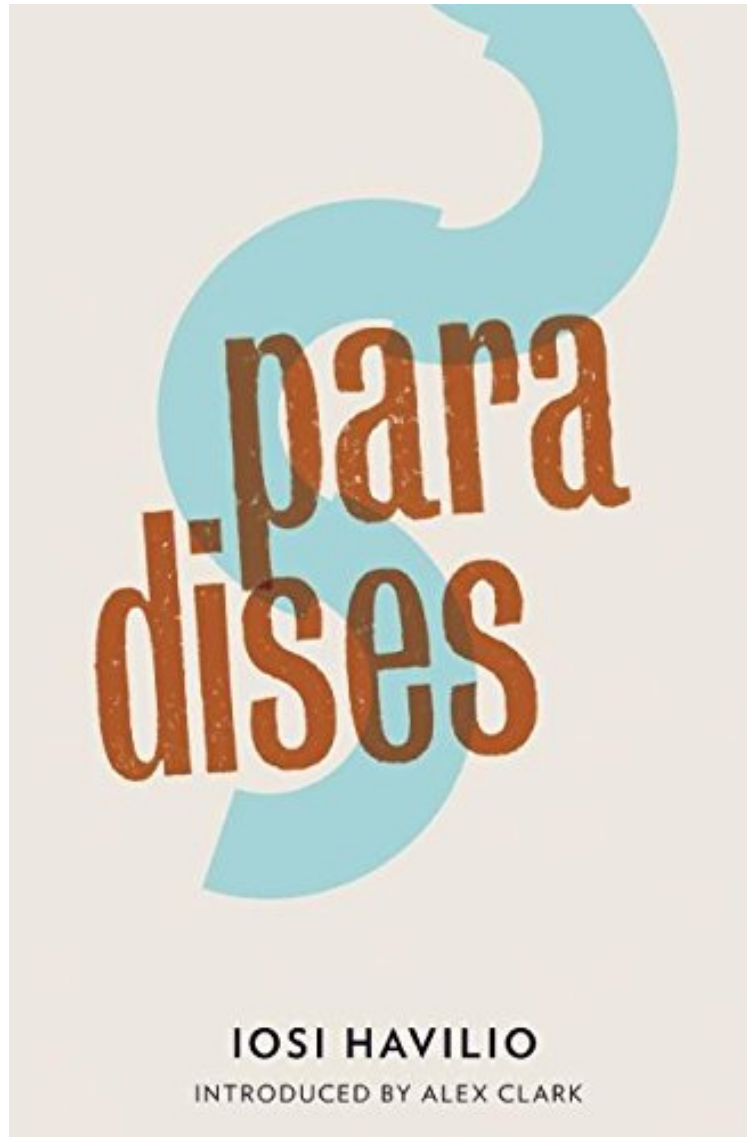


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Paradises

Iosi Havelio

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Iosi Havelio : Paradises before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paradises:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable sequel to "Open Door"By EleanorIosi Havelio's first novel, "Open Door", follows his unnamed narrator to a small country town in the Argentine Pampas where she has set up home with Jaime, a horse farmer. "Paradises" opens with the death of Jaime, an event that results in the narrator starting a new life with her son in Buenos Aires.Where "Open Door" was characterized by the hazy torpor of the great

plains, "Paradises" is an urban novel, moving between the high-rise squat in which the narrator lives, the zoo where she works, and the crowded streets and pizzerias of Buenos Aires. The affectless voice remains the same, however, lending a disturbing smoothness to events. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Life as mundane and bizarreBy Geoff CrockerAlex Clark's introduction suggests that Iosi Havelio's `Paradises' is about contingency, connections and boundaries. City life in Buenos Aires is mundane and banal, dreary and depressing. Working at the zoo, arranging childcare, connecting with other women like Iris in similar situations, medicating the cancer sufferer Tosca with morphine. This is the grim reality mediated by contingency and connections. Stir in abundant alcohol, drugs, sex, and a connection via Eloisa to the squalid riches of Axel, and the scenario enters the surreal. Boundaries as Alex Clark says are crossed. Reality and unreality merge into one consciousness. But this doesn't make for a gripping or even an engaging read. Like the ordinary life it describes, the book itself is mundane and boring, inevitably and almost essentially so. It's like watching soap operas to see familiar everyday life on TV. `Paradises' didn't match the high literary claims made on the cover. Havelio has clearly set up the ending to lead straight into his next novel, so there's more to come. Geoff Crocker Editor Atheist Spirituality web site

"In contemporary Argentine literature, *Paradises* is an almost perfect novel." TonicAlbert Camus's *The Outsider* reimagined with a female lead in in twenty-first-century Buenos Aires. Recently widowed, a young woman leaves the countryside for Buenos Aires with her four-year-old son where she seeks to build a new life for herself. She finds work in the zoo and moves into the human zoo of a squatted tower block at the invitation of one of its residents, to whom she acts as nurse, giving morphine injections. Iosi Havelio's captivating voice has brought him cult status in Argentina.

"Iosi Havelio has caused a literary storm in Argentina. His creation is of an inverted 'paradise,' urban squalor a pole apart from the gardens of Paradise. It well reflects the inequalities and iniquities left by Argentina's financial collapse at the turn of this century. This is the aftermath of an apocalypse." Amanda Hopkins, *The Independent*"Havelio has found just the right tone and understated register to describe extremity. *Paradises* takes place in an irresistible, ghostly normality." Beatriz Sarlo"An original voice that does not resort to tried and tested formulae." *El Pas*"In contemporary Argentine literature, *Paradises* is an almost perfect novel." *Revista Tnica*"In his novels we find the invisible and essential work that only great writers are capable of." Fabian Casas, author of *Los Lemmings*"This is a novel which follows its own rules, and it works on its own terms." Paula McGrath, *Gorse* "because of this accent on the dystopian, I thoroughly recommend this unusual novel. It is very readable and strangely enjoyable though wickedly weird with its insidious and invidious images It compels the reader to progress laterally, yet literally, through its pages, all the time feeling rather like one has been invited to [a] very strange costume party." Vaughan Rapatahana, *Scoop of Books* "This sparkling novel is full of contradictions . . . Havelio thus uses his narrator as a vehicle for a wider commentary on the human condition, which questions whether we are really as free as we think we are what do we control and what controls us?" *Three Percent*"I was drawn to a woman who, though lacking any moral compass, could make me smile with her wryly humorous observations." Wendy Smith, *Whichbook*"*Paradises* is pervaded by a dreamlike, grotesque quality at times its almost like a journey into a twisted fairy tale. Havelio's style is simple, but hypnotic." Tony Malone, *tonysreadinglist*"I really enjoyed this book, although I'm not quite sure why or what it's really all about. Its beautifully written and translated with a compelling voice from the unnamed narrator that pulled me into the story and made me want to know what would happen next a highly readable book one that I found almost impossible to pin down." Rachel Ward, *A Discount Ticket to Everywhere*"Havelio's passion lies with the powerless. An inexhaustible stream of eccentric, believable characters, the down-and-out, downtrodden marginal citizens of Buenos Aires, parades through his fiction." Nick DiMartino, *Shelf Awareness*"I found myself drawn in by the language and my growing anxiety to know what was coming next; whether action or meditation The voice of Havelio's narrator has grown on me." Michael Johnson, *Akanos*"In some ways this is a story of survival." Kate Gardner, *Nose in a Book*"A chronicle of events within a life, and the life is not particularly consciously lived. Perhaps this is why Havelio has been compared to Albert Camus; his main character parallels the existential passivity of Mersault in *The Outsider* Its something of a series of dots, which different readers will connect in different ways." Adam Ley-Lange, *We Love This Book*"I can't really describe this strange and mesmerizing book any better than the publishers do here: 'Is this life in the shadows, an underworld of cut-price Christmases, drugs and dealers, or is this simply life?' Oddly, this doesn't only capture this great Argentine novel, but my most recently celebrated holiday season." *Literalab*