

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF VERONIKA DECIDES TO DIE

Veronika is young, beautiful, and has a good job as a librarian. She thinks that everything in her life is the same and she can do nothing to fix the world that is getting worse. Because of these reasons, she thinks that she has to die; as a result, she drinks four packs of sleeping pills.

When she has thought that there is a gap between intention and action, she takes the pills one by one so that she can feel free to turn back halfway. While she is waiting for death, she almost cancels her suicidal attempt as in her deeply heart, through, there is a doubt: What if God does exist? And she thinks that people has made of suicide a taboo.

Her suicidal action fails so that she is brought to an asylum named Villette. In this place, she wants to end her life, but the other side of her wants to cancel her decision and continue her living. These contradictory desires grow tense when Veronika is given five days to live owing to the fact that her heart is damaged. In her solitude, she thinks about her past life and her unfulfilled desires while waiting for the death. She still wants to die but she becomes more afraid to do it, and she regrets that all of her life is boring because of her fault.

BIOGRAPHY OF PAULO COELHO

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the city where he now lives. His own life has in many ways been as varied and unusual as the protagonists of his internationally acclaimed novels, for like them he has followed a dream in a quest for fulfillment. His own dream, to be a writer, met with frustration throughout much of his early adult life, a time in which he worked at various professions, some of them materially quite rewarding but spiritually unfulfilling. "I always knew," he says, "that my Personal Legend, to use a term from alchemy, was to write." He was 38 when he published his first book.

In 1980 he experienced one of the defining moments of his life: he walked the 500-plus mile Road of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. On this ancient highway, used for centuries by pilgrims from France to get to the cathedral said to house the remains of St. James, he achieved self-awareness and a spiritual awakening that he later described in [The Pilgrimage: A Contemporary Quest for Ancient Wisdom](#). As he puts it, "There came a moment, after traveling the Road to Santiago, that I said, 'Now I will face my reality.'"

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