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**David R Godine Pub 0879237007**

# Life: A User's Manual - Instruction Guide

By Georges Perec, Translated by David Bellos

## INTRODUCTION

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This guide serves as an informational companion to Georges Perec's seminal work, *Life: A User's Manual*. The book itself is an intricate exploration of the relationship between imagination and reality, observed through the lives within a large Parisian apartment block. This manual aims to provide a structured approach to understanding and appreciating its complex narrative and thematic depth.

“The Novel of the Decade”—*Le Monde*

**LIFE**  
**⊕ A ⊕**  
**USER'S**  
**MANUAL**

**Georges**  
**Perec**

*Translated by*  
*David Bellos*

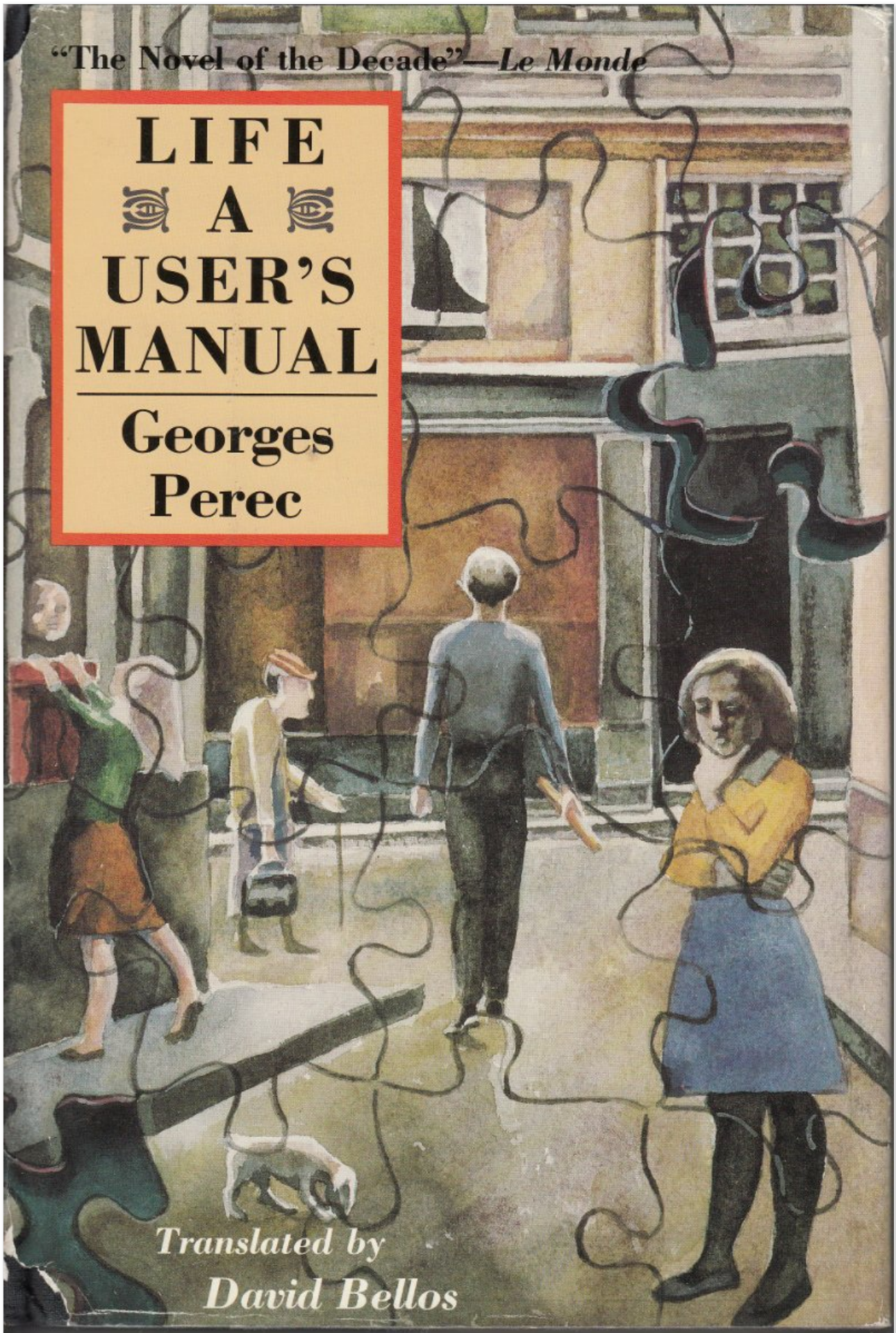


Figure 1: The cover of *Life: A User's Manual*, illustrating the fragmented and interconnected nature of the stories within.

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Approaching *Life: A User's Manual* requires a particular mindset due to its unique structure and narrative style. Consider the following preparatory steps:

- **Familiarize Yourself:** Understand that the book is not a linear narrative but a mosaic of interconnected stories, characters, and objects within a single apartment building.
- **Patience is Key:** The novel's depth unfolds gradually. Allow yourself to delve into the details and digressions without rushing.
- **Note-Taking (Optional):** For some readers, keeping notes on characters, their apartments, and their connections can enhance the experience.

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## NAVIGATING THE MANUAL

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The book's chapters are structured around the rooms of the apartment building, moving through them like a knight's tour on a chessboard. Each chapter reveals aspects of the inhabitants' lives, past and present, often through descriptions of their possessions and environments.

1. **Chapter Progression:** Follow the sequence of chapters as presented. While seemingly disparate, they build a comprehensive picture.
2. **Character Connections:** Pay attention to recurring names, objects, and themes, as these often link different narratives and reveal deeper meanings.
3. **Descriptive Detail:** Perec's meticulous descriptions of objects and spaces are central to the novel. Appreciate the encyclopedic nature of these details.

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## PRESERVATION AND CARE

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To ensure the longevity of your copy of *Life: A User's Manual*, especially for hardcover editions, follow these general book care guidelines:

- **Storage:** Store the book upright on a shelf, away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, or humidity.
- **Handling:** Handle with clean, dry hands. Avoid folding pages or forcing the spine open too wide.
- **Protection:** If the book has a dust jacket, keep it on to protect the cover.

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## UNDERSTANDING COMPLEXITIES

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Given the novel's experimental nature, readers may encounter moments of confusion or feel overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information. Here are some tips for navigating these complexities:

- **Embrace the Digressions:** Many stories branch off from the main narrative. These are intentional and contribute to the overall tapestry.
- **Don't Seek a Single Plot:** The book is less about a conventional plot and more about the interconnectedness of lives and the accumulation of detail.
- **Re-reading:** Many readers find that subsequent readings reveal new layers and connections previously missed.

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## SPECIFICATIONS

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### Book Details

Attribute	Detail
Publisher	David R Godine Pub

Attribute	Detail
Publication Date	January 1, 1987
Language	English, French
Print Length	581 pages
ISBN-10	0879237007
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Item Weight	2.09 pounds

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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As a literary work, *Life: A User's Manual* does not come with a traditional product warranty. However, support for understanding and engaging with the text can be found through various literary resources.

- **Publisher Information:** For inquiries regarding the publication or other works by Georges Perec, contact David R Godine Pub.
- **Literary Analysis:** Numerous academic and critical analyses of the book are available in libraries and online, offering deeper insights into its themes and structure.
- **Community Forums:** Online literary communities and book clubs often discuss complex works like this, providing a platform for shared understanding and discussion.