

The New York Trilogy

Paul Auster

Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition

Lucy Sante (Introducción)

Art Spiegelman (Diseño gráfico)

Año 2006

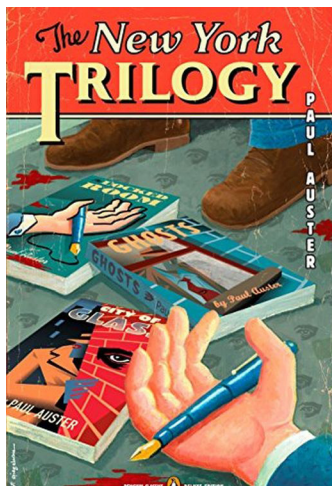
Alex Williams

His career began to take flight in 1982, with his memoir *The Invention of Solitude*, a haunting rumination on his distant relationship with his recently deceased father. His first novel, *City of Glass*, was rejected by 17 publishers before it was published by a small press in California in 1985.

That book became the first installment in his most celebrated work, *The New York Trilogy*, three novels later packaged in a single volume. It was listed as one of the 25 most significant New York City novels of the last 100 years in a roundup in *T*, the style magazine published by The New York Times.

City of Glass is the story of a mystery writer who is reeling from personal loss -an ever-present theme in Mr. Auster's work- and who, through a wrong number, is mistaken for a private detective named, yes, Paul Auster. The writer begins to take on the detective's identity, losing himself in a real-life sleuthing job of his own while descending into madness.

In some ways the book was a classic shamus tale. But Mr. Auster chafed at being limited by genre. "You could also say "Crime and Punishment" is a detective story, I suppose," he said in his 2017 book, *A Life*



in *Words*, a self-analysis of his own work.

With its fractured narrative, unreliable narrator and deconstruction of identity, Mr. Auster's approach at times seemed primed for analysis in college courses on literary theory. Will Blythe, the author and former literary editor of *Esquire*, said in an email. "He seemed to view life itself as fiction, in which one's self evolves exactly the way a writer creates a character."

As Mr. Auster put it in *A Life in Words*, "most writers are perfectly satisfied with traditional literary models and happy to produce works they feel are beautiful and true and good." He added: "I've always wanted to write what to me is beautiful, true, and good, but I'm also interested in inventing new ways to tell stories. I wanted to turn everything inside out."

La versión completa de esta reseña se encuentra en la edición del martes 30 de abril del 2024, del *New York Times*.



Un oficio atrozmente solitario

A veces me pregunto por qué me he pasado toda la vida encerrado en un cuarto escribiendo, cuando afuera está el mundo lleno de vida y de posibilidades.

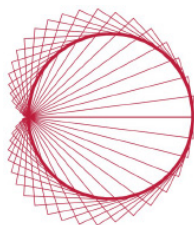
La escritura exige entregarse a ella sin fisuras, abrirse a toda forma posible de dolor, de gozo, a todas las emociones que es posible sentir.

Hacerlo bien requiere coraje moral.

Ninguna otra ocupación exige a quien la desempeña que entregue el ser, el alma, el corazón y la cabeza sin saber si al final habrá recompensa.

Paul Auster

Nueva Jersey,
3 de febrero de 1947.
Nueva York,
30 de abril de 2024.



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