

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *Veronika Decides to Die*

Veronika Decides to Die is a story about a twenty-four-year-old woman named Veronika. She seems to have everything she can wish for, attractive physical feature, a boyfriend, a steady job as a librarian, and a loving family, but she is bored with her routine tasks, which becomes the reason of her frustration and unhappiness.

She sometimes even feels useless, unworthy and incapable. She feels like doing something in her life that can be beneficial to everyone around her but she feels powerless and helpless. So she decides to commit suicide by taking a high dose of sleeping pills to end her meaningless life. But her plan fails and she wakes up in Villeta, a local mental hospital in Slovenia, where she is told she has only one more week to live.

Veronika herself during her stay in Villeta hospital starts to see her past life much more clearly and understands why she previously has felt her life to have no meaning. In this heightened state, Veronika discovers things she has never really allowed herself to feel before: hatred, fear, curiosity, love – even sexual awakening.

Against all odds, she finds that she is falling in love and wanting, if she were to live again. She learns that she desires to live once again. Much to her surprise, Veronika is still alive and knows that she is only given a shock therapy by the doctor to learn that she can live without running from reality.

Biography of Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 1947 from a middle-class family, the son of Pedro, an engineer, and Lygia, a housewife. Paulo's parents wanted him to be an engineer and when Paulo was seventeen his father had him committed to a psychiatric hospital three times. Paulo bought a typewriter and started writing, without much success. The following year, he returned to Brazil, where he worked as an executive for another record company, CBS.

He has sold over 86 million books in over 150 countries worldwide. He has received numerous literary awards from a variety of countries, including La Legion d'Honneur (France), Grinzane Cavour (Italy). His other novels include The Alchemist, and has been translated into 56 languages. In addition he has written The Pilgrimage, By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept, The Valkyries, The Manual of the Warrior of Light, Veronika Decides to Die, Eleven Minutes, The Fifth Mountain, The Zahir, The Devil and Miss Prymm. His books have appeared on bestseller lists in countries not only in Brazil, but also in the UK, the USA, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Israel, Finland and Greece. He is the all time best-selling Portuguese language author (Wikipedia).