opinion. I look forward to reading more from this accomplished author. Buen Camino.



Polly Anna

**5/5 star** **A gripping and enchanting journey on the Camino**

7 July 2019

Format: Paperback

**Verified Purchase**

In his first novel, Michael Small takes you by the hand on his journey on the Camino de Santiago.

You will be walking all the way with Wade as he meets his fellow walkers, makes friends and tries to find himself and make sense of his life past and present and find direction for the future. You will be walking every step of the way with him and feel as though you are part of his journey. You will meet his new friends, eat and drink with them and spend every waking and sleeping hour with them.

Michael's prose is very well written, in a beautiful and rich style, his dialogue is the spoken word including broken English when necessary giving the story a very real feel. This style also means that he is very deep, generous and kind with his feelings for others. He analyses and understands how people are driven to do this pilgrimage and their reasons for doing so which are all valid even if some are less genuine than others.

If you need a 'pick-me-up' then I can whole-heartedly recommend this book. I could not put it down and when I had to, I knew I was going back to a totally engrossing story and a positively enormous feel-good factor. The twist at the end was the icing on this very tasty cake. My Camino is booked! And I cannot wait for Michael's next offering.



London girl

**5/5 star** [A thoroughly enjoyable read](#)

9 May 2019

Format: Paperback

**Verified Purchase**

I read Michael Small's book in a day and loved it. As far as I'm concerned, it's a feat to walk the Camino from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela (about 900km, I believe) and I take my hat off to anyone who has achieved that. The good thing is that I felt I was able to walk alongside his protagonist, Wade, without having to don my own hiking boots! The days and weeks of putting one foot in front of another allow Wade the time and space to contemplate his past life and loves and imagine what might be yet to come. The characters he walks with regularly, or meets along the way, all play a part in his fascinating journey. Will he find love? And who is Amy?



Amazon Customer

**5/5 star** [Inspirational](#)

16 March 2019

Format: Paperback

**Verified Purchase**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this inspirational book. Michael Small takes the reader on a journey of discovery, following the Way of St James, as his main character, Wade examines both his beliefs and direction in life. Michael Small's vivid description brings the Camiño to life as the reader follows Wade's every step on the road to Santiago and self discovery. Highly recommended



pilger

**4/5 star** [Involving journey experience](#)

12 June 2019

Format: Kindle Edition

Engaging debut novel which involves the reader in the camino journey and the "family " of pilgrims seeking enlightenment.

Interesting denouement re Amy.

**amazon.com**



Grady Harp

**5/5 star** [A memorable pilgrimage](#)

10 April 2019 -

**Published on Amazon.com**

**Verified Purchase**

British author Michael Small, now retired from teaching English as a Foreign Language, makes an impressive writing debut with an illuminating novel set in Spain, reflecting his impressions after walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. And that locale is of paramount importance in this novel of spiritual and physical awakening, as Michael shares in his Introduction: 'Whereas pilgrimages in the Middle Ages were undertaken strictly for spiritual reasons, modern followers of the yellow arrows [markers along the trail] often have more secular motives...'

Wade is an older gentleman who sets off on a pilgrimage of self-discovery along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. He longs for discovering love and passion and the accompanying lust, but he also longs to come to grips with God and his faith. As journeymen discover, there are many influences along the way, persons of interest, and chief among them is old man Diego who opens windows of retrospection for Wade, revealing aspects of his being as well as secrets he has attempted to bury. Wade's confrontation with his past and the growing needs of his present and future provide the many aspects of points of view and pathways to contemplative realization.

Offered in contemporary terms and language, this novel allows the reader to explore along side Wade in this journey we all should make. This is a very fine story, well written, and a moving and involving invitation for reflection, acceptance and change. Highly recommended. Grady Harp, April 19



V.E.

**5/5 star Awesome book**

11 April 2019 -

**Published on Amazon.com**  
**Verified Purchase**

Waiting for Amy: A Pilgrimage Into the Mind by Michael Small is the debut novel by this promising new author. We follow Wade the protagonist, who at sixty nine years old walks the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, looking for a spiritual awakening and maybe even some companionship. The author writes richly as we follow Wade along his path, evoking detailed descriptions of the journey, along with introducing a series of eccentric characters, most notably Diego. The old man opens Wade's mind, causing him to reevaluate his past and his present. With a series of bad decisions, challenges and more, Wade must turn to Diego to look inward and re-examine everything about himself, good and bad. This is a thought provoking novel, one that stimulates your mind, while posing many existential questions. Highly recommend for something a little different and memorable.



Amazon Customer

**5/5 star Great Read - Life revealed on Camino**

8 March 2019 -

**Published on Amazon.com**  
**Verified Purchase**

Michael Small has crafted an incredible story that captured the life lessons that are relearned on the Camino de Santiago. Through the development of his protagonist, he reminds us that anyone who is at a crossroad or is struggling with their circumstances of life, should walk the Camino. Serendipity doesn't exist- things happen for a reason.

Just like life, his characters are real, raw and often share too much information. My recommendation is to read 'Waiting for Amy' before it becomes a movie! It's hard to believe this is his first book. Well Done!

**Amazon.de**

A. S.

**5/5 star Eine schöne Geschichte über den Camino - und über das Leben**

5. März 2019

Format: Kindle Ausgabe

**Verifizierter Kauf**

Mir wurde das Buch von einem Pilgerfreund empfohlen, der im November 2013 fast zeitgleich mit dem Autor auf dem Camino war, ihn dort jedoch nie persönlich kennengelernt hat, sondern erst später über Facebook. Ich gebe zu, ich war zunächst nicht allzu begeistert. Es gibt in meinen Augen genug Bücher, in denen vermeintlich erleuchtete Pilger die Welt an ihren herzerreissenden, die Magie des Weges glorifizierenden

Erfahrungen unbedingt und zwingend teilhaben lassen wollen. Oft scheinbar in dem Glauben, die auf dem Weg gemachten Erfahrungen seien das Ei des Kolumbus. Mit entsprechend zweifelhafter Motivation habe ich dann das Buch gekauft, zunächst nur in der Absicht, einem guten Freund von einem guten Freund irgendwie einen Gefallen zu tun..

Was soll ich sagen? Trotz meiner Abwehrhaltung hat mich das Buch sehr schnell gepackt. Mag sein, es lag an den Namen der Ortschaften, die schnell eigene Erinnerungen an meinen eigenen Camino hervorriefen, ganz sicher lag es aber auch an der Tatsache, dass der Autor die Geschichte nicht in der Ich-Form schreibt, dass er die innersten Sehnsüchte des Protagonisten somit aus einer gewissen Distanz heraus beschreibt (in meinen Gedanken hab ich trotzdem automatisch eigenmächtig die Ich-Form ergänzt, weil ich fest davon überzeugt bin, dass der Autor hier seine eigene Geschichte erzählt), dass er manche Beweggründe des Protagonisten kritisch und humorvoll hinterfragt...Nebenbei erhält der (Camino-)interessierte Leser kleine Eindrücke in den Pilgeralltag auf dem Weg. Es las sich an manchen Stellen fast wie eine Dokumentation, was ich nicht als störend empfunden habe, sondern was dazu beigetragen hat, das Buch einerseits persönlich zu halten und sich doch immer auch wieder auf eine sachliche Ebene zu begeben. Quasi als Gegengewicht zu den oft sehr persönlichen und intimen Einblicken in die Gedanken eines Mannes, der mit fast 70 Jahren den Weg geht und währenddessen mit der Jugend, verpassten Chancen und verpasstem Leben konfrontiert wird, sowie mit der Frage, was er (in seinem Alter) vom Leben überhaupt noch erwarten darf.

Und dann ist da dieses Geheimnis, diese Schuld, die der Protagonist mit sich herumträgt und das in einem letzten, sehr berührenden und doch vergleichsweise schnörkellos und schlicht gehaltenen Ende offenbart wird. Ich habe einen Teil des Geheimnisses schon frühzeitig ansatzweise geahnt. Überrascht war ich trotzdem.

Fazit: ein Pilgerbuch, das Erinnerungen an den eigenen Camino weckt, aber auch als Vorbereitung empfehlenswert ist, falls man planen sollte, den Weg zu gehen. Das Buch kann einem zeigen, dass der Weg zwar wichtig ist, aber im Ergebnis nur das Vehikel für eigene Erfahrungen, ein Hilfsmittel, um sich zu finden, irgendwas zu finden oder auch nichts zu finden. Zu bekommen, was man braucht, aber nicht immer, was man will. Und manchmal weiß man erst später, wofür das alles gut war und wo der Weg einen tatsächlich hinführt.