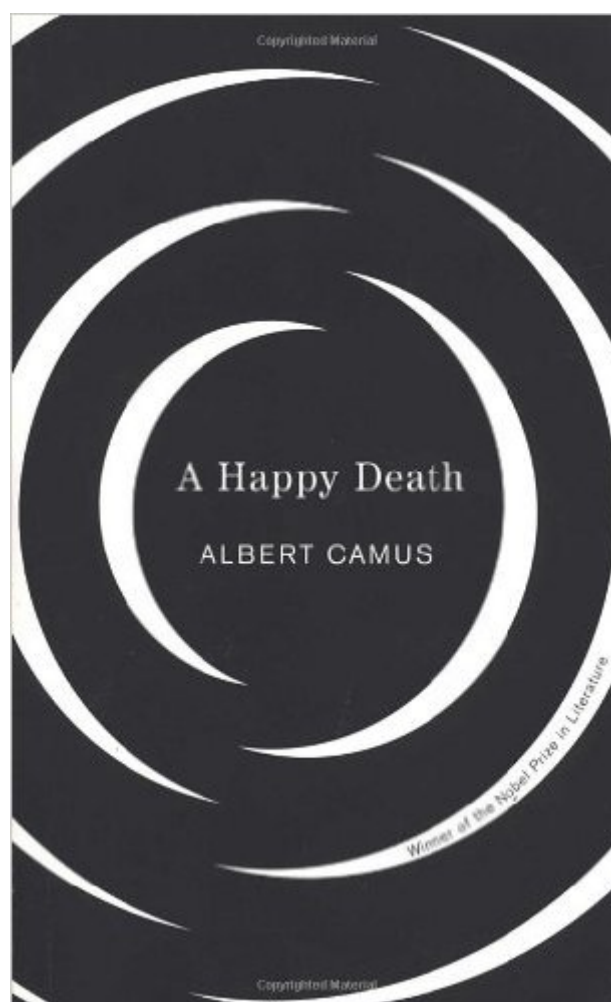


The book was found

# A Happy Death



## Synopsis

In his first novel, *A Happy Death*, written when he was in his early twenties and retrieved from his private papers following his death in 1960, Albert Camus laid the foundation for *The Stranger*, focusing in both works on an Algerian clerk who kills a man in cold blood. But he also revealed himself to an extent that he never would in his later fiction. For if *A Happy Death* is the study of a rule-bound being shattering the fetters of his existence, it is also a remarkably candid portrait of its author as a young man. As the novel follows the protagonist, Patrice Mersault, to his victim's house -- and then, fleeing, in a journey that takes him through stages of exile, hedonism, privation, and death -it gives us a glimpse into the imagination of one of the great writers of the twentieth century. For here is the young Camus himself, in love with the sea and sun, enraptured by women yet disdainful of romantic love, and already formulating the philosophy of action and moral responsibility that would make him central to the thought of our time. Translated from the French by Richard Howard

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reissue edition (August 29, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679764003

ISBN-13: 978-0679764007

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #87,282 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > French #2785 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #8292 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

In "*A Happy Death*", Camus took a different approach to writing what later became "*The Stranger*". The latter work is famous (and sometimes despised) for its terse, efficient prose, its brutal frankness, and its avoidance of moral consideration. As a result, many readers do not know what to make of Merseault and often mistake him for a psychopath. In "*A Happy Death*", Camus writes in the third person and adds considerably more elements to the story. The ending also differs from "*The Stranger*". In "*The Stranger*", Merseault kills an Arab for no apparent reason other than caprice or

irritability. Merseault is then put on trial and condemned more for his flagrant aversion to bourgeois hypocrisy than for the crime he committed. But in "A Happy Death", Merseault's crime had a clearer motive and a deeper symbolism. Merseault kills his crippled friend Zagreus in order to obtain his wealth and use it to transform his otherwise mundane life. In Greek mythology, Zagreus was torn apart by the Titans but Zeus was able to give his still beating heart to his daughter who later fathered Dionysus, the god of wine. Zagreus literally means "torn apart" in Greek. The myth of Zagreus is comparable to the role of Christ in the Christian tradition because Zagreus was mocked, tortured, and executed. But unlike Christ, Zagreus escaped the final humiliation by having a substitute take his place. Camus re-appropriates this legend in "A Happy Death". The wheelchair bound Zagreus essentially prompts Merseault to murder him so that he can escape the humiliation of his infirmity and pass his wealth on to Merseault. There are subtle indications that the two men are inextricably bound to each other.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

DYING TO REALLY LIVE: Finally, an After Death Survivor returns from deeply into life after death (NDEs - Life After Death? Series Book 1) A Short and Happy Guide to Contracts (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Bankruptcy (Short and Happy Series) Short and Happy Guide to Business Organizations (Short and Happy Series) Epstein, Markell and Ponoroff's A Short and Happy Guide to Contracts (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Property (Short and Happy Series) Schechter's A Short and Happy Guide to Torts (Short and Happy Series)

MINDFULNESS: The Bullshit Free Guide To Living a Ridiculously Happy Life - How To Be Present, Peaceful & Content (Transcendental Meditation, Yoga Poses, ... Stress Reduction, How to be Happy) A Short and Happy Guide to Elder Law (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to the MPRE (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Civil Procedure (Short and Happy Series) Happy Homicides 4: Fall Into Crime: plus Happy Homicides 3: Summertime Crimes How to Love Yourself: How to Have More Self- Confidence & Start Living Your Life to Be Happy Again (How to Love Yourself, Feel Confident and Be Happy Book 2) A Happy Death Coping with the loss of a dog: How to deal with the death of your friend (Dealing with the grief of pet death Book 1) Death With Dignity: Legalized Physician-Assisted Death in the United States 2011 Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology: A Guide for Facing Death and Loss French Music: From the Death of Berlioz to the Death of Faure A Life and Death Decision: A Jury Weighs the Death Penalty Erasing Death: The Science That Is Rewriting the Boundaries Between Life and Death

[Dmca](#)