



Platform

By Michel Houellebecq, Frank Wynne

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Michel Renault is a human void. Following the death of the father he barely knew, he endures his civil service job while eking out an existence of prepackaged pleasure, hollow friendships, TV dinners, and pornography. On a group holiday in Thailand, however, he meets the shyly compelling Valérie, who soon pursues an agenda that Michel himself could never have thought possible: his own humanization.

Back in Paris, they plunge into an affair that strays into S&M, public sex, and partner swapping, even as they devise a scheme to save Valérie's ailing travel company by capitalizing on the only trade Michel has seen flourish in the Third World. Before long, he quits his job, and their business model for "sex tourism" is gradually implemented. But when they return to Thailand, where Michel's philosophy will be put into practice, he discovers that sex is neither the most consuming nor dangerous of passions . . .

From a suburbanized West crippled by hate crime to an East subsumed by materialism, Michel Houellebecq explores—with characteristic provocativeness, but also with surprising tenderness—the emotions that seem most resilient to any influence: love and hate. **Platform** is, as Anita Brookner has written, "a brilliant novel, casting a prescient eye on the abuses and inequalities that lead to wider trouble."

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Platform By Michel Houellebecq, Frank Wynne Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The controversial French author of *The Elementary Particles* (2000) turns in another unremittingly bleak novel. In addition to amplifying his views on the decadence of Western civilization, Houellebecq displays an absolutely chilling prescience in his depiction of a violent Muslim sect. Misanthropic, sexually frustrated bureaucrat Michel embarks on a "Thai Tropic" package tour, amusing himself with snide commentary on his fellow vacationers and frequent visits to sex clubs. Although he is attracted to business executive Valerie, he has trouble engaging her in small talk. However, when they return to Paris, their relationship quickly turns passionate as they explore sadomasochism and public sex. Michel talks Valerie and her business partner into marketing sex tours to the Third World, selling them on his theory that Westerners have lost touch with their own sexuality. But when they decide to sample one of their own tours, their resort becomes a flashpoint for Islamic hatred. Houellebecq is unrelenting as he meticulously constructs a world that mirrors his own cold vision and that cuts uncomfortably close to the bone. *Joanne Wilkinson*

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Review

"Howard Stern meets Albert Camus in this novel of sex and alienation . . . Houellebecq has sharp observations about ennui in the Western world and rage in the Muslim one."

—Kyle Smith, *People*

"Astute, graceful, sexually preoccupied . . . Houellebecq rewards with glimpses through his particularly keen lens."

—Arthur Hirsch, *The Baltimore Sun*

"A novel at once brilliant, charming, puzzling, annoying and sometimes downright repulsive . . . The work of a highly talented writer."

—Jean Charbonneau, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"The talented, cynical Houellebecq blasts Western culture and Islam in his odd, subversive entertainment."

—Carlo Wolff, *The Boston Globe*

"Blunt, arrogant, coolly detached, ultra-sophisticated, impeccably and simply presented, intellectually self-assured and very self-conscious . . . This is the real thing, the kind of novel that ends up in the canon."

—Michel Basilières, *The Toronto Star*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter White:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As we

know that book is very important for all of us. The book Platform was making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book Platform is not only giving you considerably more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book Platform. You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

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Lauren Robinson:

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