



Peter Rosei

THE HAPPINESS MYTH

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With no illusions but plenty of empathy, Peter Rosei explores the hardships of searching for happiness in the current times.

Lena from the Styrian village, Andràs from the Hungarian tower block and Eva Bartuska from the Czech town of Brno have all come to Vienna seeking happiness and fulfilment. They drift through the city propelled by the promise of social and economic betterment and the dream of true love. But what is this prized happiness? Sometimes it's a branch manager position, sometimes a wild night out, and often a flimsy illusion that shatters on the rocks of everyday hostility. Yet in this novel on the myth of happiness, Rosei strikes an uncharacteristically conciliatory tone. "And so, those who come eye to eye with the degradations of life and abandon all hope, ultimately still have a right to the happiness they long for."

PETER ROSEI

born in Vienna in 1946, Rosei studied at Vienna University and received a doctorate in law in 1968. He has been a freelance writer since 1972, based in Vienna and travelling extensively. His numerous awards include the Franz Kafka Prize 1993, the Anton Wildgans Prize 1999 and the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art 2007. He was awarded the Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria in 2016. Most recently published: Die "Wiener Dateien" (boxed set of 5 books, 2016), "Karst" (2018), "Die große Straße" (2019).