
Life Is Elsewhere Milan Kundera

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Kundera

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GWENDOLYN KELLEY

Identity Harper Collins

A budding poet and his adoring mother are the central characters of this intriguing early novel by Milan Kundera. He takes us through the young man's fantasies and love affairs in a characteristic tour de force, alive with wit, eroticism and ideas.

A Novel Pickle Partners Publishing

There are situations in which we fail for a moment to recognize the person we are with, in which the identity of the other is erased while we simultaneously doubt

our own. This also happens with couples--indeed, above all with couples, because lovers fear more than anything else "losing sight" of the loved one. With stunning artfulness in expanding and playing variations on the meaningful moment, Milan Kundera has made this situation--and the vague sense of panic it inspires--the very fabric of his new novel. Here brevity goes hand in hand with intensity, and a moment of bewilderment marks the start of a labyrinthine journey during which the reader repeatedly crosses the border between the real and the unreal, between what occurs in the world outside and what the mind creates in its

solitude. Of all contemporary writers, only Kundera can transform such a hidden and disconcerting perception into the material for a novel, one of his finest, most painful, and most enlightening. Which, surprisingly, turns out to be a love story.

Life is Elsewhere HarpPeren

When *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* was first published in English, it was hailed as "a work of the boldest mastery, originality, and richness" by critic Elizabeth Hardwick and named one of the best books of 1984 by the *New York Times Book Review*. It went on to win the *Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction* and quickly became an international bestseller. Twenty years later, the novel has established itself as a modern classic. To commemorate the

anniversary of its first English-language publication, HarperCollins is proud to offer a special hardcover edition. A young woman in love with a man torn between his love for her and his incorrigible womanizing; one of his mistresses and her humbly faithful lover -- these are the two couples whose story is told in this masterful novel. Controlled by day, Tereza's jealousy awakens by night, transformed into ineffably sad death-dreams, while Tomas, a successful surgeon, alternates loving devotion to the dependent Tereza with the ardent pursuit of other women. Sabina, an independent, free-spirited artist, lives her life as a series of betrayals -- of parents, husband, country, love itself -- whereas her lover, the intellectual Franz, loses all because of his earnest

goodness and fidelity. In a world in which lives are shaped by irrevocable choices and by fortuitous events, a world in which everything occurs but once, existence seems to lose its substance, its weight. Hence we feel, says the novelist, "the unbearable lightness of being" -- not only as the consequence of our private acts but also in the public sphere, and the two inevitably intertwine. This magnificent novel encompasses the extremes of comedy and tragedy, and embraces, it seems, all aspects of human existence. It juxtaposes geographically distant places (Prague, Geneva, Paris, Thailand, the United States, a forlorn Bohemian village); brilliant and playful reflections (on "eternal return," on kitsch, on man and animals -- Tomas and Tereza have a

beloved doe named Karenin); and a variety of styles (from the farcical to the elegiac) to take its place as perhaps the major achievement of one of the world's truly great writers.

Slowness Rowman & Littlefield

It's tough to be an accountant in a time of war. It's tough to be a poet, young and earnest, while your family struggles to make ends meet and your friends risk their lives to sabotage the Nazis in your occupied streets. It's tough to be in love with the idea of being in love, even as your country has been turned into a factory of death. For Jurek, though, it is impossible not to be all these things, and he may have found the one place on earth where his optimism and lyricism make sense. A psychiatric hospital just outside of Warsaw needs someone to

keep the books. In ordinary times, the hospital in the village of Tworki is synonymous with bedlam. But in these extraordinary times, its walled gardens and manicured walks frame an unlikely idyll, with Jurek its unlikely hero. Here Goethe and Dürer discourse on philosophy and art; Newton conjures new theories; and Rubens dabbles with his paints. Great emperors, now of gentler disposition, have traded their armies for cards. And the only thing that threatens to break the routine is an occasional picnic. But the happiness Jurek finds in Tworki is perforated by melancholy. For life involves risk, and there is no longer such a thing as a small risk. People are disappearing. There are strange columns of smoke on the horizon. As the realities of war swallow

the world beyond the hospital walls, Jurek and his friends must try to rediscover and salvage whatever beauty they can.

The Politics of Passion University of Chicago Press

A new collection of poems by Michael Hofmann—his first in twenty years—Michael Hofmann, renowned as one of our most brilliant critics and translators, is also regarded as among our most respected poets. Hofmann's status—he is the author of "one of the definitive bodies of work of the last half-century" (The Times Literary Supplement)—is all the more impressive for his relatively concentrated output. *One Lark, One Horse* is his fifth collection of poems since his debut in 1983, and his first since *Approximately Nowhere* in 1999. Tt

is also one of the most anticipated gatherings of new work in years. In style, his voice is as unmistakable as ever—sometimes funny, sometimes caustic; world-facing and yet intimate—and this collection shows a bright mind burning fiercely over the European and American imaginations. The poet explores where he finds himself, geographically and in life, treating with wit and compassion such universal themes as aging and memory, place, and the difficult existence of the individual in an ever-bigger and more bestial world. *One Lark, One Horse* is a remarkable assemblage of work that will delight loyal readers and enchant new ones with Hofmann's approachable, companionable voice.

In the Shadow of the Angel Harper

Collins

Kundera brilliantly examines the work of such important and diverse figures as Rabelais, Cervantes, Sterne, Diderot, Flaubert, Tolstoy, and Musil. He is especially penetrating on Hermann Broch, and his exploration of the world of Kafka's novels vividly reveals the comic terror of Kafka's bureaucratized universe. Kundera's discussion of his own work includes his views on the role of historical events in fiction, the meaning of action, and the creation of character in the post-psychological novel.

Dead Connection Harper Collins

Milan Kundera has established himself as one of the great novelists of our time with such books as *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *Immortality* and *The*

Book of Laughter and Forgetting. In *Testaments Betrayed*, he proves himself a brilliant defender of the moral rights of the artist and the respect due to a work of art and its creator's wishes. The betrayal of both—often by their most passionate proponents—is the principal theme of this extraordinary work. Readers will be particularly intrigued by Kundera's impassioned attack on society's shifting moral judgments and persecutions of art and artists, from Mayakovsky to Rushdie.

Testaments Betrayed Harper Collins
 A Bilingual New York Review Books
 Original Vivant Denon's *No Tomorrow* is one of the masterpieces of eighteenth-century French libertine literature, a book to set beside Choderlos de Laclos' *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, except that

where Laclos' icy novel tells of hellish depravity, Denon's ravishing novella is a paradisaical diversion. This tale of seduction is itself a seduction, with a plot that could be said to slowly unveil itself before arriving at last at an unexpected consummation. Summoned by Madame de T—to her country house, the young hero of Denon's novella is taken on a tour of the grounds, only the beginning of a night that not only will be full of unanticipated delights but will give rise to unforeseen, perhaps unanswerable, questions. Lydia Davis's definitive translation of Denon's slim masterpiece is accompanied by the French text. Peter Brooks's illuminating introduction explores the mysteries of *No Tomorrow's* original publication and the subtleties of Denon's ethics of

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[Farewell Waltz](https://www.brightsummar.com) BrightSummaries.com

“A magic curtain, woven of legends, hung before the world. Cervantes sent Don Quixote journeying and tore through the curtain. The world opened before the knight-errant in all the comical nakedness of its prose.” In this thought-provoking, endlessly enlightening, and entertaining essay on the art of the novel, renowned author Milan Kundera suggests that “the curtain” represents a

ready-made perception of the world that each of us has—a pre-interpreted world. The job of the novelist, he argues, is to rip through the curtain and reveal what it hides. Here an incomparable literary artist cleverly sketches out his personal view of the history and value of the novel in Western civilization. In doing so, he celebrates a prose form that possesses the unique ability to transcend national and language boundaries in order to reveal some previously unknown aspect of human existence.

A Novel Life Is Elsewhere

All too often, this brilliant novel of thwarted love and revenge miscarried has been read for its political implications. Now, a quarter century after *The Joke* was first published and

several years after the collapse of the Soviet-imposed Czechoslovak regime, it becomes easier to put such implications into perspective in favor of valuing the book (and all Kundera 's work) as what it truly is: great, stirring literature that sheds new light on the eternal themes of human existence. The present edition provides English-language readers an important further means toward reevaluation of *The Joke*. For reasons he describes in his Author's Note, Milan Kundera devoted much time to creating (with the assistance of his American publisher-editor) a completely revised translation that reflects his original as closely as any translation possibly can: reflects it in its fidelity not only to the words and syntax but also to the characteristic dictions and tonalities of

the novel's narrators. The result is nothing less than the restoration of a classic.

A Novel Harper Collins

Migration and Literature offers a thought-provoking analysis of the thematic and formal role of migration in four contemporary and canonized novelists.

The Engineer of Human Souls

HarperCollins

Life Is Elsewhere Harper Collins

A Novel Harper Collins

Published simultaneously with *Identity*, his new novel, here is a masterful new translation of Milan Kundera's most brilliantly plotted and sheerly entertaining novel -- a dark farce of sex, murder, and motherhood. Set in an Old-Fashioned Central European Spa Town,

Farewell Waltz follows the lives of eight characters: a pretty nurse and her repairman boyfriend; an oddball gynecologist; a rich American who is at once a saint and a Don Juan; a popular trumpeter and his beautiful obsessively jealous wife; a disillusioned former political prisoner about to leave his country and his young female ward. Perhaps the most accessible of Milan Kundera's novels, Farewell Waltz poses the most serious questions with a blasphemous lightness that makes us see that the modern world has deprived us even of the right to tragedy. Translated from the French text prepared by the author himself a quarter century after the novel was originally written, Farewell Waltz sparkles anew with wit, humor, and irony. A valuable

addition to HarperFlamingo's impressive Kundera backlist, it offers readers a chance to discover, or rediscover, one of the very best works of a legendary writer. "It is hard to imagine anything more chilling and profound than Kundera's apparent lightheartedness". -- Elizabeth Pochoda "Kundera ... remains faithful to this subtle, wily, devious talent for a fiction of 'erotic possibilities". -- New York Times Book Review *Immortality* Farrar, Straus and Giroux The author initially intended to call this novel *The Lyrical Age*. The lyrical age, according to Kundera, is youth, and this novel, above all, is an epic of adolescence; an ironic epic that tenderly erodes sacrosanct values: childhood, motherhood, revolution, and even poetry. Jaromil is in fact a poet. His

mother made him a poet and accompanies him (figuratively) to his love bed and (literally) to his deathbed. A ridiculous and touching character, horrifying and totally innocent ("innocence with its bloody smile!"), Jaromil is at the same time a true poet. He's no creep, he's Rimbaud. Rimbaud entrapped by the communist revolution, entrapped in a somber farce.

Twentieth Anniversary Edition

Dalkey Archive Press

Franz Kafka: The Office Writings brings together, for the first time in English, Kafka's most interesting professional writings, composed during his years as a high-ranking lawyer with the largest Workmen's Accident Insurance Institute in the Czech Lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Franz Kafka

(1883-1924) is commonly recognized as the greatest German prose writer of the twentieth century. It is less well known that he had an established legal career. Kafka's briefs reveal him to be a canny bureaucrat, sharp litigator, and innovative thinker on the social, political, and legal issues of his time. His official preoccupations inspired many of the themes and strategies of the novels and stories he wrote at night. These documents include articles on workmen's compensation and workplace safety; appeals for the founding of a psychiatric hospital for shell-shocked veterans; and letters arguing relentlessly for a salary adequate to his merit. In adjudicating disputes, promoting legislative programs, and investigating workplace sites, Kafka's writings teem

with details about the bureaucracy and technology of his day, such as spa elevators in Marienbad, the challenge of the automobile, and the perils of excavating in quarries while drunk. Beautifully translated, with valuable commentary by two of the world's leading Kafka scholars and one of America's most eminent civil rights lawyers, the documents cast rich light on the man and the writer and offer new insights to lovers of Kafka's novels and stories.

The Curtain Harper Collins

Laughable loves is a collection of stories that first appeared in print in Prague before 1968, but then was banned. The seven stories are all concerned with love, or rather with the complex erotic games and stratagems employed by

women and especially men as they try to come to terms with needs and impulses that can start a terrifying train of events. Sexual attraction is shown as a game that often turns sour, an experience that brings with it painful insights and releases uncertainty, panic, vanity and a constant need for reassurance.

Approach to Poetry Harper Collins

Casting light on the most serious of problems and at the same time saying not one serious sentence; being fascinated by the reality of the contemporary world and at the same time completely avoiding realism-that's The Festival of Insignificance. Readers who know Kundera's earlier books know that the wish to incorporate an element of the "unserious" in a novel is not at all unexpected of him. In Immortality,

Goethe and Hemingway stroll through several chapters together talking and laughing. And in *Slowness*, Vera, the author's wife, says to her husband: "you've often told me you meant to write a book one day that would have not a single serious word in it... I warn you: watch out. Your enemies are lying in wait." Now, far from watching out,

Kundera is finally and fully realizing his old aesthetic dream in this novel that we could easily view as a summation of his whole work. A strange sort of summation. Strange sort of epilogue. Strange sort of laughter, inspired by our time, which is comical because it has lost all sense of humor. What more can we say? Nothing. Just read.

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- [The Summer Of Broken Rules By K. L. Walther](#)
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- [Playground](#)
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- [Our Class Is A Family \(our Class Is A Family & Our School Is A Family\)](#)
- [A Court Of Frost And Starlight \(a Court Of Thorns And Roses, 4\)](#)
- [How To Win Friends & Influence People \(dale Carnegie Books\)](#)
- [Harry Potter Paperback Box Set \(books 1-7\)](#)

- The Five-star Weekend