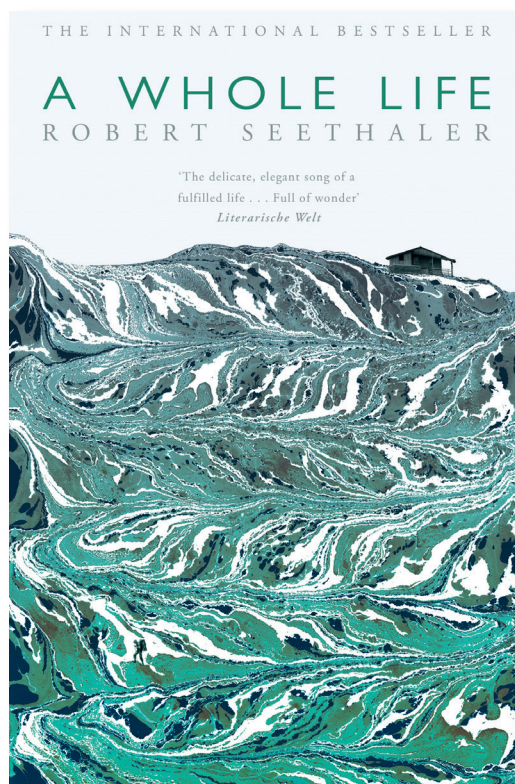


Reader's Guide



Other novels by Robert Seethaler
The Tobacconist (2016)

A Whole Life Robert Seethaler

Translated by Charlotte Collins

Pan Macmillan

www.themanbookerprize.com

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About the author	Robert Seethaler is an Austrian living in Berlin and is the author of four previous novels. He also works as an actor, most recently in Paulo Sorrentino's <i>Youth</i> .
About the translator	Charlotte Collins studied English at Cambridge University. She worked as an actor and radio journalist in both Germany and the UK before becoming a literary translator, and has also translated Robert Seethaler's novel <i>The Tobacconist</i> .
About the book	Andreas lives his whole life in the Austrian Alps, where he arrives as a young boy taken in by a farming family. He is a man of very few words and so, when he falls in love with Marie, he doesn't ask for her hand in marriage but instead has some of his friends light her name at dusk across the mountain. When Marie dies in an avalanche, pregnant with their first child, Andreas's heart is broken. He leaves his valley just once more, to fight in WWII - where he is taken prisoner in the Caucasus - and returns to find that modernity has reached his remote haven. Like John Williams' <i>Stoner</i> or Denis Johnson's <i>Train Dreams</i> , <i>A Whole Life</i> is a tender book about finding dignity and beauty in solitude. It looks at the moments, big and small, that make us what we are.
Discussion points	<p>Would Andreas feel differently about modernity if Marie and his child were alive to experience it with him?</p> <p>How does nature act like a character in this book?</p> <p>Is Andreas fearful of modernity or simply upset that it has reached him? How so?</p> <p>After the death of Marie and his child, does Andreas actively seek isolation?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Ernest Hemingway <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Tove Jansson <i>The Summer Book</i> John Williams <i>Stoner</i> Denis Johnson <i>Train Dreams</i></p>
Useful links	<p>http://www.welovethisbook.com/reviews/a-whole-life</p> <p>http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/a-whole-life-by-robert-seethaler-one-man-endures-one-day-at-a-time-1.2394527</p> <p>http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/culture/books/fiction/article1584029.ece</p>