

The Pale King

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the breathtakingly brilliant novel by the author of infinite jest new york times is a deeply compelling and satisfying story as hilarious and fearless and original as anything wallace ever wrote the agents at the irs regional examination center in peoria illinois appear ordinary enough to newly arrived trainee david foster wallace but as he immerses himself in a routine so tedious and repetitive that new employees receive boredom survival training he learns of the extraordinary variety of personalities drawn to this strange calling and he has arrived at a moment when forces within the irs are plotting to eliminate even what little humanity and dignity the work still has the pale king remained unfinished at the time of david foster wallace s death but it is a deeply compelling and satisfying novel hilarious and fearless and as original as anything wallace ever undertook it grapples directly with ultimate questions questions of life s meaning and of the value of work and society through characters imagined with the interior force and generosity that were wallace s unique gifts along the way it suggests a new idea of heroism and commands infinite respect for one of the most daring writers of our time the pale king is

by turns funny shrewd suspenseful piercing smart terrifying and rousing laura miller salon

the character david foster wallace is introduced to the banal world of the irs regional examination center in peoria illinois and the host of strange people who work there in a novel that was unfinished at the time of the author s death

the agents at the irs regional examination center in peoria illinois appear ordinary enough to newly arrived trainee david foster wallace but as he immerses himself in a routine so tedious and repetitive that new employees receive boredom survival training he learns of the extraordinary variety of personalities drawn to this strange calling and he has arrived at a moment when forces within the irs are plotting to eliminate even what little humanity and dignity the work still has the pale king remained unfinished at the time of david foster wallace s death but it is a deeply compelling and satisfying novel hilarious and fearless and as original as anything wallace ever undertook it grapples directly with ultimate questions questions of life s meaning and of the value of work and society through characters imagined with the interior force and generosity that were wallace s unique gifts along the way it suggests a new idea of heroism and commands infinite respect for one of the most daring writers of our time

a compelling comprehensive and substantive introduction to the work of david foster wallace

this book serves as a critical examination of contemporary american literature by examining david foster wallace s incorporation of corporeal narrative techniques in his novels with a particular focus on the broom of the system infinite jest and the pale king by employing corporeal narratology as a conceptual framework it sheds light on wallace s profound exploration of the human body and its societal implications through detailed analysis the book reveals how wallace s narratives serve as a critique of contemporary issues such as self alienation consumerism and the dehumanizing effects of modern society designed for scholars and students of literature cultural studies and narrative theory this book provides a comprehensive understanding of wallace s literary legacy and his keen observations on the complexities of human existence in the modern world

this book delivers an innovative critical approach to better understand u s fiction of the information age and argues that in the last eighty years fiction has become increasingly concerned with its representations of mathematical ideas images and practices in so doing this book provides a fuller transnational account of the place of mathematics in understanding mathematically informed novels literature and science studies have acknowledged and situated historical points of cultural crossover by emphasising mathematics within this larger intellectual context and not as an unlikely and alien adjunct to post war culture this monograph clarifies how mathematically informed postmodern fictions work in a cognate fashion to other fields undergoing structuralist revolutions this is especially evident in fiction by the key mathematically literate postmodern authors upon whom this study focuses namely thomas pynchon don delillo and david foster wallace through which recent the technological revolutions facilitated by mathematics manifest in cultural discourse

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