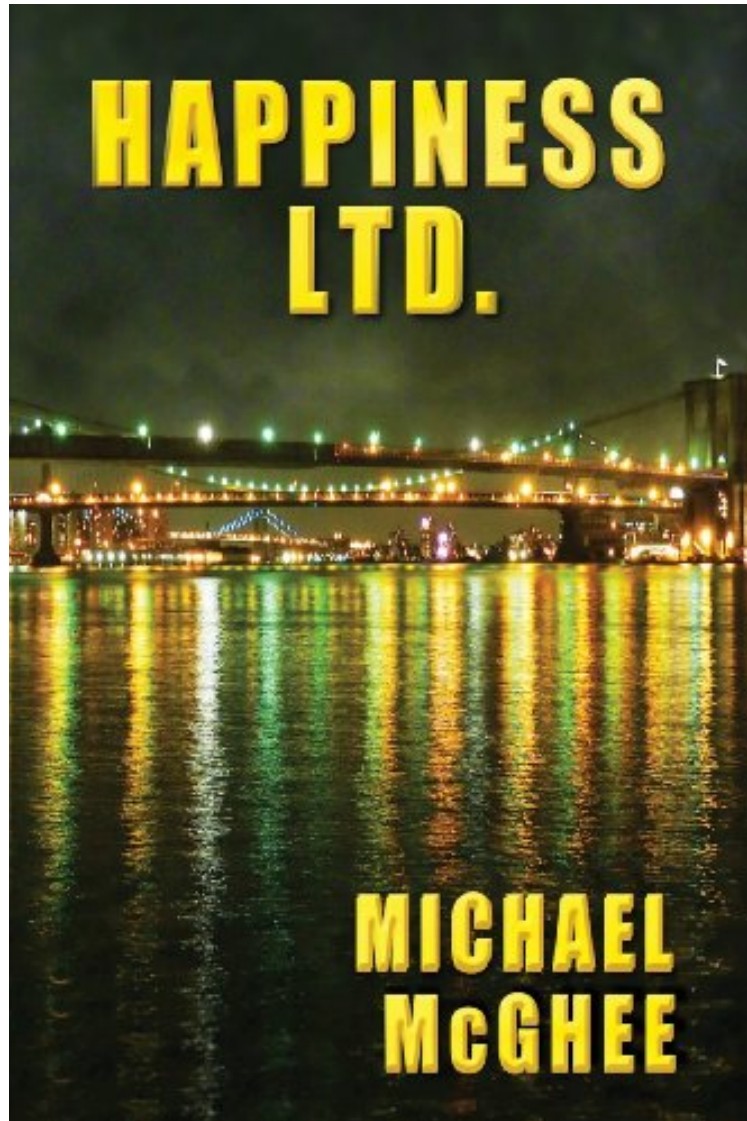


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## Happiness Ltd.

*Michael McGhee*

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**Michael McGhee : Happiness Ltd.** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Happiness Ltd.:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A clever take on the familiar dystopian novel – and an overall engrossing readBy Norva PickettHappiness Ltd is thought-provoking but accessible, funny though the subject is dark. The dystopian theme will sound familiar - the book paints a frightening, bleak portrait of a world in which we are denied basic freedoms that we take for granted - but in this book, it's not that government, but a mega-conglomerate-corporation that has robbed the people and infiltrated every facet of their lives. I found myself becoming super

sensitive to all the ways we are held captive by consumerism (and I like smart phones just as much as the next gal) - how often the boundaries between what we choose to consume and what is imposed on us are blurred. The writing itself is also quite impressive: the mood it creates stayed with me long after I had put it down. I highly recommended this one! Looking forward to future works by Michael McGhee. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dark comedy with a happy? EndingBy Bruce GalbreathA gripping dystopian novel that I could not put down until I had read it through. Depicts a New York City 25 years in the future in which government has been replaced by a corporation that mandates endless growth in consumption, a world where celebrities are the focus and class differences are all important. Both entertaining and frightening. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A timely recreation of Orwell's 1984By CustomerGeorge Orwell's 1984 envisioned the totalitarian state as a grim, grey world of fear and deprivation. Happiness Ltd. flips the vision on its head by describing an entertainment state that controls through an abundance of sensory and sensual pleasures. Orwell was writing in the shadow of Stalin and the brutality of Soviet communism; Happiness Ltd. is a product of our celebrity-mad, consumer-driven society. Like all good science fiction, it's a brainy "thought experiment" that delivers a powerful message that will linger long after you turn the last page.

HAPPINESS LTD. is a darkly comic thriller with a chilling vision of our consumer culture's future. The world's biggest corporations have united to form the first global nation, promising a new era of prosperity. Happiness Ltd. governs countries like a business: keeping its customers happy, squashing competition, and covering up bad news with a smile. But when star employee Nelson Young falls in love with Celia, a disenfranchised rebel, he becomes a liability. Nelson and Celia try to escape, but are charged with economic terrorism and put on trial for their lives.

A highly original and gripping novel, this is also a frightening commentary on overarching governmental control, with just enough plausibility to be terrifying. --Publishers WeeklyIf you wonder if Edward Snowden's revelations matter, read this book and think about it for a while. --Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*Author Michael McGhee clearly depicts a world obsessed with spending, and a reader can feel the depth of the situation he has created. . . . The novel's consumerism premise is quite believable and described as almost inevitable, which adds to the excitement of the novel. It allows readers to explore a futuristic world that's not so outlandish that it leaves them behind. McGhee traces actions to their logical conclusions, sometimes with humorous effects. . . . The strength of Happiness Ltd. is in McGhee's clear prose and the depth of this dystopian future. Seeing how various characters navigate the world is fascinating and allows readers to explore with them. . . . [It is] a frightening wakeup call to an American society that could easily move in that direction. --Melanie J. Cordova, Santa Fe Writers Project Journal, June 23, 2014About the AuthorMichael McGhee is the pen name of a former investigative journalist who now writes speeches for a company that must not be named. He covered Wall Street for many years, where he observed some of the best and worst traits of human behavior. For more than twenty years, he has spent mornings writing fiction. He is married with two children and lives in New York City.