

One Day This Will Be Yours

by **Ondřej Štindl**



A cleverly crafted story of grotesque humor, sarcasm, sorrow, and longing

At first glance, the message seems straightforward—but what does it truly mean? Who is passing what to whom – and is it a gift or a burden? Luky, a young man from modern-day Prague, sets out on a journey for answers that takes him to life's most fundamental questions: Who am I, really? Where do my true roots lie? What have I lost, and what can I still gain? Can I break free from my family's legacy and the expectations of others?

This novel further explores where reality ends and the illusion of social media begins. Is it better to take control of your own life, or to let yourself be shaped by a role in a fabricated virtual story? And what happens when these two worlds – the real and the digital – collide?

Ondřej Štindl (b. 1966) is a film and music critic, writer, screenwriter, journalist, and DJ. His script for *Pouta* (*Walking Too Fast*) was brought to the screen in 2010. In 2020, he received the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for his journalism. He is the author of the novels *Mond-schein* (2012), *To the Border* (2016), *Until Your Head Starts Spinning* (2020), and *So Much Ash* (2022). In 2023, he won the Czech round of the European Union Prize for Literature.



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Plot summary

Lukáš is a twenty-four-year-old man who is deeply affected by the recent death of his mother, Blanka. He lives alone in her apartment and struggles with anxiety, social awkwardness, and a sense of being a "flawed product." He finds himself lost and directionless, unable to find meaning in his job or social interactions.

After his mother's death, Lukáš discovers that she lied to him about his biological father. He learns through her old phone messages that she purposefully sought out an artist to be his father, believing her husband, Hynek Stránský, lacked the "right genes" to produce an artist son. This revelation shatters his understanding of his own identity and his relationship with both Blanka and Hynek, who he always considered his father.

Lukáš's emotional turmoil leads him to create and engage with a fictional persona, "Kopretina" (Daisy), on social media. He uses this online identity to connect with a small, devoted audience by sharing melancholy posts and a fabricated story of a young, terminally ill girl. This project provides him with a sense of purpose and a way to express his own pain without revealing his true self.

His online life becomes complicated when he meets Lucie Vilímková, the real person behind the "Kopretina" profile. Lucie, an older woman and a fantasy author, created the persona to gain attention and test ideas for her writing. Their real-life encounter is initially awkward and unsettling for Lukáš, who is forced to confront the fantasy he had built up. Despite this, they form a complex, fleeting connection, and Lukáš decides to take over the "Kopretina" persona to give the story a proper ending. He stages Kopretina's death and writes a farewell letter, which he reads to a small group of her online followers on a riverbank. This act of creative closure allows him to find a new, albeit difficult, sense of self.