

Man in the Dark: A Novel

By Paul Auster

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Man in the Dark: A Novel By Paul Auster

A *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year

"*Man in the Dark* is an undoubted pleasure to read. Auster really does possess the wand of the enchanter."--Michael Dirda, *The New York Review of Books*

From a "literary original" (*The Wall Street Journal*) comes a book that forces us to confront the blackness of night even as it celebrates the existence of ordinary joys in a world capable of the most grotesque violence. Seventy-two-year-old August Brill is recovering from a car accident at his daughter's house in Vermont. When sleep refuses to come, he lies in bed and tells himself stories, struggling to push back thoughts about things he would prefer to forget: his wife's recent death and the horrific murder of his granddaughter's boyfriend, Titus. The retired book critic imagines a parallel world in which America is not at war with Iraq but with itself. In this other America the twin towers did not fall and the 2000 election results led to secession, as state after state pulled away from the union and a bloody civil war ensued. As the night progresses, Brill's story grows increasingly intense, and what he is desperately trying to avoid insists on being told.

Paul Auster is the bestselling author of *The Book of Illusions*, and *The New York Trilogy*, among many other works. In 2006 he was awarded The Prince of Asturias Prize for Literature and inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Among his other honors are the Independent Spirit Award for the screenplay of *Smoke* and the Prix Médicis étranger for *Leviathan*. He has also been short-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award (*The Book of Illusions*), the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction (*The Music of Chance*), and the Edgar Award (*City of Glass*). His work has been translated into thirty-five languages. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Longlisted for the International IMPAC Literary Award

A work of fiction with a dark political twist, Paul Auster's *Man in the Dark* speaks to the realities that America inhabits as wars flame around the world. Seventy-two-year-old August Brill is recovering from a car accident in his

daughter's house in Vermont. When sleep refuses to come, he lies in bed and tells himself stories, struggling to push back thoughts about things he would prefer to forget—his wife's recent death and the horrific murder of his granddaughter's boyfriend, Titus. The retired book critic imagines a parallel world in which America is not at war with Iraq but with itself. In this other America the twin towers did not fall and the 2000 election results led to secession, as state after state pulled away from the union and a bloody civil war ensued. As the night progresses, Brill's story grows increasingly intense, and what he is so desperately trying to avoid insists on being told. Joined in the early hours by his granddaughter, he gradually opens up to her and recounts the story of his marriage. After she falls asleep, he at last finds the courage to revisit the trauma of Titus's death.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Auster, a man of diverse creative achievements, defies convenient labels with regard to genre and the divisions between literary fiction and the mainstream popular marketplace. Given his experiences with such multimedia endeavors as National Public Radio's Story Project, it's not surprising that Auster has a flair for dramatic narration when performing his own work. As he gives voice to ailing retired book critic August Brill, Auster milks the story-within-a-story structure to full effect. Impatient listeners may wonder exactly where this disparate tale of revisionist history, war, marital disappointments and grief might be headed. But with the nuanced—yet palpable—use of inflection, Auster compels his audience to await the twists and turns. As an invalid with an active imagination and time on his hands, Brill makes his frailties tangible and emotionally compelling without descending into full-blown pathos. *A Henry Holt hardcover (Reviews, May 26). (Aug.)*

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From [The New Yorker](#)

A car accident and the death of his wife have left the retired book critic August Brill a physical and spiritual invalid. Virtually confined to his house with his recently divorced daughter and a twenty-three-year-old grandchild stricken with grief after the murder of her ex-boyfriend, Brill, an insomniac, attempts to stave off thoughts of death by telling himself bedtime stories. His tired mind weaves a tale that combines details of his life with more fantastic flights such as the story of a man who, waking up in an alternate universe where 9/11 never happened and the 2000 election led to civil war, is sent on a mission to destroy the very person who has imagined him into existence. The narrative juxtapositions and the riddling starkness of Auster's prose create an absorbing if mildly scattershot effect, breathing life into a meditation on the difference between the stories we want to tell and the stories we end up telling.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reactions to Paul Auster's new novel may very well have come from alternate universes themselves. In one world, Auster is a great American man of letters writing a postmodern response to the events of our time, particularly 9/11, as only he can. In another world, his novel is yet another failed attempt at fictional engagement with the past eight years. There is a universe where Auster has matured from a young writer with a genius for multilayered, self-referential plots to a more sensitive observer of human suffering and the stories we tell to save ourselves. Yet others see a world where Auster is playing exactly the same games he has for years, only with less-developed characters and a half-hearted attempt at social commentary. It may be that readers, like Auster's characters, will have to invent their own stories in order to make any sense out of *Man in the Dark*.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Carter:

This *Man in the Dark: A Novel* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get facts

which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This particular Man in the Dark: A Novel without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Man in the Dark: A Novel can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Man in the Dark: A Novel having fine arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Tony Paulson:

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Matthew Simons:

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