The Unbearable Lightness of Being: A Novel

A young woman in love with a man torn between his love for her and his incorrigible womanizing one of his mistresses and her humbly faithful lover--these are the two couples whose story is told in this masterful novel. In a world in which lives are shaped by irrevocable choices and by fortuitous events, a world in which everything occurs but once, existence seems to lose its substance, its weight. Hence, we feel the unbearable lightness of being not only as the consequence of our private actions, but also in the public sphere, and the two inevitably intertwine.

My Personal Review:
I dont understand how anyone failed to tell me about this book. I dont understand how I hadnt even heard of it until last month. I went to a book store by chance, not having planned on going in the first place. I walked down an aisle that I rarely browse, I saw a paperback book, the spine of which caught my eye - red and white stripes. For no reason whatsoever, I picked it up and started to read it.

I am eternally grateful that chance inadvertently led me to this book; it is one of the best books Ive ever read. Ive browsed through a couple of reviews that declare it pretentious but really, pretension is basically unjustified vanity, undeserved acclaim. This book is quite an accomplishment, entirely worthy of self-indulgence, self-importance.

I had to set it down a few times to catch my breath; some passages literally took my breath away, if only momentarily. Kundera has a way with words, his thoughts and philosophies beautifully expressed, and touching on an array of experiences. He utilizes language so amazingly well, conveys ideas so precisely. I have never walked away from a book with such overwhelming satisfaction. Because I am not Milan Kundera, I have no words that can fully encompass how gratifying it was to read every page. Eternal return has never seemed quite so poetic as it did while I read this book, and will never again seem so.