

am i a
redundant
human
being?

mela
hartwig



Am I a Redundant Human Being?

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Aloisia Schmidt is an ordinary secretary with a burning question: *am I a redundant human being?* She's neither pretty nor ugly (though she wishes she were hideous: at least that would be something), has no imagination, and is forced to live vicariously through "borrowed" fantasy—fantasy, that is, borrowed from books, plays, even other people's lives. She loves to hate herself, and loves for other people to hate her too. In one final, guilt-ridden, masturbatory, self-obsessed confession, Aloisia indulges her masochistic tendencies to the fullest, putting her entire life on trial, and trying, through telling her story (a story, she assures us, that's "so laughably mundane" it's really no story at all), to transform an ordinary life into something extraordinary.

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From Reader Review Am I a Redundant Human Being? for online ebook

Kate says

Viennese Carrie Bradshaw from Hell. Memoir-haters, take note: the (fictional) narrator obsessively, onanistically (sometimes literally) reviews and analyzes the events of her life, before finally asking the reader whether she is "a completely redundant human being?" and yet raging against "something that was stronger than I was, that could consume and swallow me without a trace" (obscurity?).

Matthew Martens says

A nicely constructed abyss.

Vanessa says

If you have to ask yourself the question, "Am I a Redundant Human Being?", the answer is "Yes", and please don't waste your time or mine writing 200 some pages of jibber jabber. K, thanks!

Kyle says

"how was your agonizing confessional story about a neurotic secretary in post-ww1 austria?"

"good, but a little short. and how was yours?"

"good, but, heh, It was a little short."

they both start laughing

Alta says

excellent novel by an unknown Austrian writer.

Mauro says

Found this book while browsing in the Dalkey Archive section of Dog Eared Books. What an incredible find. Modernism at its best.

Jonathan says

[No (hide spoiler)]
