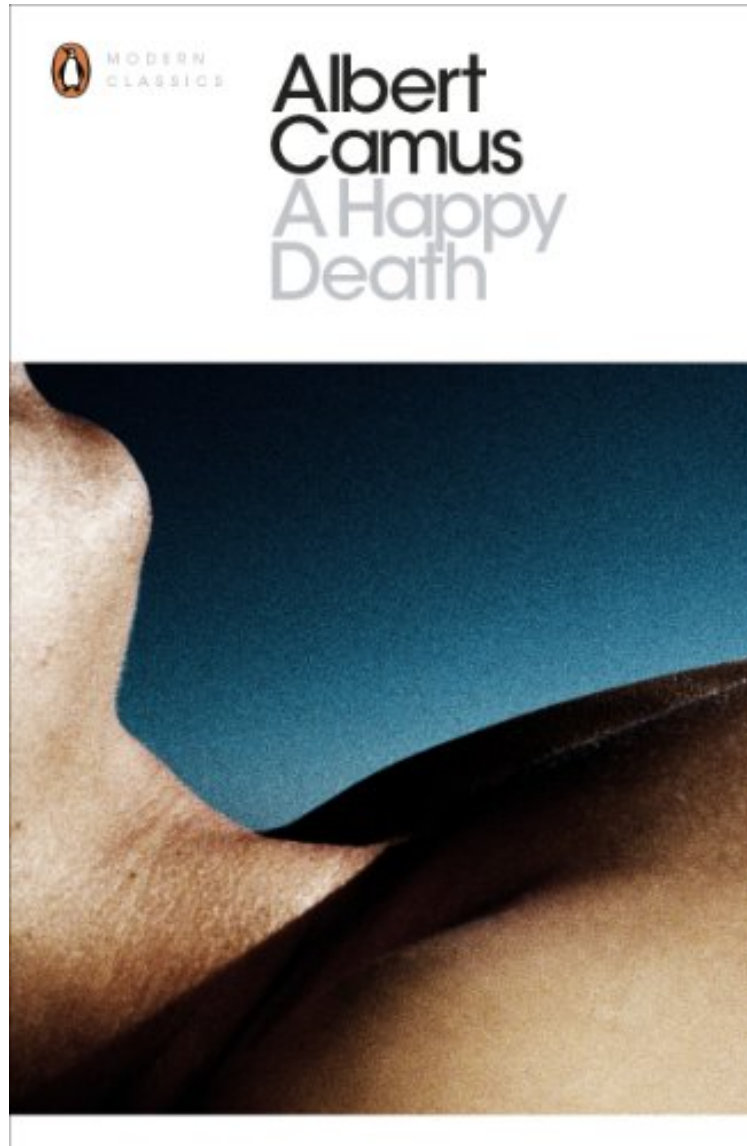


[E-BOOK] A Happy Death (Penguin Modern Classics)

A Happy Death (Penguin Modern Classics)

Von Albert Camus

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Von Albert Camus : A Happy Death (Penguin Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Happy Death (Penguin Modern Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Less immediate and more flushed out than the strangerVon MaginotIn "A Happy Death", Camus took a different approach to writing what later became "The Stranger". The latter work is famous (and sometimes despised) for its terse, efficient prose, its brutal frankness, and its avoidance of moral consideration. As a result, many readers do not know what to

make of Merseault and often mistake him for a psychopath. In "A Happy Death", Camus writes in the third person and adds considerably more elements to the story. The ending also differs from "The Stranger". In "The Stranger", Merseault kills an Arab for no apparent reason other than caprice or irritability. Merseault is then put on trial and condemned more for his flagrant aversion to bourgeois hypocrisy than for the crime he committed. But in "A Happy Death", Merseault's crime had a clearer motive and a deeper symbolism. Merseault kills his crippled friend Zerkow in order to obtain his wealth and use it to transform his otherwise mundane life. In Greek mythology, Zerkow was torn apart by the Titans but Zeus was able to give his still beating heart to his daughter who later fathered Dionysus, the god of wine. Zerkow literally means "torn apart" in Greek. The myth of Zerkow is comparable to the role of Christ in the Christian tradition because Zerkow was mocked, tortured, and executed. But unlike Christ, Zerkow escaped the final humiliation by having a substitute take his place. Camus re-appropriates this legend in "A Happy Death". The wheelchair bound Zerkow essentially prompts Merseault to murder him so that he can escape the humiliation of his infirmity and pass his wealth on to Merseault. There are subtle indications that the two men are inextricably bound to each other. Both men experience the same lover at different times and both share the same cynical view that she is only an image of what they want to see in her. Each man also has what the other needs. Merseault has the physical capability to enjoy life, but he is hampered by routine and by his work. Zerkow has wealth but lacks the physical capability to enjoy it. The re-appropriation of the Zerkow myth asks the question "what does it mean to truly be alive"? Is it better that only one of the two men live as long as he lives his life to the fullest rather than both living unhappy, restricted lives? After killing Zerkow, Merseault leads a life of travel, hedonism, and leisure. When he is subsequently stricken ill, he dies a happy dignified death. In this sense I would disagree with the reviewer who characterized "A Happy Death" as a primer for "The Stranger". Instead, it is a story with a completely different emphasis. Where the stranger depicts the fate society metes out to an honest individual, "A Happy Death" asks what it truly means to be alive.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Extraordinary! It changed my life!!!! Von Ein Kunde I am a sophomore in high school at the moment and I read this book when I was in eighth grade. At that time I was very depressed and unhappy. I don't mean I was on the verge of suicide but I was just very gloomy. Then my English teacher told us we had to read a novel of our choosing and keep a journal on it. For some reason I choose this book. I had only read one of Camus's short stories: THE GUEST and that did not prepare me for the beauty of A HAPPY DEATH. I had never read anything of such raw unmitigated emotion! Camus tossed feelings around like jugglers do balls! When I had finished I felt at peace with myself for the first time in a year and a half. I urge everyone to read this book. Granted, there are structural problems but who cares! All that is left to say is: Thank you Albert! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. personal favourite among Camus's works Von Ein Kunde This is a book with an almost philosophical attitude. The central theme being the question whether one can die a happy death and how and by which means one is able to achieve this. One might not be able to identify oneself with the main character Merseault, but is inclined to fall in love with his description of atmosphere and appearance. The storyline takes you through Europe and back to Camus' indiginous Algeria. One might want to think that all other works of a writer except those that received a Nobel price must be of lesser quality or importance. This were but a sign of ignorance. For me this was my first encounter with Camus and after having read *The Fall* and *The Outsider* I still perceive this one to be the best.

Kurzbeschreibung Is it possible to die a happy death? This is the central question of Camus's astonishing early novel, published posthumously and greeted as a major literary event. It tells the story of a young Algerian, Merseault, who defies society's rules by committing a murder and escaping punishment, then experimenting with different ways of life and finally dying a happy man. In many ways *A Happy Death* is a fascinating first sketch for *The Outsider*, but it can also be seen as a candid self-portrait, drawing on Camus's memories of his youth, travels and early relationships. It is infused with lyrical descriptions of the sun-drenched Algiers of his childhood - the place where, eventually, Merseault is able to find peace and die 'without anger, without hatred, without regret'.

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Synopsis Published posthumously, this novel can be looked at in various ways - as a first sketch for "The Outsider", as an autobiographical novel and as a piece of writing in its own right. "A Happy Death" opens with a murder and closes with the death of the main character, Merseault.