

# Veronika decides to live

by

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Veronika decides to live

Outro

## Intro

I really loved "Veronika decides to die" and once I finished reading the book I had several thoughts:

1. the book is too short
2. the story isn't finished

That's why I decided to write this book.

Munich, November 2025

## Apocalypse now

Gaza, August 2025

Drone in the sky above Gaza

(Camera follows a rocket leaving fiery trail in the sky and flying towards a building and crashing into it)

EXT - on street in Gaza - Day

(devastation - partially or fully demolished building - heat and smoke)

It was a blast that deformed yet another piece of a building, now resembling the rest of the nearly completely demolished neighborhood...

War is a heartless machine, a creation of politicians. It takes no precautions and differentiates nothing among beings: be it a cat, a dog, a child, or a grown-up.

Heat and destruction are bad partners; add dust and smoke, and you have a nearly apocalyptic premise laid out right before our eyes.

## Life goes on

Lubljana, 16 April 1998

"What's going on?" asked Veronika.

"Nothing," said Eduard, helping her to her feet. "Or rather a miracle happened: another day of life." (original version from the book / "Or actually everything. You're alive. Tell me, how amazing is that?" (my version)

- "Well, that sucks." - "Ha, ha, ha"

- "What shall we do next?"

- "Let's get married and have children" jokingly said Eduard.

- "I think it's a good idea. Let's get married. Even if I die tomorrow, I'll die as a married woman. Not that actually matters." And she laughed.

Eduard joined and laughed, too.

Eduard's paintings "suddenly" starting to sell(his influential parents pulled the strings)

Infinite money glitch happened / discovered

Eduard is very down to Earth and knows / assumes / has a hunch that the money glitch won't be forever

His parents influence in Eduard's money savvy-ness (Matroskin cat mentality - I'll save)

BLEND-IN

(scene on TV from the cartoon "Трое из Простоквашино")

Matroskin cat on the bench saying: "I will save

"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK8af0m4HpA>

Veronika starts writing

## What's next?

The time since our escape from the "mad house" and our marriage just flew:

There was so much change in the world and me becoming pregnant with our first child also somewhat contributed to that too, then the second child was born as well and somehow after all these sleepless days and nights and you experiencing the reality as if in the haze also contributed to The fall of the Berlin wall opened and the collapse of the Soviet Union has started new era of life.

Shortly after Slovenia became it's own country and became independent.

Due to my looks (both males and females found me extremely attractive) and hopefully to my brains it was quite easy to become an new anchor on the Slovenian TV and later on one of the major UK TV channels and I was quite a decent writer, too. Writing fell easy for me and I felt that I was good at words; both written and spoken. Strangely enough words appeared in my head as by themselves flying

in quickly like comets with their cosmic speed.

My children ended up seeing me more on the TV screen than at home

When you give birth to a child or more than one you're kind of expected to know everything. At least this is the expectation the world places on you. And it is quite disheartening to know that this expectation / these expectations are far far away, thousands upon thousands miles away from the reality you live day after day after day. Just imagine the mountain Everest of expectations placed onto the fragile shoulders of underage mothers. Technically I wasn't underage, however from the general ripeness I was also quite far.

**\*\*January 1999 \*\***

**\*\*Move to Switzerland, Bern \*\***

(Eduard's paintings are suddenly selling there)

**\*\*February 1999 \*\***

### **Birth of the boy**

And even though I was not underage when I gave birth to our first child, I still was very far from being perfect person and perfect mother.

Veronika's writing career takes off

They (Veronika & Eduard) become VERY wealthy

## **Preparing for India**

to display struggle of getting visa

Embassy in Vienna

Getting ALL documents

Getting there

INT - Indian Embassy / Consulate VIENNA - DAY

(Interview)

EMBASSY / CONSULATE CLERK

Why do you want 6 months visa?

VERONIKA

You have a beautiful country

(Moving around the city - sightseeing; stopping at a cafe or restaurant to breastfeed the boy and eat)

(Return into the hotel at dark)

INT - Hotel room - NIGHT

(Veronika breastfeeds the boy and both fall asleep with the baby still sucking on the breast)

FADE OUT

NEXT DAY - SLOW FADE IN

(to still sleeping Veronika and boy; they gradually wake up; Veronika breastfeeds the boy)

INT - Breakfast room - MORNING

(friendly chit-chat with some breakfast table neighbors)

INT - Indian consulate - DAY

(Getting the passport back with the issued visa)

(Veronika walks out of the building, while holding the passport in her hand. Veronika stops, opens it to check the accuracy)

CAMERA SHOT INTO THE PASSPORT OPENED DISPLAYING INDIAN VISA

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EXT - Outside of Embassy - DAY

VERONIKA

(angrily)

Fuck!

(going back to the gates)

There is a mistake. It's not my family name.

EMBASSY GUARD

Ma..am, you need to come tomorrow again.

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OC

What doesn't kill us, makes us stronger...

Once one gets bitten by "travel bug" one gets it running for quite a long while / time and some never get off it. Seeing other countries and experiencing other cultures, beautiful architecture and bright vibrant clothes of the south, eating tasty foods and fruits. All this makes us wanting more: other countries, other foods and fruits, other clothes and different architecture. However I didn't know all this at the time of me preparing for my very first trip to India. India is one of the countries, which has very different architecture, from Mogul inspired to French, tasty fruits and nasty monkeys and crows, which will steal your food, at any given opportunity.

A bureaucratic hassle like driving/train/flight to Vienna for an Indian visa?

Peanuts, even with the baby. (birth cert, consent if Eduard stays home), but totally doable.

Long-haul flight with a toddler is the real grind, not the visa.

BACK in Bern

INT - Bedroom - NIGHT

After she has packed everything and put boy to bed, she set up the baby phone and went to / came into Eduard's studio....

She knew that she has got at least 2 - 3 hours before she would need to feed the boy...

VO (*in Veronika voice*)

Normal women, who breastfeed usually lose their libido during the breastfeeding time - not me though, my libido has actually become amplified

(parting sex (which was initiated by Veronika) and which will conceive their daughter) <- this will be deleted later from the book / script

INT - EDUARD'S STUDIO ROOM - NIGHT

Veronika enters the studio with a thick wool blanket over her shoulder

She kissed Eduard

Steps away and spreads out the blanket on the floor while

Eduard is amused and in bewilderment watches what Veronika is doing (she acted weirdly the whole day long today)

She half lies down onto the blanket and waves with the hand to Eduard to come (come, come)

The whole day she was preparing herself for this - she rubbed herself against him like a horny cat in May - in the kitchen, in his studio - when she came to call him for lunch and dinner to his bewilderment keeping him thinking what is actually going on today :)

When he came to the blanket and copied her pose she pressed him onto his shoulders, him ending up lying on his back and ... she kissed and rode him, she rode and kissed him very well that night.

In the morning Eduard drives them to the airport.

They kiss and she waves goodbye, after having entered the gate.

## India

When I was a child I was drowning once and even though I was rescued timely - and later into the years I learned how to swim - respect for water remained, that why when an old Gypsy woman told her once that I will die of drowning it even emphasized the cocktail of fear and respect for water together. These words of this old Gypsy woman, you can say, remained stuck with her, and became deeply ingrained into her. I always was and is very cautious when entering water and when I was in water. That why I was not very thrilled about when I was invited to drive or go swimming, especially in somewhat dangerous unsupervised waters like sea or even more cautious when it was about an ocean, like it was here in India.

## Varkala

some persistent interest from a male over several days

He was very well behaved and extremely polite ALL the fucking time and this appalled me and on the other hand made him extremely attractive for me.

I was returning from my yoga session in the morning and even though it was morning it was already very hot. When I was returning from the yoga session for mothers - there were all kind of women there: Russian, Indian, Australian and me; I was not in my best shape and yet he has overshadowed me with compliments for how beautiful I am and how great I look. I met a guy, who besides showering me with compliments every time he saw me, even when I didn't look very appealing, not that I cared.

He gave me some books to read

He invited me into one of the local restaurants we had a lunch, spoke about pretty much under sun. I told him about the books I was reading and he was telling me about the books he was reading and in return I exchanged a couple of books, which I already read at the local book shop and gave him two books as a gift, because he told me that he haven't read them yet:

"Shantaram" - story of love, friendship and war and "Fine Balance" - a very depressing one and nevertheless quite accurately depicting India as it was before, which in turn helps one to grasp / understand why it is still the way it is now.

Next day our paths have crossed again. Was he stocking me? And he invited me to another restaurant. The restaurant was overlooking ocean and I as usual ate while I breastfed my boy. The conversation was light and flew easily and unconstrained. Once we were done, he walked us to our hotel and I invited him to come to the room

In the room I put the boy to bed and he came to me and kissed me

He started gently undress her

I played with his hair

sudden vomit reaction (Veronika)

VERONIKA

and I vomitted directly onto him

I apologized and run into the bathroom

The guy remained staying speechless for some time and then just left

When I came out – he has already left.

(the male being a gentlemen leaves while I is still in the bathroom)

(Emotional breakdown)

(so I discovered / became aware that I am pregnant)

Fuck, I'm pregnant, again.

Finding out that I was pregnant was an interesting surprise.

EXT - Outside of the hotel - NEXT DAY

(Took Took is there - leaving for Kochi by train - drive to the train station)

It is heavy enough with one child and now there is a second one growing in my belly

Shall I make an abortion? No one would know about that. I almost killed myself once...How can I cancel the life which doesn't truly belong to me? Should I not leave that decision to the child?

(India can be VERY overwhelming and so can be unexpected pregnancy, when combined they lead one to the state of deep despair)

Eduard comes to India for support and they go to Goa:

first Agonda, then Arambol and then they fly to Switzerland

## **Some years of life (after India)**

Switzerland and all it's rules are suffocating

Move to UK

New broader market for Eduard

Better writing reach for Veronika

Birth of daughter

EPISODE

INT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

(showing screams and tuntrums of the baby girl and exhausted Veronika)

Beginning of the TV career

### **some years later**

In 2004 Slovenia joined the EU and the doors into the world were practically open for everyone. And it practically was the time for me to go to Madrid, again, where I would ....

## **Spain, here I come. The cage door is open at last.**

May 2004 - Spain, Madrid

(work)

- Madrid
- Zaragoza
- Barcelona
- Valencia
- Granada
- Marbella
- Gíbraltar
- Seville
- Córdoba
- Madrid

INT - hotel room - NIGHT

News on TV

(Slovenia joined EU)

(off work)

Andalusia - sudden discovery of a yoga and breathwork retreat in the hills of Andalusia

### **August 2004**

Throughout his life Eduard was not very talkative outside of the family. Within the family he wasn't a chatter box either, however he loved both children and we (he and I) talked about pretty much everything, as well. And at times – yes, he absolutely was a chatterbox. And this were memorable moments, as well. Both children were off the breast for quite some time now and the question "What's next" resurfaced again.

Point of entry - Madrid

(was pretty boring)

Funnily enough exactly in Spain and not in India I was initially introduced to yoga and breath work techniques. (even though she was to India, first)

Or maybe it was last A of AIDA - awareness, interest, desire, action(s)

Yoga & Breathwork Introduction:

Early 2000s Spain

(especially Andalusia—think Sierra Nevada foothills, olive groves, white villages) had a growing alternative scene: small retreats in fincas, influenced by Ibiza's hippie legacy and incoming Europeans.

Pranayama, Hatha and Vinyasa yoga, early breath workshops were there—perfect seed for her later ice-breath control.

It's a luxury only a few can afford themselves nowadays to get lost in the hill of Andalusia without any plans or agenda. And this is exactly where I see them – doing yoga in the morning rose-pink light. And something in mir says – yes, it is them, this is exactly where I supposed to be. Introduction into yoga and breathwork

Spanish language acquisition

\*\*some years later \*\*

## **Journey into friendship with cold begins.**

Bangkok

North Thailand

(work)

It supposed to be warm in tropical countries – however being here in December in the North of Thailand has brought the memories of North India.

If you cannot beat them, join them or in my case it was if you cannot beat it, get accustomed to it, make yourself friends with it, and this is exactly where and how my journey into making friend with cold has started. Ironically in a very warm tropical country.

My whole life is an absolute irony of my choices, of me making those choices and living with them.

EXT - North Thailand - NIGHT

VO (*in Veronika voice*)

It supposed to be warm in tropical countries – however being here in December in the North of Thailand has brought the memories of North India.

EPISODE

EXT - North India - NIGHT

(flashback to the time when Veronika was in the North India)

(Veronika is having warm clothes in the mountains of North India)

CONT'D

VO (*in Veronika voice*)

It's fucking great that we left for India in November, when it was already pretty cold in Slovenia, otherwise we would be freezing our bones here.

EXT - North Thailand - NIGHT

CONT'D

VO (*in Veronika voice*)

Somehow I didn't know that it would be the same in Thailand.(If you cannot beat them, join them or in my case it was if you cannot beat it, get accustomed to it, make yourself friends with it, and this is exactly where and how my journey into making friend with cold has started. Ironically in a very warm tropical country.)It's good that we flew here in December and had our warm clothes with us.

CONT'D

VO (*in Veronika voice*)

My whole life is an absolute irony of my choices, of me making those choices and living with them.

EXT - PATH UP THE MOUNTAIN - MORNING

(Veronika went for a run and a swim in a cold-ish mountain lake overcoming fear of water)

FLASHBACK TO CHILDHOOD

EXT - LAKE - DAY

(little Veronika is drowning in a lake)

(when she was a child and nearly drowned and was saved by .... whom?)

CONT'D

EXT - PATH TO THE MOUNTAIN LAKE - MORNING

(Veronika runs into the water and dives)

VO



(in *Veronika voice*)

Well, that didn't kill me.

(as she submerges from the water)

(Decision to "become friends with cold" despite tropical latitude — internal paradox established.)

CONT'D

(work)

- Laos
- Cambodia
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Vietnam

## **One, two, three ... swimming we go. Ice swimming.**

She met and swam with Iceman – Wim Hof; first, with some other participants of one of the courses he gives. Women of beauty like hers don't go unnoticed and later she swam with Stig Severinsen and she also swam with lesser known female ice swimmers like: Johanna Nordblad, Elina Mäkinen.

This is such a bold, symbolic choice.

Cold-water/ice swimming is literally about confronting death—numbing pain, controlled breath, pushing the body to the brink—and then emerging alive, exhilarated, reborn. It's the perfect metaphor for post-asylum Veronika: someone who has already "died" once and now actively seeks out near-death experiences not to end life, but to feel alive as intensely as possible.

## **Madness or Bravery**

swimming in ice-cold waters alone

Now when I already swam with some of the world most renowned ice swimmers I also wanted to try the cold waters of Iceland. Is it a sign of bravery or a sign of an absolute and sheer madness to wager into such a swim absolutely alone? It is way easier to swim with the others, however to do it completely alone... One needs to confront one's own fears and either overcome them or succumb and surrender to them and this is exactly what I was doing when the thoughts of fear came to my head. Fuck it, let's do it, nothing is under control – is the motto which I welcomed into my life and was using when faced by situations of uncertainty, fear and even danger.

There are calculable risks and there is sheer madness and mad bravery. What swimming alone is, only the time will show. Ask me later and I'll tell you once I did / have done it.

The title "Iceland" works well for now: it's simple, geographic, and carries that stark, cold resonance. If you want alternatives later, something like "Alone in the North Atlantic", "The Solitary Plunge", or "Madness or Bravery" (echoing the question you pose) could add a more poetic or philosophical layer. But honestly, the plain "Iceland" has a Coelho-esque minimalism that fits the spirit of the original novel.

## **Wild wild everything**

Entering US in Alaska and going down the south of the continent

(work)

FLY-INS

(of the city names with Veronika staying in front of the camera at different locations and reporting from the places)

- Alaska
- Washington (state)

- Seattle Oregon
- Portland California (SF & LA)
- Las Vegas
- Chicago
- Boston
- New York
- Washington (DC)
- Florida
- Texas

what else to show here?

Grand Canyon?

Children see her mother more on TV than at home in person

and from the south of USA she went into Mexico.

## Latin America

Near equatorial and other countries of Latin America

Auyaska experience

## India again

New Delhi, January 2025

(off work / work ???)

- New Delhi
- North India
- Chennai
- Auroville

Auroville, May 2025

Now we are in Auroville, one of it's promises to build a town, where money wouldn't exist. We are going to investigate how it turned out to become.

We are here at the XYZ farm

"Watch out. Don't move." suddenly said Veronika to the videographer. "There is a snake behind you. DON'T MOVE."

She picked a stick from the ground and tried to scare the snake away. And some other snake might have crawled away, not viper though. It jumped to attack Veronika and bit her into the left leg. viper bite

## Rush for life

Viper bite According to people sayings snakes when they sense people crawl away, not viper though, viper jumps towards person and attacks

## Now - it's time to live

Veronika woke up from coma

Recovery

Now - it's time to live without fear

it doesn't matter how long one lives if one lives a happy and fulfilling life

(Mom's calling.)

CLOSE-UP to telephone

MOM is displayed on the telephone screen.

VERONIKA

Hi, mom.

MOTHER

How do you feel, dear?

VERONIKA

I'm good, mom.

MOTHER

Darling, do you remember Dr. Igor?

VERONIKA

Of course, I do. What about him?

MOTHER

Well, I read in the paper that he died of a heart attack, yesterday.

EXT - Cemetery - DAY

(Burial ceremony. Veronika with Eduard and children are there, too. )

Veronika's daughter

Who was he?

VERONIKA

Someone we used to know.

(takes Eduard under his arm)

Some of the content of this chapter was inspired by Jill Bolte and her talks

For one of them there is the link below:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jill\\_bolte\\_taylor\\_my\\_stroke\\_of\\_insight](https://www.ted.com/talks/jill_bolte_taylor_my_stroke_of_insight)

Once I woke up from coma, in that moment, I knew that I was no longer the choreographer of my life.

And either the doctors rescue my body and give me a second chance at life,

or this was perhaps my moment of transition.

When I woke, it already was an afternoon,

I was enormously surprised to discover that I was still alive.

When I felt my spirit surrender, I said goodbye to my life.

And my mind was now suspended

between two very opposite planes of reality.

Stimulation coming in through my sensory systems

felt like pure pain.

Light burned my brain like wildfire,

and sounds were so loud and chaotic  
that I could not pick a voice out from the background noise,  
and I just wanted to escape.  
Because I could not identify the position of my body in space,  
I felt enormous and expansive,  
like a genie just liberated from her bottle.  
And my spirit soared free,  
like a great whale gliding through the sea of silent euphoria.  
Nirvana.  
I found Nirvana, again.  
And I remember thinking,  
there's no way I would ever be able to squeeze the enormousness of myself  
back inside this tiny little body.  
But then I realized, "But I'm still alive!  
I'm still alive, and I experienced Nirvana, again.  
And if I could experience Nirvana again, while being alive,  
then everyone who is alive can experience it, too"  
And I pictured a world  
filled with beautiful, peaceful, compassionate, loving people  
who knew that they could come to this space at any time.  
And that they could purposely choose  
to step to the right hemisphere – by doing yoga and meditations -  
and find this peace.  
And then I realized  
what a tremendous gift this experience could be,  
what a stroke of insight this could be to how we live our lives.  
And it motivated me to recover and to come back.  
So who are we?  
We are the life-force power of the universe,  
with manual dexterity and two cognitive minds.  
And we have the power to choose, moment by moment,  
who and how we want to be in the world.  
Right here, right now,  
I can step into the consciousness of my right hemisphere, where we are.  
I am the life-force power of the universe.

I am the life-force power  
of the 50 trillion beautiful molecular geniuses that make up my form,  
at one with all that is.

Or, I can choose to step into the consciousness of my left hemisphere,  
where I become a single individual, a solid.

Separate from the flow, separate from you.

I am Veronika

intellectual, journalist, TV presenter and story-teller, caring mother to my children and loving wife to my husband and daughter to my parents.

These are the "we" inside of me.

Which would you choose?

Which do you choose?

And when?

I believe that the more time we spend  
choosing to run the deep inner-peace circuitry  
of our right hemispheres,  
the more peace we will project into the world,  
and the more peaceful our planet will be.

And I thought that was an ideal time to live the life I was given, again.

Recovery

Death of Dr. Igor

How long do I still have?

A journey to get into Gaza.

Once I woke up from the coma in Ljubljana, the venom finally flushed from my veins, I knew I was no longer the sole choreographer of my life. I had felt my spirit surrender. I had said goodbye — quietly, almost gratefully — to the story I had been writing with every border crossed, every icy plunge, every reckless yes. Light had burned like wildfire behind my eyes, sounds had crashed like chaos, and for a while I was enormous — a genie freed from the bottle of my body, gliding through silent euphoria. Nirvana. I had found it. And then I woke up. Still alive. Again. I remember thinking: if I can touch that vastness and still be breathing, then anyone can. Everyone who is alive can choose, at any moment, to step into that space of deep peace. And in the same breath, they can choose the smaller, sharper "I" — the one with a name, a passport, children waiting at home, a husband who paints while the polar night lasts. These two "we" live inside me. One is the life-force power of the universe — boundless, at one with everything, fearless because there is no edge to fall off. The other is Veronika: intellectual, journalist, TV presenter, storyteller, mother to my quiet blond boy and fiery black-haired girl, loving wife to Eduard, daughter to my parents. I have spent decades running the circuitry of intensity — chasing sensation to prove I was still here. But in that coma I learned I could also run the circuitry of peace. And suddenly the running stopped feeling necessary. I came home different. I stayed longer. I watched the children grow. I sat with Eduard in silence that didn't itch. For the first time, ordinary days didn't terrify me. But the world kept burning. Images reached me: children in Gaza, thin as winter twigs, eyes carrying the same hollow question I once carried in Villette. Famine declared, temperatures brutal, homes reduced to rubble mountains, aid crawling in too late. I understood then what the second chance was truly for. Not to sit safely in the peace I had found.

But to carry it into the places where peace had been bombed out of existence. One last time, I left.

Eduard kissed me at the airport the way he always did — no pleas, no drama, just trust and the quiet knowledge that I might not return. The children hugged me harder than usual. They were old enough now to feel the weight. I entered Gaza in August 2025. It was a blast that deformed yet another piece of a building, now resembling the rest of the nearly completely demolished neighborhood...[Continue directly with the exact Gaza text you already wrote, ending on:]...And in the end, the machine took me too.

I came home different. They had flown me to Ljubljana in May, while I was still deep in the coma — back to the city where the story began, back to hospital corridors that once rang with my fury at surviving. When I finally woke, late spring was already turning the city green. For the first time in decades, I stayed. Not forever — just those couple of months while my body finished healing, while Ljubljana's grey winter memories from the past faded into a hesitant spring and then a full, warm summer. The children were already grown — our quiet blond boy and fiery black-haired girl now in their mid-twenties, shaping lives of their own.

Our girl found her rooting in Columbia as an English teacher.

and

our boy stayed in the UK, well, at least for now. His IT start-up is promising and he might need to relocate to the US. The time will show.

They came and went, bringing their new sharpness and laughter into the house. We shared long meals on the terrace, walks along the river, silences with Eduard that felt full instead of restless. Life became quieter, deeper. The old terror of ordinary days receded — like a tide that had learned it could ebb without drowning me. The running stopped.

For one summer. For a few very short months. Then, one hot morning in early August 2025, the news reached me. Dr. Igor — the psychiatrist, who had once lied that my heart was failing, the lie that hurled me into life — had died suddenly of a massive heart attack.

They flew me home to Ljubljana while I was still unconscious — back to the city where it all began, back to the same hospital corridors that once echoed with my rage at being alive. When I woke from the coma, the venom finally purged, I knew I was no longer the sole choreographer of my life. I had surrendered. I had said goodbye — not in despair this time, but in a vast, silent euphoria. Light had burned like wildfire, sounds had crashed like chaos, and for a while I was boundless — a genie freed from the bottle of my body, gliding through an ocean of peace. Nirvana. I had touched it. And then I woke up. Still alive. Again. The doctors told me later how close it had been. Eduard had sat by my bed for weeks, painting nothing, just holding my hand through the long polar night. The children had taken turns reading to me. My parents had prayed. I remember thinking: if I can touch that vastness and still return to this small body, then anyone can. Everyone who is alive can choose, moment by moment, which circuitry to run — the deep inner peace of boundlessness, or the sharp, separate "I" with a name, a history, people waiting. These two "we" live inside me. One is the life-force power of the universe — at one with everything, fearless because there are no edges. The other is Veronika: journalist, storyteller, mother to my quiet blond boy and fiery black-haired girl, loving wife to Eduard, daughter to my parents. For decades I had run only the circuitry of intensity, chasing proof that I was still here. But in that coma I learned I could also choose peace. And for the first time, ordinary days no longer felt like a slow death. I stayed home longer. I watched the children finish growing. I sat with Eduard in silences that felt full, not empty. Life became quieter, deeper. The running stopped. Then, one grey Ljubljana morning in early 2025, the news reached me. Dr. Igor — the psychiatrist who had once looked me in the eye and lied that my heart was failing, the lie that shocked me into tasting life again — had died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Irony doesn't even begin to cover it. I went to the funeral. Stood in the rain with the handful of people who remembered Villette the way it used to be. And in that moment, watching his coffin lowered into Slovenian soil, I understood what the second unchosen return was truly for. Not to retreat into private peace.

But to carry it outward — into the places where peace had been declared dead. The images had been haunting me for months: children in Gaza, ribs showing like winter branches, eyes holding the same hollow question I once carried. Famine official now, heat merciless, entire neighbourhoods reduced to rubble mountains, aid blocked or destroyed. Dr. Igor had — through his desperate lie — handed me decades I hadn't asked for.

Now someone was trying to steal decades from children who had never even had the chance to despair. One last time, I packed a small bag. Eduard kissed me at the airport the way he always had —

steady, trusting, eyes saying everything his words never needed to. The children, now adults carrying our flame, hugged me harder than usual. They knew. I entered Gaza in August 2025. It was a blast that deformed yet another piece of a building, now resembling the rest of the nearly completely demolished neighborhood...[Seamless continuation with your exact Gaza text, ending on:]...And in the end, the machine took me too.

She begins the story waking up in a Ljubljana hospital, furious to be alive after trying to die.

She ends the arc waking up in the same city, same kind of hospital bed, after a coma she didn't choose — this time calm, illuminated, ready to live without the old terror. And the trigger for Gaza being the death of Dr. Igor — the very doctor who once told her "you have only days to live" (sparking her original awakening) now dying suddenly of a heart attack himself — that's the irony dialed to eleven. The man who accidentally saved her life by lying about her heart now loses his own heart. It's almost cruelly perfect.

August 2025

Veronika decides to go to Gaza.

Veronika is smuggled into Gaza

## Veronika decides to live

August 2025

EXT - on street in Gaza - DAY

(Veronika speaks in Arabic to children she wants to lead to shelter)

OS - COMMs between military

COMMANDER

There is something suspicious in the Sector XYZ. Send a drone there.

DRONE PILOT

Done, sir.

Drone in the sky above Gaza

(Camera follows a rocket leaving fiery trail in the sky and flying towards a building and crashing into it)

CONT'D

EXT - on street in Gaza - DAY

(devastation - partially or fully demolished building - heat and smoke)

It was a blast that deformed yet another piece of a building, now resembling the rest of the nearly completely demolished neighborhood...she's saving five specific kids:Twins 6 y.o. : Jamal and Amal (girl, scared of the drone sounds)Omar (5, boy, holding his sister's hand), Noor (girl) 8 y.o. and Yasmin (3, crying, won't let go of a stuffed animal)We need to SEE her:Learning their names in broken ArabicWiping dust from Yasmin's faceTelling them: "We're going to run to that building, okay? On three. One, two..."Then the drone strikes.Not abstract. Not distant. Specific bodies. Specific loss.I had gathered them— all five of them children, wide-eyed and "starved to the bone" thin, their small hands clutching mine as I whispered promises of a safer place just beyond the rubble. We moved quickly through the choking dust, past twisted metal and shattered homes, toward what I hoped was shelter. They trusted me, this stranger with the foreign accent who spoke of gardens and cold waters far away. I was trying to save them, to lead them out of this furnace of heat and destruction. But the next blast came without warning. The ground erupted. Bodies flew like fragile leaves in a storm. When the smoke settled, the children lay still. They would never see their parents again, nor their siblings, friends, or neighbors. Neither would I.War is a heartless machine, a creation of politicians. It takes no precautions and differentiates nothing among beings: be it a cat, a dog, a child, or a grown-up. Heat and destruction are bad partners; add dust and smoke, and you have a nearly apocalyptic premise laid out right before our eyes.In that moment, as the scorching August sun burned down on the ruins of Gaza City— where

famine had taken hold weeks earlier and the temperatures soared past 40°C and aid trickled like blood from a dying wound — I felt the old paradox rise in me one final time. Bravery or madness? All my life, I had plunged into extremes to feel alive: the icy waters of Iceland shocking my skin, the viper's bite in Auroville sending me into coma darkness, the spiritual fires of India and Amazonia burning away illusions. I had decided to live, over and over—escaping Villete with Eduard, building our wild love, raising our quiet blond boy and fiery black-haired girl amid moves and gardens across the world. And now, here in this man-made hell, I had come not for myself, but for them. For the starving, the displaced, the children whose eyes mirrored my own long-ago despair. One last plunge, into the heart of indifference. As my vision faded amid the rubble, I thought of Eduard's paintings, the children grown and carrying our flame, the piano notes from Villete echoing faintly. I had lived by other laws. I had chosen sanity over madness and bravery over indifference. And in the end, the machine took me too.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2025/2/5/gaza-transformed-into-rubble-strewn-w-steland-after-israeli-bombardment>

End with a scene of one person we've never met—maybe a teenage girl in Ljubljana—reading Veronika's book in a hospital bed (echo of Villete). She's considering suicide. She reads the last page. She closes the book. She looks out the window. She decides to live and her name is Veronika, too! and she is a daughter of Ukrainian refugees.

DAY 1 - Initial coldness

MARIJA(cheerful, from her bed)What's your name, dear?

VERONIKA II doesn't turn around. Stares at the wall.

VERONIKA II(flat, doing her a "favor")Veronika.

MARIJA(warm, unfazed)Ah! Beautiful name. My mother's name was Veronika.I'm Marija.

VERONIKA II(barely audible)Okay. She turns her back to Marija. Pulls the blanket over her head.

Marija watches her for a moment—then goes back to knitting. She hums softly. A Slovenian folk song.

DAY 2 - Marija's daughter visits

VERONIKA II pretends to sleep.

Marija's DAUGHTER (40s, kind face) brings a bag of food, magazines, and two books.

DAUGHTER

Here's the books you asked for, Mama.

MARIJA(taking it, glancing at Veronika II's turned back)

Thank you, ljubica. After some time the daughter leaves. Marija reads for a while—then places the book on the shared nightstand between the beds. Cover facing up: "Veronika Decides to Live."

Veronika II's eyes flicker open—just for a second—to see the title. She closes them again.

DAY 3 - The thaw

VERONIKA II

wakes in the night. Can't sleep. Reaches for the book—hesitates—then pulls it into her hands. Starts reading by the dim nightlight.

MARIJA

stirs, half-awake.

MARIJA(sleepy, gentle)

Good book, that one. Made me cry.

Veronika II



freezes—caught.

VERONIKA II

(defensive)

I wasn't

MARIJA

(cutting her off, kind)

It's okay. Read it. Keep it, if you want.

She rolls over, goes back to sleep. Veronika II stares at the book. Then keeps reading.

DAY 4/5 - Marija is discharged

MARIJA packs her things.

Veronika II watches from her bed—hasn't spoken much, but her posture is different. Less defensive.

MARIJA (at the door, turning back) Veronika? Veronika II looks up.

MARIJA

(CONT'D)

(simply, no drama)

I'm glad I met you. She smiles—warm, genuine—and leaves. Veronika II is alone now. She looks at the books still on the nightstand. Picks it up. Keeps reading.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LJUBLJANA - DAY (JANUARY 2026)

Pale winter light filters through the window.

VERONIKA II (16) sits propped up in bed with the book in her hands — final pages. She reads in silence. Her jaw tightens. Her eyes redden—but she doesn't cry. She finishes the last sentence. Closes the book slowly. Stares at the cover: "Veronika decides to live"

VERONIKA II

(whispered, in Ukrainian-accented Slovene)

Ty durna zhinka.(You stupid woman.)

She looks out the window—the city sprawls below, gray and ordinary and full of people living their small, precious lives.

VERONIKA II (CONT'D)

(softer, to the book)

But you tried. She places the book on the bedside table—carefully, like it's sacred. Reaches for the call button.Presses it.VERONIKA II (CONT'D)(to herself, almost a vow)Okay. I'll try, too.She looks back out the window. The city is still gray. But the light is different now.

CUT TO

EXT - MOUNTAINS OVERLOOKING OCEAN - DAY

VERONIKA, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN are hiking in the mountains.

TITLE CARD:"For everyone still deciding."

Outro

Now when you finished reading the book, Life is too short, no matter how many years you've lived and

whatever you do with your life is up to you. But if this reaches you—reader, witness—remember: decide to live. Not just for yourself. Change the world, in whatever capacity you can. Plant a garden. Speak truth. Act. Before the apocalypse claims us all.

## Veronika Decides to Live - Complete Story Outline

### Core Concept

A continuation of Paulo Coelho's "Veronika Decides to Die" - following Veronika's journey from choosing life after her suicide attempt to her heroic death in Gaza 27 years later.

**Central Theme:** She decides to live (fiercely, repeatedly, defiantly) → dies saving others

**The Question:** Life is for using what you've been given (time, privilege, survival) to protect life where it's most threatened.

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### Character Profiles

#### Veronika

- Born: 1973 (Scorpio, October 24 - November 22)
- 24 years old in 1997 (Villete)
- extrovert(ed) or ambivert(ed) - TBD
- Blonde, extremely good-looking
- Writer, TV anchor, travel documentary presenter
- Multilingual: Slovenian, English, German, Italian, French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Tamil, some Icelandic, Arabic, Hebrew
- Passions: Gardening/planting, yoga, ice swimming, extreme experiences
- Higher sex drive than Eduard
- **Yogic** in her approach to life

#### Eduard

- Dark-haired
- introvert(ed)
- Born: February 20, 00:00 (Pisces/Aquarius cusp)
- Internationally successful painter
- Quiet in society, talkative at home (classic introvert in safe space)
- **Stoic** in his approach to life
- Not clingy - understands and accepts Veronika's need to roam

#### Luka - their son

- Born: February 1999
- Blonde, quiet observer, introvert(ed)
- Good sleeper from birth
- Introspective, artistic like Eduard
- Sits for hours drawing/listening to music
- "The easy child who observes everything"
- Lives in UK as adult
- **After Veronika's death:** Starts foundation funding humanitarian aid workers (named after his mother)

#### Zala - their daughter

- Born: August 2000
- Dark-haired, rebellious, extrovert(ed)
- Sleepless as baby
- Inherited Veronika's fire and restlessness
- Refuses to conform
- Lives in Colombia as adult

- **After Veronika's death:** Continues humanitarian work (specifics TBD)

## Dr. Igor

- The psychiatrist who "gave" Veronika life by lying about her heart condition
- Dies of actual heart attack in early 2025
- His death becomes the trigger for Veronika's Gaza decision

## Marija

- 70s, Slovenian woman
- Hospital roommate with Veronika II
- In hospital for routine hip replacement
- Warm, persistent, not intrusive
- Former nurse during Yugoslav wars
- Her mother was also named Veronika
- Gives both books to Veronika II

## Veronika II

- 16 years old
- Ukrainian refugee in Slovenia
- Daughter of Ukrainian refugees
- In Ljubljana hospital after suicide attempt
- Reads both Veronika books
- **Decides to live** - completing the spiral

## Children in Gaza

- **Jamal** (6, boy, twin) - Amal's twin brother
- **Amal** (6, girl, twin) - scared of drone sounds, Jamal's twin sister
- **Noor** (8, girl) - oldest of the group
- **Omar** (5, boy) - holding his sister Noor's hand
- **Yasmin** (3, girl) - youngest, won't let go of stuffed animal
- Veronika dies trying to save all five

## Timeline & Story Beats

### 1998

**Marriage** - Veronika and Eduard marry right after Villette escape - Eduard's joke: "Let's get married and have children" - They become reality

### 1999

**February: Son Born** - Born in Switzerland (Bern hospital) - Quiet, blond, good sleeper

**November: First India Trip** - Veronika travels WITH the boy (still breastfeeding) - Eduard stays home with paintings starting to sell - Vienna embassy visa process shown - New Delhi, North India - Agra, Lucknow, Mumbai, Chennai, Puducherry, Varkala - Almost-lover encounter (Russian/German from Dubai) - Pregnancy discovery (vomit reaction during kiss) - **Key moment:** Mental breakdown (reason(s) TBD - hormones, overwhelm, India's intensity combined with unexpected pregnancy) - "I almost killed myself once... How can I cancel the life which doesn't belong to me?" - Eduard comes to India for support - Goa: Agonda, then Arambol

### 2000

**Late Year: Daughter Conceived** - Passionate parting sex before India trip - Deep intimacy scene in Eduard's studio - Veronika initiates on thick wool blanket

### 2001

**August: Daughter Born** - Born in UK - Dark-haired, rebellious, sleepless - \*\* Episode:\*\* Screaming through nights, exhausted Veronika thinks: "This is what aliveness feels like, and this is fucking exhausting"

## 1999-2004

**Switzerland & UK Years** - Move to Bern, Switzerland (Eduard's paintings selling well) - Small house + guest house (Eduard's studio overlooks Aare river) - "Money glitch" - Eduard's influential parents pulled strings - Eduard knows it won't last forever (Matroskin cat mentality: "I will save") - Veronika's writing career takes off - They become VERY wealthy - Move to UK for broader market (Eduard) and writing reach (Veronika)

## 2004

**Spain Trip (Work)** - Slovenia joins EU - Madrid, Zaragoza, Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Marbella, Gibraltar, Seville, Cordoba - News on TV: Slovenia joined EU - Andalusia: Discovery of yoga and breathwork retreat

## 2006

**South-East Asia (Episodic, Work)** - Bangkok, North Thailand - **THAILAND - THE COLD DECISION (December)** - "It's supposed to be warm in tropical countries" - Flashback to cold North India - "If you cannot beat it, become friends with it" - Morning run to cold mountain lake - Childhood drowning flashback - Overcomes fear, dives in - **"Well, that didn't kill me"** - Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam

**Ice Swimming Begins** - Training with Wim Hof - Swimming with other ice swimmers - Building the practice

## Summer 2010

**Iceland - Cold Integration** - Swimming in ice-cold waters ALONE - Full integration of cold practice - Mastery and peace with the element

**Wild Wild Everything** - USA travels (work): Alaska → Washington → Oregon → California → Las Vegas → Chicago → Boston → New York → Washington DC → Florida → Texas - **Key theme:** Children see mother more on TV than at home in person

**Latin America (Off Work)** - Mexico - **Ayahuasca experience** (Amazonia) - Spiritual deepening

## 2020-2022

Pandemics

## 2020-2024

**The Cracks Show** - Kids are adults (boy ~25, girl ~24) - Boy in UK, Girl in Colombia - Eduard globally successful - Veronika's TV career at peak - **But the question returns:** "What is it ALL for?" - Busyness no longer working - **Scene needed:** Iceland plunge feels empty, mechanical for first time

## January 2025

India Again\*\* \*\*

\*\*May 2025

**Auroville - Filming documentary about Auroville: reality vs. ideals - Investigating how the "town without money" promise actually turned out - Each of her documentaries is VERY different - variety keeps viewers engaged - Promoting Auroville's original cause while examining current reality** - The Viper Bite: - **"Watch out. Don't move."** (to videographer) - **Snake behind him - She picks up stick to scare it away - Viper attacks HER instead - bites left leg - "Your cold water swim series has changed my life" (videographer) - Critical delay getting to clinic - Coma begins \*\* (3 months) - Transported to Ljubljana**

\*\*May 2025

\*\*Eduard's return to Slovenia

**The Coma - Fever Dream Sequence** - Fragments, jump cuts, sensations - Cold water moments (Thailand, Iceland, etc.) - Dr. Igor appears: "So, did you find your answer?" - Kids as babies, then adults - **Premonition:** Children in Gaza she hasn't met yet - Eduard's voice distant: "Come back. But if you need to go, I understand" - Piano music from Villete - Ice cracking - Arabic she doesn't know yet - Darkness. Silence. Three months gone.

## August 2025

**Waking Up** - Clinic in Ljubljana - Physical weakness - Mental crystallization beginning

**Recovery** - Physically weak but mentally clear - Sees adult children thriving - Eduard's art globally celebrated - Books/TV work reached millions - Built a full life - **But it's not enough** - Been living FOR HERSELF this whole time - Even altruism (gardens, yoga, travel docs) was about HER feeling alive

## August 2025

**Dr. Igor's Death** - Dies of heart attack (the irony: fake heart condition vs real heart attack) - Mom calls: "Darling, do you remember Dr. Igor? He died yesterday" - **Funeral scene needed:** - Veronika, Eduard, both kids attend - She stands at grave remembering Villete - Realizes: "He's gone but I'm still here asking the same question" - **Trigger activated:** He gave her time, but she still hasn't answered what life is FOR

**Conversation with Eduard (Scene needed):** - Eduard knows she's changed - "You're planning on going somewhere, again, aren't you?" - She can't lie to him

**Scene with Daughter (needed):** "TBD"

## August 2025

**The Decision** - "I have maybe 10, 20, 30 years left. Or maybe 10 days" - "Dr. Igor didn't know. I don't know" - "But right now children are dying in Gaza while I'm safe in Slovenia" - "If I'm going to decide to live, I have to decide to live for THEM too" - Not just for her own intensity anymore - TV channel wants Gaza documentary - She volunteers immediately - Veronika: "It's fucking unfair what Israeli government is doing in Gaza. I'll go there to see whether I can turn things around somehow... for everyone, for humanity, for my sense of satisfaction..."

## August 2025

**Gaza** - Smuggled in with videographer (Israeli military doesn't allow foreigners) - Filming, documenting - Learning Arabic and Hebrew rapidly - **Final Scene:** - Devastation, partially demolished buildings, heat and smoke - She speaks in Arabic to children - Wants to lead them to shelter - Meets the five children: - **Jamal & Amal** (6, twins) - Amal scared of drone sounds - **Noor** (8) - oldest, trying to be brave - **Omar** (5) - holding Noor's hand - **Yasmin** (3) - crying, clutching stuffed animal - Learns their names - Wipes dust from faces - Comforts Amal about the drone sounds - "We're going to run to that building, okay? All together. On three. One, two..." - Videographer packs equipment, turns his back - She's gone - OS - Military comms: "Something suspicious in Sector XYZ. Send a drone" - **Rocket strikes** - Videographer hears explosion - Discovers Veronika is dead - **On paper she achieved "nothing" - But she TRIED - that's everything**

## Six Months Later (2026)

### The Ripple Effect

**Eduard:** - Scatters ashes in Aare river (where studio overlooked) - Paintings become global memorials

**Son:** - Foundation funding humanitarian aid workers - Named after Veronika

**Daughter:** - stays educator in Colombia

**Strangers:** - Someone in Slovenia fosters refugee children after reading her book - Iceland: Gardens planted with plaques "Inspired by Veronika"

## January 2026

### Final Scene - Ljubljana Hospital

**Setting:** Modern hospital room, fluorescent lights, window overlooking city

**Veronika II:** - 18 years old - Ukrainian refugee - Suicide attempt survivor - Dark circles, exhausted from surviving war/displacement

**Day 1 - Meeting Marija:** - Marija (cheerful): "What's your name, dear?" - Veronika II (flat, doing favor): "Veronika" - Marija: "Beautiful name. My mother's name was Veronika. I'm Marija" - Veronika II: "Okay" (turns away, pulls blanket over head) - Marija knits, hums Slovenian folk song

**Day 2 - The Books Arrive:** - Marija's daughter brings books - Marija places BOTH on shared nightstand: - Top: "Veronika Decides to Die" (Coelho) - Bottom: "Veronika Decides to Live" (the sequel) - Veronika II sees titles, freezes

**Day 3-4 - First Book:** - Reads "Veronika Decides to Die" fast - Feels seen, not saved

**Day 5+ - Second Book:** - Picks up "Veronika Decides to Live" - Thicker, heavier - Marija discharged but Veronika II keeps reading

**Day 6+ - Marija's Goodbye:** - Marija packed, at door - "Veronika?" - Veronika II looks up - "I'm glad I met you" - Warm smile, leaves - Veronika II alone now - Keeps reading

**Final Beat:** - Finishes last page - Closes book slowly - Both books stacked on nightstand - Stares at cover: Veronika I in Iceland, waist-deep in freezing water, laughing, alive

**VERONIKA II** (whispered, Ukrainian-accented Slovene): "Ty durna zhinka." (You stupid woman)

*Beat.*

"But you tried. Both of you."

*Looks out window - city gray but light different*

"Okay. I'll try, too."

*Reaches for call button*

*Presses it*

FADE TO BLACK

**TITLE CARD:** *"For everyone still deciding."*

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## Key Thematic Threads

### The Three Colds

1. **Thailand (Decision):** "If you cannot beat it, become friends with it"
2. **Ice Swimming (Practice):** Training, integration, mastery
3. **Iceland (Integration):** Alone, complete, at peace

### India Frames the Story

- **1999:** Departure (with baby, breastfeeding, discovering second pregnancy)
- **2025:** Return (viper bite, coma, transformation)

### The Comet Metaphor

- She burns bright
- Returns periodically to Eduard (her sun)
- Kids orbit in their own paths

- Final burn: Gaza
- Trail continues: Veronika II

## Survivors' Arc

- Pills didn't kill her
- Viper didn't kill her
- Dr. Igor dead
- Children in Gaza dead
- **Survivors' guilt** → **Survivors' responsibility**

## The Answer to "What For?"

**Early:** Proving suicide attempt wrong through intensity collection **Middle:** "What is it ALL for?" returns despite full life **Late:** Life is for using what you've been given to protect life where it's most threatened **Final:** Not running FROM numbness, running TOWARD meaning

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## Scenes Still Needed

### Chapter 15-18 (2020-2025)

1. **Iceland plunge feels empty** - first time thrill is gone, mechanical
2. **Dr. Igor's funeral** - detailed, emotional, remembering Villette
3. **Coma fever dream** - fragmented, layered, premonitory
4. **Conversation with Eduard post-coma** - "You're going somewhere, aren't you?"
5. **Scene with daughter** - "TBD"

### Gaza Sequence

1. **Arrival/smuggling**
2. **Documentary filming**
3. **Meeting the five children** - twins Jamal & Amal, Noor, Omar, Yasmin - names, faces, specific details
4. **Final moments** - intimate, specific, devastating - all five children with her

### Epilogue Details (Chapter 18: Outro)

1. **Eduard scattering ashes** - in Aare river, Bern (where studio overlooked)
  2. **Son's foundation launch** - funding humanitarian aid workers, named after Veronika
  3. **Daughter with Doctors Without Borders** - continuing the fire
  4. **Stranger fostering refugees** - after reading her book
  5. **Iceland garden plaque** - "Inspired by Veronika"
  6. **Other ripples** - people she touched, lives she changed unknowingly
- 

## Structural Notes

- **Format:** Novel in LibreOffice (.odt), Screenplay in Markdown (.md)
  - **Tone:** Direct, visceral, no excessive formatting
  - **Voice:** Veronika's POV for most, shifts for epilogue
  - **Pacing:** Episodic but cumulative, building toward Gaza inevitability
  - **Length:** 18 chapters
- 

## Chapter Structure

1. **Intro - Apocalypse now** - Gaza flash-forward (opening image)
2. **Life goes on** - Villette escape, marriage (1998)

3. **What's next?** - Babies, Switzerland/UK, Eduard's success (1999-2001)
  4. **Preparing for India** - Vienna visa process (1999)
  5. **India** - First trip with boy, pregnancy discovery (1999)
  6. **Some years of life** - Post-India, settling, daughter's sleepless nights (2001-2004)
  7. **Spain, here I come** - 2004 work trip
  8. **The cage door is open at last** - Slovenia joins EU (2004), borders open, freedom
  9. **South East Asia / Journey into friendship with cold begins** - Thailand cold decision (December 2006)
  10. **One, two, three ... swimming we go** - Ice swimming practice, Wim Hof (January 2008)
  11. **Iceland** - Cold integration, alone ( June - July 2010)
  12. **Wild wild everything** - USA/Americas (2010)
  13. **Latin America** - Ayahuasca, spiritual deepening (2010)
  14. **India again** - Auroville, viper, coma (January 2025)
  15. **Rush for life** - Coma/recovery (January-April 2025)
  16. **Now - it's time to live** - Dr. Igor's death, decision to go to Gaza (August 2025)
  17. **Veronika decides to live** - Gaza death + Veronika II hospital scene + time jump to mountains (August 2025 → January 2026 → future)
  18. **Outro** - Ripple effects: Eduard, son's foundation, daughter's humanitarian work, strangers inspired
- 

## Writing Principles

1. **Show her full potential throughout** - so readers feel the waste of her death
  2. **Make Gaza intimate and specific** - not abstract heroism
  3. **End with ripple effect** - impact she'll never see
  4. **Veronika II closes the spiral** - not a loop, a continuation
  5. **No preaching** - let the story carry the message
  6. **Readers should:** WEEP first, then JUMP off their butts to change the world
- 

## The Dual Goal

1. **Emotional Impact:** Make readers weep at the waste of potential, the beauty of trying, the tragedy of Gaza
  2. **Call to Action:** Inspire readers to change the world in their capacity, leave places better than they found them
- 

## Copyright & Collaboration Notes

- Continuation of Coelho's work (copyrighted)
  - Seeking female co-author
  - Can develop: characters, scenes, emotional beats, structural choices, dialogue, thematic depth
  - Not direct co-authoring, but serious developmental partnership with several AIs
- 

*Document created: January 2026 For: Veronika Decides to Live - Complete Story Development*

</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/title.md>

## Veronika decides to live

</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Apocalypse now.md>



## Apocalypse now

EXT - on street in Gaza - Day (devastation - partially or fully demolished building - heat and smoke)

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Life goes on.md>

## Life goes on

EXT - LJUBLJANA - NIGHT VERONIKA & EDUARD (are woken up by a police: police man and police woman) POLICEMAN You can go to the town hall to shelter yourself. BLEND IN / QUICK ROLL (quick roll of the events of the past night from escape till now) EDUARD She... she's dead. VERONIKA What's going on? EDUARD Nothing. (helping Veronika to her feet) Or actually everything. You're alive. Tell me, how fucking amazing is that? (Or rather a miracle happened: it's another day of life. - original version from the book) VERONIKA Well, that sucks. What shall we do next? EDUARD (jokingly) Let's get married and have children. FADE OUT TITLE - "Some time later" Eduard's paintings "suddenly" starting to sell (his influential parents pulled the strings) Infinite money glitch happened / discovered Eduard is very down to Earth and knows / assumes / has a hunch that the money glitch won't be forever His parents influence in Eduard's money savvy-ness (Matroskin cat mentality - I'll save) BLEND-IN (scene on TV from the cartoon " Трое из Простоквашино ") Matroskin cat on the bench saying: "I will save" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK8af0m4HpA> Veronika starts writing

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/What's next.md>

## What's next

January 1999 Move to Switzerland, Bern (Eduard's paintings are suddenly starting to sell / selling great there) EXT - Panoramic aerial view of the houses - DAY It was a relatively small house with another small guest house, which Eduard seized for / claimed as his painting studio The main house was near the quiet road and the guest house was overlooking ever so slightly the Aare river INT - Hospital - ART. LIGHT February 1999 Birth of the boy Veronika's writing career takes off They (Veronika & Eduard) become VERY wealthy

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Preparing for India.md>

## Preparing for India

to display struggle of getting visa Embassy in Vienna Getting ALL documents Getting there INT - Indian Embassy / Consulate VIENNA - DAY (Interview) EMBASSY / CONSULATE CLERK Why do you want 6 months visa? VERONIKA You have a beautiful country (Moving around the city - sightseeing; stopping at a cafe or restaurant to breastfeed the boy and eat) (Return into the hotel at dark) INT - Hotel room - NIGHT (Veronika breastfeeds the boy and both fall asleep with the baby still sucking on the breast) FADE OUT NEXT DAY - SLOW FADE IN (to still sleeping Veronika and boy; they gradually wake up; Veronika breastfeeds the boy) INT - Breakfast room - MORNING (friendly chitchat with some breakfast table neighbours) INT - Indian consulate - DAY (Getting the passport back with the issued visa) (Veronika walks out of the building, while holding the passport in her hand. Veronika stops, opens it to check the accuracy) CAMERA SHOT INTO THE PASSPORT OPENED DISPLAYING INDIAN VISA

// I'm still not sure if I should include it into the book or not EXT - Outside of Embassy - DAY VERONIKA (angrily) Fuck! (going back to the gates) There is a mistake. It's not my family name. EMBASSY GUARD Ma..am, you need to come tomorrow again. Do we want to go the path of the visa issued with an error, you have to come tomorrow; strong emotional reaction of Veronika, time needed to correct the visa, another night in hotel, etc ??? OC What doesn't kill us, makes us stronger...

BACK in Bern INT - Bedroom - NIGHT After she has packed everything and put boy to bed, she set up

the baby phone and went to / came into Eduard's studio.... She knew that she has got at least 2 - 3 hours before she would need to feed the boy... VO (in Veronika voice) Normal women, who breastfeed usually lose their libido during the breastfeeding time - not me though, my libido has actually become amplified (parting sex (which was initiated by Veronika) and which will conceive their daughter) <- this will be deleted later from the book / script INT - EDUARD'S STUDIO ROOM - NIGHT Veronika enters the studio with a thick wool blanket over her shoulder Kisses Eduard Steps away and spreads out the blanket on the floor while Eduard amused and in bewilderment watches what Veronika is doing She half lies down onto the blanket and waves with the hand to Eduard to come (come, come) The whole day she was preparing herself for this - she rubbed herself against him like a horny cat in May - in the kitchen, in his studio - when she came to call him for lunch and dinner to his bewilderment keeping him thinking what is actually going on today :) When he came to the blanket and copied her pose she pressed him onto his shoulders, him ending up lying on his back and ... she kissed and rode him, she rode and kissed him very well that night. In the morning Eduard drives them to the airport. They kiss and she waves goodbye, after having entered the gate.

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/India.md>

## India

(entry New Delhi November 1999) DATE / PLACE DISPLAY ON SCR. November 1999, New Delhi New Delhi North India Agra Lucknow Mumbai Chennai Puducherry Varkala some persistent interest from a male over several days He was very well behaved and extremely polite ALL the fucking time and this appalled me and on the other hand made him extremely attractive for me. When I was returning from the yoga session for mothers - there were all kind of women there: Russian, Indian, Australian and me; I was not in my best shape and yet he has overshadowed me with compliments for how beautiful I am and how great I look. INT - some restaurant overlooking ocean - DAY (Veronika and male have a conversation, while Veronika breastfeeds the boy) INT - Veronika's hotel room - SAME DAY kiss scene He starts gently undress her She plays with his hair sudden vomit reaction (Veronika) Veronika runs into the bathroom I apologised and run into the bathroom The guy remained staying speechless for some time and then just left the male being the gentlemen leaves while she is still in the bathroom (so she discovers / becomes aware that she is pregnant) (Emotional break down) FADE OUT EXT - Outside of the hotel - NEXT DAY (Took Took is there - leaving for Kochi - drive to the train station) VO (in Veronika voice) It is heavy enough with one child and now there is a second one growing in my belly CONT'D VO (in Veronika voice) shall I make an abortion? No one would know about that (What stops her from having that abortion? What stops her from having abortion in the end?) VO (in Veronika voice) I almost killed myself once... How can I cancel the life which doesn't truly belong to me? Should I not leave that decision to the child? (India can be VERY overwhelming and so can be unexpected pregnancy, when combined they lead one to the state of deep despair) Eduard comes to India for support and they go to Goa: first Agonda and then Arambol and then return to Switzerland

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[/home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Some years of life \(after India\).md](/home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Some years of life (after India).md)

## Some years of life (after India)

Switzerland and all it's rules are suffocating Move to UK New broader market for Eduard Better writing reach for Veronika birth of daughter EPISODE INT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (showing screams and tantrums of the baby girl and exhausted Veronika) Beginning of the TV career some years later

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Spain, here I come.md>

## Spain, here I come

(work) May 2004 - Spain, Madrid Madrid Zaragoza Barcelona Valencia Granada Marbella Gíbraltar Seville Cordoba Madrid INT - hotel room - NIGHT News on TV (Slovenia joined EU) (off work) Andalusia - sudden discovery of a yoga and breathwork retreat in the hills of Andalusia

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/untitled-20260110-142835.md>

## **some years of life after Spain**

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Journey into friendship with cold begins.md>

## **Journey into friendship with cold begins.**

South-East Asia (work) Bangkok North Thailand Journey into friendship with cold begins. EXT - North Thailand - NIGHT VO (in Veronika voice) It supposed to be warm in tropical countries – however being here in December in the North of Thailand has brought the memories of North India. EPISODE EXT - North India - NIGHT (flashback to the time when Veronika was in the North India) (Veronika is having warm clothes in the mountains of North India) CONT'D VO (in Veronika voice) It's fucking great that we left for India in November, when it was already pretty cold in Slovenia, otherwise we would be freezing our bones here. EXT - North Thailand - NIGHT CONT'D VO (in Veronika voice) Somehow I didn't know that it would be the same in Thailand. (If you cannot beat them, join them or in my case it was if you cannot beat it, get accustomed to it, make yourself friends with it, and this is exactly where and how my journey into making friend with cold has started. Ironically in a very warm tropical country.) It's good that we flew here in December and had our warm clothes with us. CONT'D VO (in Veronika voice) My whole life is an absolute irony of my choices, of me making those choices and living with them. EXT - PATH UP THE MOUNTAIN - MORNING (Veronika went for a run and a swim in a cold-ish mountain lake overcoming fear of water) FLASHBACK TO CHILDHOOD EXT - LAKE - DAY (little Veronika is drowning in a lake) (when she was a child and nearly drowned and was saved by .... whom?) CONT'D EXT - PATH UP THE MOUNTAIN - MORNING (Veronika runs into the water and dives) Well, that didn't kill me.

(Decision to “become friends with cold” despite tropical latitude — internal paradox established.)

CONT'D (work) Laos Cambodia Malaysia Singapore Vietnam

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/One, two, three - swimming we go.md>

## **One, two, three - swimming we go**

(work) Training with Wim Hoff (work) Swimming with other ice swimmers

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Iceland.md>

## **Iceland**

swimming in ice-cold waters alone

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Wild wild everything.md>

## **Wild wild everything**

(work) Entering US in Alaska and going down the south of the continent FLY-INS (of the city names with Veronika staying in front of the camera at different locations and reporting from the places) Alaska Washington (state) - Seattle Oregon - Portland California (SF & LA) Las Vegas Chicago Boston New York Washington (DC) Florida Texas what else to show here? Grand Canyon? Children see her mother more

on TV than at home in person

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Latin America.md>

## Latin America

(off work) Mexico Auyaska experience

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## Some years of life (after Latin Amerika)

some years later

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/India again.md>

## India again

(off work / work ???) January 2025 New Delhi North India Chennai Auroville Now we are in Auroville, one of it's promises to build a town, where money wouldn't exist. We are going to investigate how it turned out to become. May 2025 We are here at the XYZ farm viper bite

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Rush for life.md>

## Rush for life

Auroville clinique coma & return to Slovenia And I ended up in hospital, again. In a hospital similar to Villette I don't know about Eduard, however I passionately hated ALL hospitals after Villette and something in my gut tells me that Eduard might've shared my sentiment. Seeing everything what was happening around me in the hospital and beyond and not being able to change anything is - I don't know how to put it mildly - disheartening.

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Now - it's time to live without fear.md>

## Now it is time to live

Now - it's time to live without fear it doesn't matter how long one lives if one lives a happy and fulfilling life \*\*August 2025 \*\* Veronika is smuggled into Gaza

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</home/lad/Dropbox/content creation/Veronika/Veronika decides to live/Screenplay/scenes/Veronika decides to live.md>

## Veronika decides to live

EXT - on street in Gaza - DAY (Veronika speaks in Arabic to children she wants to lead to shelter) OS - COMMS between military COMMANDER There is something suspicious in the Sector XYZ. Send a drone

there. DRONE PILOT Done, sir. CONT'D EXT - on street in Gaza - DAY (devastation - partially or fully demolished building - heat and smoke)