



Peter Henisch

THE NOVEL OF THE CENTURY

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A wonderfully wry story about a young woman, an old man and the power of literature.

As a bookseller, elderly Mr Roch has always been surrounded by books. Now he's written his own "novel of the century". It's all about literature, from Musil and Roth through to Bachmann and Handke – stories in which the notion of possibility often overrides reality. Mr Roch asks Lisa, a student and waitress in his favourite café, to type up the manuscript for him. As she can't read his writing, he decides to read it out to her, but his papers are in a dreadful mess. An ambivalent relationship develops between the old man who's brimming with stories and the young woman who doesn't believe everything he says. But Lisa has other worries too – her friend Semira is due to be deported. Can Roch's storehouse provide a refuge for her?

PETER HENISCH

Born 1943 in Vienna; post-war childhood followed by reconstruction-era puberty; studied philosophy and psychology; co-founded "Wespennest" literary magazine with Helmut Zenker in 1969; a footloose author since the 1970s. Henisch's debut novel "Die kleine Figur meines Vaters" was first published in 1975 (English translation "Negatives Of My Father" published in 1990). Many novels followed, including "Die schwangere Madonna" (2005), "Eine sehr kleine Frau" (2007), "Mortimer und Miss Molly" (2013), and "Suchbild mit Katze" (2016). He has received numerous awards, including the Austria Kunstpreis. Most recently published by Residenz Verlag: "Der Jahrhundertroman" (2021).