

## The **MINISTRY** of **UTMOST HAPPINESS**     **ARUNDHATI ROY**

*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is a dazzling new novel by the internationally celebrated author of *The God of Small Things*. It takes us on an intimate journey of many years across the Indian subcontinent—from the cramped neighborhoods of Old Delhi and the roads of the new city to the mountains and valleys of Kashmir and beyond, where war is peace and peace is war.

It is an aching love story and a decisive remonstrance, a story told in a whisper, in a shout, through unsentimental tears and sometimes with a bitter laugh. Each of its characters is indelibly, tenderly rendered. Its heroes are people who have been broken by the world they live in and then rescued, patched together by acts of love—and by hope.

The tale begins with Anjum—who used to be Aftab—unrolling a threadbare Persian carpet in a city graveyard she calls home. We encounter the odd, unforgettable Tilo and the men who loved her—including Musa, sweetheart and ex-sweetheart, lover and ex-lover; their fates are as entwined as their arms used to be and always will be. We meet Tilo's landlord, a former suitor, now an intelligence officer posted to Kabul. And then we meet the two Miss Jebeens: the first a child born in Srinagar and buried in its overcrowded Martyrs' Graveyard; the second found at midnight, abandoned on a concrete sidewalk in the heart of New Delhi.

As this ravishing, deeply humane novel braids these richly complex lives together, it reinvents what a novel can do and can be. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* demonstrates the miracle of Arundhati Roy's storytelling gifts.

**ARUNDHATI ROY** is the author of *The God of Small Things*, which won the Booker Prize and has been translated into more than forty languages. She also has published several books of nonfiction including *The End of Imagination*, *Capitalism: A Ghost Story*, and *The Doctor and the Saint*. She lives in New Delhi.

**READ BY THE AUTHOR**

**RANDOM HOUSE**  
**AUDIO**



UNABRIDGED

**RANDOM HOUSE**  
**AUDIO**

**Running Time: Approx. 16.5 Hours • Unabridged**

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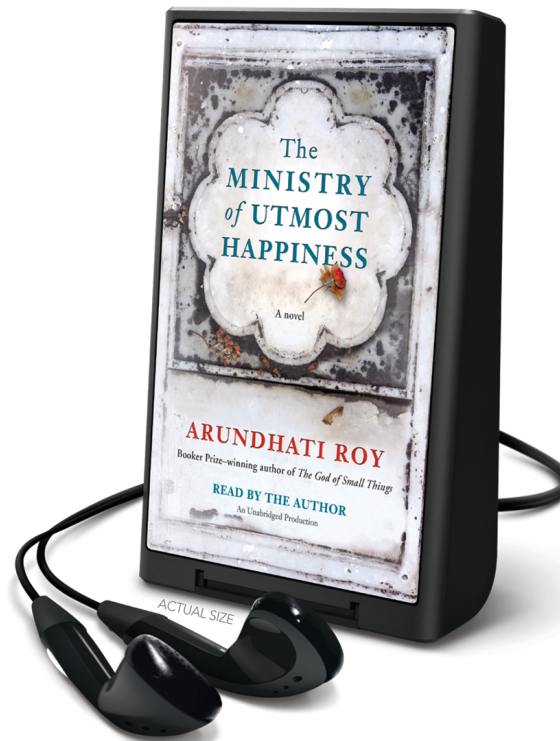
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