



Helmut Eisendle

A PIECE OF BLUE SKY.

A Novel

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Three people in a tangle of love and death

Once a year, on their wedding anniversary, Estes and Sophie meet in Venice for a revival of a marriage which is no longer a marriage. "As a man, one loves memories," says Estes – and after all, they did spend twenty years together. Sophie has already travelled to Venice with Schubert – not really a lovers' trip, since they do not even use the intimate "du" form to each other, but they still see themselves as a couple. Sophie had saved Schubert's life after his first suicide attempt. Months later, he gets up, showers, shaves and combs his hair, dresses in his black suit, takes his Winchester, reloads it, puts on a record of Rachmaninov's 3rd Symphony, drinks a triple cognac, lies down on his bed with the rifle at his side, takes an overdose of veronal and suffocates in a fit of hiccups. A s...

HELMUT EISENDLE

was born in Graz in 1939. He studied psychology, philosophy and biology, and has been a freelance writer since 1972. He died in Vienna in 2003. Latest publications: Lauf, Alter, die Welt ist hinter dir her [Run, old man, the world is on your heels] (2000) and Gut und Böse sind Vorurteile der Götter [Good and evil are prejudices of the gods] (2002).