Man in the Dark: A Novel

A new novel with a dark political twist from “one of America’s greats.”*

Man in the Dark is Paul Auster’s brilliant, devastating novel about the many realities we inhabit as wars flame all around us.

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.

Passionate and shocking, Man in the Dark is a novel of our moment, 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.

*Time Out (Chicago)

My Personal Review:
Paul Auster is really one of the best romanciers of our time. This time he takes us into the night with August Brill, a man who recently lost his wife, had an automobile accident, lives with his divorced unhappy daughter and his granddaughter whose boyfriend was viciously killed. At night he lies
awake and tells himself stories. Therefore the reader is taken into other
dimensions, other peoples lives and other worlds. This is not only a
beautifully crafted novel, but also a gripping story. I was really sad, when it
was finished. This is the best compliment, I can come up with.

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