



## Moon Palace

*Paul Auster*

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# Moon Palace

*Paul Auster*

## **Moon Palace** Paul Auster

Marco Stanley Fogg is an orphan, a child of the sixties, a quester tirelessly seeking the key to his past, the answers to the ultimate riddle of his fate. As Marco journeys from the canyons of Manhattan to the deserts of Utah, he encounters a gallery of characters and a series of events as rich and surprising as any in modern fiction.

Beginning during the summer that men first walked on the moon, and moving backward and forward in time to span three generations, Moon Palace is propelled by coincidence and memory, and illuminated by marvelous flights of lyricism and wit. Here is the most entertaining and moving novel yet from an author well known for his breathtaking imagination.

## **Moon Palace Details**

Date : Published April 1st 1990 by Penguin Books (first published February 1989)

ISBN : 9780140115857

Author : Paul Auster

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Fiction, Contemporary, Literature, American

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## From Reader Review Moon Palace for online ebook

**Elina says**

Λατρε?ω τον τρ?πο που κεντ? τους χαρακτ?ρες του...

## Ahmad Sharabiani says

## Moon Palace, Paul Auster

**Deea says**

[and in the end everyone dies or is somehow lost for no real purpose in the plot. (hide spoiler)]

**Candice says**

I loved it. I loved reading this book, but I wish I hadn't read it so fast. I read it because of someone, and I can't thank him enough.

I put myself in M.S's shoes, and I cried, I laughed, I dreamt.

Paul has a poetic use of language, that's sure.

## **Tara says**

Auster's poetic use of language and the supremely convincing characterization of his protagonist made this novel one that I remember not so much by plot arches [though the plot is faultless], but in very vivid images of moments or point-surveys of MS Fogg's life.

Living in an apartment furnished only with boxes of books that for his bed, chairs, table, and entertainment.

Living in a shrub-cave in Central Park.

Outlaw cave hideouts in the desert, covered in obscure paintings.

Handing out money to people on the street in New York.

Sitting in a waiting room for the Draft medical exam.

The book ends in a very Gatsby-esque sort of summation of entropy and the futility of effort in the grand scheme of things. For all the depressing quotient of that, it's a beautifully written book that I widely recommend.

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## **Nada EL Shabrawi says**

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## **Amélie says**

Cher Paul Auster,

Je sais pas si tu savais, mais c'est un peu dégueulasse, in this day & age (ou même en 1989, année où ce roman a été publié), d'écrire un livre où le personnage féminin le plus important est tout à fait dénué de personnalité. (Le port de la mini-jupe & une sexualité particulièrement ardente ne comptent pas.) Ça se fait encore moins de dire "by the way, la gang, elle est Chinoise mais elle parle anglais sans accent", de l'affubler d'un backstory aux relents orientalistes, d'en faire une danseuse (classique? contemporaine? de claquettes? on le saura jamais) & de la faire tomber en amour avec un narrateur aussi charmant que le calcaire qui gruge présentement mes bottes d'hiver.

D'autres choses qui ne se font pas : accabler le dernier tiers de son livre d'un rebondissement tellement stupide invraisemblable qu'il m'a fait éclater de rire (pas dans le bon sens, Paul, PAS DANS LE BON SENS) ; faire de l'obésité morbide d'un personnage *la* caractéristique qui détermine tout le cours de sa vie ; & de façon générale, laisser son narrateur croupir dans une apathie lassante qui n'est que ponctuellement secouée par une série de coïncidences fortuites &, je pense qu'on peut se le dire, littérairement paresseuses.

Sinon, bon choix de photo ténébreuse pour le quatrième de couverture. C'est rare de voir un homme porter le col roulé avec autant d'aise. (Ça fait mal, hein, de se voir ramener à sa seule apparence physique?)

Au plaisir,

Amélie

**Rola says**

???? ??? ?? ?????? ?????? ??? 1989 :)

Tô says

### Review gi?a hai ??nh c?n s?t.

Tôi ch?a t?ng có ý ??nh vi?t b?t k? ?i?u gì v? sách c?a tác gi? Paul Auster, ??n gi?n là t?i chúng hay quá r?i n?n ngoài khen “hay” ra th?i t?i ch?ng bi?t n?i g?i h?n. Nh?ng d?p n?y là m?t d?p ??c bi?t v?i t?i. Cách ?ây 5 ng?y r??i, b?ng m?t l? tr?nh b?i m?t n?o ?ó m? ch? có ng??i ??a th? m?i bi?t - v?i ??a ch? nh?n n?m trong khu v?c kh?ng n?m trên b?n ??, kh?ng có h? tên ??y ?? l?n sdt li?n h? c?a ng??i nh?n - cu?n Moon Palace ?ã bay qua song c?a ?? h? c?nh xu?ng c?n ph?ng c?a t?i. Món qu? t? m?t ng??i xa l?, tr?n b?a l?t, b?n ?y ghi m?y ch? “Hello Stranger” (ch?nh x?c l? Stranger vi?t hoa v?i nét ch? r?t xinh); th? l? t? ?6, m?t tr?n ?m l?t, m?t-tr?n-?m-?m-t-n?m-m?i-di?n-ra-có-d?m-l?n c?a t?i... b?t ??u. Nh?ng l?n h?i t?nh gi?a hai c?n s?t, t?i b? d?y n?u ch?o ?n, u?ng thu?c, cho m?o ?n, tr?o l?n gi??ng ??c cu?n s?ch n?y cho ??n l?c m?t qu? m? thi?p ?i. N?i th? ?? bi?t, ngay c? ??n b?y gi?, ? vào m?t th?i ?i?m ?ã qu? xa so v?i l?n ??u ti?n t?i ??c Moon Palace l?n ??u th?i n?o v?n l? m?t cu?n s?ch ??y k?ch t?nh & duy?n n? v?i b?n th?n t?i.

Tôi là ng??i nh?y c?m v?i ánh sáng c?a m?t tr?ng, vào nh?ng ?êm có tr?ng, tôi thích ?i d?o nh?ng khi ng? tôi th??ng ph?i ?óng kín toàn b? c?a, nh?t các khe h? ?? ??m b?o r?ng ánh sáng ?y kh?ng l?t vào phòng. Sau này tôi phát hi?n ra mình s? ánh sáng c?a ?èn ???ng h?n c? ánh sáng c?a m?t tr?ng, mà ?èn ???ng th? h?m n?o c?ng b?t, ?úng là tai h?a. ?y v?y mà t? sau khi ??c Moon Palace, khi ??t l?ng xu?ng gi??ng, thay v? chong m?t l?n nh?n t??ng t?m ánh sáng ?èn ???ng h?t qua ô c?a, tôi ?ã v?n d?ng toàn b? s? t??ng t??ng c?ng th?m vài khuôn m?u trong nh?ng b? phim truy?n h?nh M? l?y b?i c?nh NY mà tôi ?ã xem ?? m??ng t??ng ra “m?t b?ng hi?u b?ng ?èn neong, m?t kho?ng sáng ch?oi nh?p nh?y nh?ng ch? màu h?ng & xanh n??c bi?n t?o th?nh c?m t? MOON PALACE”. N?u nh? nh?n v?t ch?nh xem b?ng hi?u n?y l? m?t “th?ng ?i?p t? tr?n tr?i r?i xu?ng”, “?ám ?nh t?m tr?i v?i s? b?i ?n & s? k? di?u c?a m?t l?i s?m truy?n”, l? m?t h?nh ?nh li?n quan ??n s? m?c kh?i th? b?n th?n tôi xem n?o l? m?t minh ch?ng r?ng ràng cho s? tài t?nh c?a Paul Auster trong vi?c t?m ra chi ti?t ?áng gi? & d?ng câu ch? c?a m?nh ?? t?i m?t h?nh ?nh n?ng kho?ng vài KB xu?ng n?o b? c?a ??c gi?, l? t?i ?ây. Trong su?t ph?n c?n l?i c?a t?c ph?m, t? Moon trong c?m Moon Palace s? c?n ???c ti?p t?c ???c nh?c ??n nh? l? m?t ph?n c?a ph?p li?n t??ng ho?c so sánh (ng?y con ng??i l?n M?t Tr?ng, t?n ban nh?c c?a ng??i b?c, ...) tuy nhi?n, tôi th?ch ngh? ??n b?ng hi?u n?y ? góc ?? l? m?t c?i b?ng hi?u ri?ng bi?t trong hàng ng?n c?i b?ng hi?u ? m?t th?nh ph? l?u?n nh?p nh?y ánh ?èn nh? NY, v? Moon Palace ?óng vai tr? l? m?t ??m s?ng neo gi? t?m tr?i ng??i thanh ni?n tr? v?c c?n n?y. N?o t?a nh? ??m l?a k? di?u tr?n tay C? b? b?n di?m, g?i nh?c v? nh?ng ng??i th?n anh ta ?ã t?ng c?, v?i th?i gian t??i ??p m?nh ta ?ã t?ng tr?i qua sau khi t?t c? nh?ng d?u hi?u kh?c tan r? d?n: b?n b?, tr??ng l?p, m?i quan h? x? h?i, ng??i b?c, h?n 1.000 cu?n s?ch, b? áo qu?n c?, ý ch?i s?ng... l? ??m s?ng gi? anh kh?ng b? m?t h?t trong th?nh ph? n?y, n?i m? s? sinh ra hay bi?n m?t c?a ai ?ó r?i c?ng s? nhanh ch?ng b? l?ng qu?n. L? m?t ng??i m?nh s?ch c?, tôi ??c bi?t th?ch th? v?i h?nh ?nh gia tài th?a k? l? hàng ngh?n cu?n s?ch c? ??ng trong m?t ??ng h?p c?c t?ng, r?i nh?ng h?p s?ch y ???c mang ra l?m ?? n?i th?t, n?o b?n n?o gh? n?o gi??ng... sau r?t, nh?n v?t “t?i” t? t? th?o d? h?t m?i th? ?? ??c & ?em b?n t?ng cu?n m?t. Nh?ng tr?ng s?ch ?ng m? t? m?i g?n k?t kh?ng kh?it c?a nh?n v?t Tôi v?i nh?ng m?n ?? do ng??i b?c ?? l?i l?m t?i x?c ??ng v?c c?m l? b?i cho ??n t?n b?y gi? tôi v?n c? th?i quen m?c áo qu?n c?a b? m?, ?ó l? m?t c?ch tuy c? ph?n h?i l? l?ng ?? th? hi?n t?nh c?m, kh?ng ch? l? th? t?nh c?m kh? th? l? tr?c t?i?p v?i ??i t??ng m?nh c?n l? t?nh c?m y?u th??ng kh?ng c?n ??i t??ng ?? th? l?.

B?i c?nh trong Moon Palace l? n??c M? th?p ni?n 60-70 c?a th? k? tr??c, t?c l? nh?n v?t Fogg c?ng c?ng x?m x?m tu?i v?i các nh?n v?t trong R?ng Na Uy c?a Haruki Murakami & c?c b?n tr? trong Sáu ng??i ?i kh?p th? gian c?a James Michener, v?i nh?u bi?n c? ch?nh tr? x? h?i (ph?n chi?n, chi?n tranh, b?i kh?o, ra ??i nh?u lo?i ch? ngh?a & phong trào m?i...) Dù nh?n v?t tôi ?ã tri?t lý, c? t?nh bao bi?n cho h?nh ??ng c?a m?nh nh?ng r?ng l? anh ?y kh?ng t? ý theo ?u?i hay ph?n kh?ng b?t k? quan ?i?m nh?n sinh quan ??ng th?i n?o nh? nh?ng ng??i tr? kh?c m?ng??c l?i anh ho?n to?n l?nh ??m tr??c hi?n th?c, d?n d?n ch? t?p trung cho s? t?n t?i sinh h?c c?a m?nh. Th? tr?n v?n anh ?y c? l? n?i c? ??n ^ V?ng, quay ?i quay l?i v?n l? chuy?n c? ??n/c? =)) Kh?ng bi?t l? s?ch ch?n ng??i hay ng??i ch?n s?ch n?a ==

C?ng l? n?i c? ??n nh?ng k?i?u c? ??n trong Haruki l? k?i?u c? ??n d? ch?u & “mong l?”: anh c? m?t kho?ng th?i gian r?nh, c? m?t m?n t?i?n nh? nh?ng ??m b?o cho nh?ng nhu c?u c? b?n, c? m?t n?i y?n t?nh ?? ngh? ng??i, nghe nh?c, n?u ?n, ??c s?ch, chi?m nghi?m, ???c d?n d?t b?i tr?c gi?c ho?c m?t m?nh l?nh r?ng... c?n n?i c? ??n trong s?ch c?a Paul l? k?i?u “th?c ra l?” & “?y kh?n kh?o”. V?i b?t k? ai ?ã t?ng tr?i qua m?t c?n tr?m c?m n?ng, ng??i ta s? nh?n ra ngay, ch?i s? k?i?n m?nh v?t tôi ?ã tr?i qua sau khi tr? v? t? ?ám tang c?a ng??i b?c kh?ng c? g? kh?c h?n m?t ??t tr?m c?m n?ng n? sau khi m?t ng??i th?n. V? c? b?n, khi tr?m c?m, ng??i ta s? th?y k? s? ??i, ch? m?u?n cu?n ng??i l?i r?i t?m c?nh t?m c?ch h?y ho?i b?n th?n ?? ch?m d?t n?i ?au n?i t?m, m?t v?i ng??i t? s?t, m?t v?i ng??i gi?ng M.S. Fogg, r?t b?t t? t? c?i g?nh n?ng mang t?n “S?ng”. ?ây l? câu tr? l?i c?a nh?n M.S. Fogg khi ???c h?i v? c?ng vi?c c?a m?nh: “Nh?ng tôi c? l?m vi?c m?a. Bu?i s?ng tôi t?nh d?y gi?ng nh? m?i ng??i, r?i tôi t?m c?ch c? g?ng s?ng th?m m?t ng?y n?a. ?ó l? c?ng vi?c t?n th?i gian. Kh?ng ngh? u?ng c? ph?e, kh?ng ngh? cu?i tu?n, kh?ng ti?n th??ng, kh?ng ng?y ph?p. Tôi c? ph?n n?n ?au, ông th?y ??y, nh?ng t?i?n l?i??ng th?p qu?”. N?ng n? ??n t?ng ng?y nh? th? ??y.

Khi nh?ng ng??i bình th??ng g?p khó kh?n, h? ??t câu h?i v? v?n ?? c?a mình ?? tìm cách kh?c ph?c nó, ng??i ?ang ? trong tr?ng thái tr?m c?m thì không ??t câu h?i ho?c ??t m?t câu h?i sai và c? th? b?m b? ti?n v? h??ng c?a cái ch?t. Fogg có s?c kh?e, có kh?i óc, có b?ng c?p, t??ng gì ch? ?? tìm m?t công vi?c ?? nuôi thân thì quá d?, nh?ng không, ??ng t? phía nhân v?t tôi, ?i?u ?ó th?m chí ch?a t?ng là m?t l?a ch?n dù ?ó là l?a ch?n có v? ?úng nh?t. Ho?c có th? gi? thi?t r?ng, riêng s? l?a ch?n không “t? sát” ?? ch?t ngay c?a Fogg ?ã ?ã bao hàm m?t l?i c?u c?u, m?t s? ch?ng c? y?u ?t, m?t s? c?m c? ?? ch? Kitty, Zimmer ho?c ai ?ó ??n c?u. Ta hoàn toàn có th? xem toàn b? ph?n 1 & 2 c?a cu?n Moon Palace là m?t b?n tham kh?o có giá tr? v? ch?ng tr?m c?m ? góc nhìn th? nh?t, xác th?c & t? m? m?t cách ?áng kinh ng?c.

Cu?c ??i m?t con ng??i, n?u có th? v??t qua nh?ng th?i kh?c t?i t?m nh? th? b?n thân chìm xu?ng t?n cùng ?áy ??i d??ng, thì sau này ng??i y s? tr? n?n m?nh m? vô cùng. ?ây m?i là lúc toàn b? câu chuy?n trong cu?n sách này b?t ??u sinh sôi, lan t?a, bi?n hóa theo m?i h??ng mà v? tr? mu?n, vì nó ?ã có m?t ?i?m t?a ?? kh?i ??u. ?ó c?ng m?t là t?n ?? cho phép ta hy v?ng v? nh?ng ?i?u t?t ??p n?i ti?p cái k?t m? c?a tác ph?m này.

Tìm ???c m?t cu?n sách hay ?ã khó, tìm ???c m?t cu?n sách mà nh? ???c vi?t riêng cho mình, c?m nh?n ???c m?i g?n k?t m?nh m? ??n th? gi?a b?n thân mình & nhân v?t thì ?úng là ph?i có duyên l?m m?i ???c. L?i càng duyên h?n n?a là dù b?n thân tôi ?ã c? l?ng ?? mua b?ng ???c cu?n sách này nh?ng m?i mà không ???c thì cu?i cùng nó l?i xu?t hi?n trên giá sách c?a tôi theo cách tôi ch?a t?ng ng? t?i. Ng?m l?i thì, cái th? gi?i “t?ng t?ng” này, th? mà bu?n c??i. Gi? mà tôi quay nói “Cám ?n nh?é, ng??i l?” thì hình nh? nghe c?ng th?t bu?n c??i quá, ph?i không?

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## Duc says

This book is about writing and observations and hardship. This book is my first introduction to Auster. After reading this book, I went to the university library to look up obscure writers. One of the writers is Giordano Bruno who believed that there was a parallel universe back in medieval times. There is the theme of journey, travel and exploration into other worlds. The narrator has a name inspired by Phileas Fogg, the fictional character in Jules Verne's 'Around the World in Eighty Days'.

The Moon Landing represents a journey into another world. Moon Palace is a Chinese restaurant. One of the most interesting tasks is for the narrator to describe the world to the Blind man. This is a metaphor for the task of writing. We the reader is blind to the world that is being created by the author. We are guided into his alternative world of fiction, the everyday strangeness of the world, not a world created by science fiction. It is in the ordinary that can be rendered extraordinary.

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## Shovelmonkey1 says

This is a book about gettin' nekkid.

I discovered Paul Auster through the 1001 books list and then went on a big PA binge. I suppose I should have been more restrained because very soon all the PA plots and machinations and convoluted po-mo madness was churning in my brain. I'd given myself PAP. Yes, that well known literary syndrome, Paul Auster Poisoning.

This was my third consecutive read and I believe it can be directly attributed to the onset of a severe case of PAP. But I did enjoy this book (therefore equating PAP to eating too much cotton candy but still feeling compelled to go on eating more despite what various parts of your body are telling you). Moon Palace is weighty with symbolism and duality and as usual there is a synchronicity between a lot of his stories. But so are many of his books. Hence the PAP.

Protagonists Fogg , Effing and Barber all try at some point to reduce their lives to the most distilled essence possible. A bit like putting yourself through a life juicer in order to be left with only the purest extract. Fogg does this by relinquishing all of his possessions and becoming homeless, Effing by renouncing his past and creating a new one for himself and then later by distributing his wealth and Barber does a similar thing by relinquishing his home. Maybe its a form of unburdening as well as reduction.

All of the people in this book were seeking something and in each of their stories they seem to believe that by peeling off all the outer trappings of possession and wealth will they expose the core of themselves to world. They will be naked. See, I told you this was a book about being nekkid. Apologies if you were expecting a more titillating variety of nekkidity.

Ultimately making themselves as vulnerable as possible leads to their undoing either physically or emotionally. All in all a very satisfying novel, but let this be a warning to you all. Paul Auster should only be taken in small doses and be sure to let one plot settle before you gorge yourself on another.

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### **Chrissie says**

While this book starts well, it soon goes downhill.

The central character in the beginning is Marco Stanley Fogg. He drew my attention. What happens to him gives the reader a lot to think about. He is an orphan and has no relatives. He is totally alone, or so he thinks. Until..... Well, I am not going to tell you. And he is broke. When? 1969. Where? Brooklyn. I liked the writing. I liked the philosophical thoughts, his thoughts about writing, about travel, about how people interact and our need for connection with other human beings. All of this I found interesting! Then he meets Kitty. I liked her too.

However, the further you proceed the further the focus shifts from Marco to others and the weaker the story becomes. Mostly the book follows an elderly man, Effing. He is 84 in 1969. But who is Effing? First their stories are woven together, but then the Effing personality takes over. His story? Well it is crazy, as far as I am concerned. His story goes on and on, and on and on. It's too long, goes off on all different tangents, none of which were either credible or interesting. One example, to be specific, are (view spoiler) Yes, there is a connection between Effing and Marco, but that connection is in no way credible. At least two thirds of the entire book left me totally unengaged. Little to think about. How is it possible to be engaged in a story that is beyond belief? In addition, this part of the book turns into a movie script.

The narration by Joe Barrett is absolutely excellent.

I enjoyed Timbuktu very much, but Moon Palace is unwieldy.

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## Reza says

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## Quang Khuê says

S? d? ch?u trong hành ??ng ??c ?ô i k?i n?m ? ch? m?i th? d??ng nh? ???c ??y t?i gi?i h?n c?a nó. Nh?ng s? k?i?n l? d? trong cu?c s?ng s?m nh??ng ch? cho nh?ng quy?t ??nh. Vài chuy?n l?p l?ng c?ng tr? n?n ch?ng vánh và d?t khoát. Gi?ng nh? nh?n v?t Marco Fogg trong Moon Palace (Paul Auster – d?ch gi?: Cao Vi?t D?ng, Nh? Nam và NXB H?i Nh? V?n ?n hành) nhanh chóng “bi?n cu?c ??i m?n?n th?m m?t tác ph?m ngh? thu?t, b?ng cách t? hi?n m?n?n cho cái ngh?ch lý t?i h?o” (tr.41). Ngh?a là c?u ch?ng d?t khoát “kh?ng h? ??ng tay vào vi?c g?i” (tr.40), lay l?t m?i ng?y b?ng hai qu? tr?ng và ng?i ch? “th??ng th?c k?t c?c” (tr.41) c?a ch?nh m?n?n.

Paul Auster vi?t Moon Palace ?an xen t? ba câu chuy?n có k?t c?u rõ ràng. Kh?ng kh? ?? ta n?m b?t các t?nh t?i?t v?n ?ã h?p d?n và cu?n h?t. ?ó là câu chuy?n v? c?u ch?ng Marco Fogg k? quái th?c hành “th? ch? ngh?a h? vô ???c n?ng l?n t?m m?t ??nh ?? m? h?c” (tr.41), b?ng cách c? g?ng s?ng mà kh?ng ph?i ki?m ti?n. ?ó là cu?c ??i c?a tay h?a s? gi? Thomas Effing ch?m n?i trong nh?ng s? k?i?n h? th?c l?n l?n, v?i sa m?c, hang ?á, nh?ng t?n c??p và n?i c?o ??c. Hay là th?n h?nh ph?i n?n, cái ??u h?i c?a Solomon Barber v?i nh?ng ám ?nh v? ng??i cha ?ã khu?t kh?c h?a trong câu chuy?n mang t?n M?u c?a Kepler.

Nh?ng m?nh gh?p tr?i n?i, d?ng s? k?i?n di?n ra gi?a ba nh?n v?t ch?nh tr?n ???c gi?i ?áp b?ng s? ng?u n?i?n c?a cu?c ??i h?. Marco ??n v?i Effing sau khi suýt ??u hàng th?n ch?t trong m?a l?nh gi?a c?ng vi?n trung t?m New York. C?n Effing g?p Solomon sau cái ch?t c?a Thomas, c?ng ch?nh là cha c?a Solomon. Cu?c ??i con ng??i có ???c bao nhi?u l?n ng?u n?i?n nh? th?. Paul Auster d??ng nh? th?ch nh?ng m?i d?y li?n k?t. V? kh?ng có g?i h?p l?y b?ng li?n k?t các nh?n v?t, chi ti?t, cu?c ??i và m?i th? gi?a h? l?i v?i nhau b?ng nh?ng t?nh c?. Nh? ch?nh Marco trong ??t kh?m tuy?n l?n tuy?n b? “Cu?c ??i c?a ch?ng ta ???c qui ??nh b?i vô v?n s? t?nh c?” (tr. 131)

Moon Palace là dung h?o c?a v? s? chi ti?t tuy?t ??i ??c bi?t. Nh?ng nh?ng con nh?n v?t c?a Moon Palace ??u ph?t tri?n theo chi?u h??ng chung: c?o ??c và kh?t khao t? th?n t?n t?i. V?i c?o ??c gi?a th? gi?i n?n bu?c ph?i quay l?ng l?i m?i th?. V? v? ch?ng ch?nh trong nh?ng m?i d?y li?n k?t l?ng l?o, h? bu?c ph?i kh?ng ??nh cu?c s?ng c?a m?n?n theo m?t cách kh?c. V?i Marco là vi?c ng?i m?t ch? b?n d?n t?ng cu?n s?c a ông b?c Victor và s?ng l?n h?i, v?i Effing là chuy?n ?i t? b? th? gi?i, là h?nh ??ng thay t?n ??i h? sau nh?ng th?ng ng?y ?n gi?t. C?n ??i v?i Solomon là t?p cách s?ng kh?ng c?n nh?n m?t m?i th? tr?n ??i dù ? ông ch?ng c? ch?t n?o g?i là ki?u h?nh l?n t? ph?. T?t c? cu?c s?ng ??i v?i h?, k? c? nh?ng nh?n v?t ph? nh? b?c Victor, Kitti, Emily – m? c?a Marco có v? ch? là m?t tr? may r?i b?t t?n, k?o d?i kh?ng d?t t? th? h? n?y sang th? h?

khác. H? dù già hay tr?, dù kho?ng cách th? h? có bao nhiêu, v?n mu?n “buông mình vào s? h?n ??n c?a v? tr?” (tr. 132) ?? có th? tìm th?y “m?t s? hài hòa bí m?t nào ?ó” (tr 132)

Moon Palace còn là câu chuy?n c?a nh?ng hoang mang, ?ánh ??i và tr? giá. Bên trong Moon Palace, ng??i ta có quy?n s?ng theo nh?ng cách th?t ??c bi?t. Song le, không có ngh?a là h? có th? ch?i b? m?i h?u qu? bên ngoài l?n b?n trong tâm h?n m?nh. Marco ?ánh ??i cho “th? ch? ngh?a h? vô” ó c?a m?nh b?ng cách ch?u ?ói khát, l?nh l?o trong công viên nh? m?t k? vô gia c?. Effing tr? giá b?ng m?t cu?c s?ng t?t nguy?n, b?ng cách phân phát h?t s? ti?n mà ông cho r?ng m?nh ?ã l?y t? nh?ng ng??i kh?c. Và t? th? h? này sang th? h? kh?c, h? l?n l??t l??t m?c nh?ng sai l?m gi?ng nhau. Effing t? b? ??a con ?? b?t ??u m?t cu?c s?ng kh?c. Solomon vô tình kh?ng bi?t m?nh c?n m?t ng??i con. ??n Marco, c? g?ng ?? gi? l?i cái thai trong b?ng Kitti, cu?i c?ng ?ã m?t ?i tình yêu c?a m?nh.

Trong ?i?u valse giā t? c?a Milan Kundera, nhân v?t Jakub luôn có bên mình m?t viễn thu?c ?c màu xanh. V?i nó, ông có th? k?t thúc cu?c s?ng b?t k? lúc nào. Và b?ng cách ?ó c?t ??t ?i t?t c? các m?i dây t?n t?i c?a mình v?i th? gi?i. C?ng v?i cách t? duy nh? th?, m?t ý mu?n t? thân khi?n Effing quy?t ??nh ngày gi? ch?t c?a mình. Song ông không dùng thu?c ??c, ông c? g?ng b? ?m, c? g?ng cho ??n ngày ?ã ??nh và c? g?ng ch?t m?t cách t? nhiên. ?ó không ph?i th? c? g?ng c?a “ch? ngh?a h? vô”. Effing v?n mu?n n?i m?i dây cu?i cùng v?i t? nhiên. Và thông qua ?ó có l? ông mu?n kh?ng ??nh l?n cu?i ý chí s?ng, khát khao hòa nh?p vào m?t ?i?u gì ?ó to l?n và có s?c ràng bu?c h?n là m?t ??i ng??i.

Paul Auster d??ng nh? ?i ??n r?t g?n v?i v?n hóa ph??ng ?ông v?i nh?ng ?an xen ch?ng ch?t t? th? h? này sang th? h? khác, v?i quan ni?m c?a ông v? cu?c ??i, v? d?n th?n và nh?ng tr? giá. Paul Auster nh?n m?i s? ki?n nh? m?t th?t nút m? ra nhi?u s? ki?n khác v?i nhi?u ?i?u b?t ng? kh?ng ?oán ??nh ???c. Tác ph?m c?a ông - Moon Palace gi?ng nh? m?t s? m?a mai th? ch? ngh?a cá nhân tuy?t ??i mu?n ph? nh?n nh?ng li?n h? gi?a ng??i v?i ng??i. Ch?ng ta có th? c?o ??n gi?a cu?c ??i, song b?n ch?t cu?c ??i lu?n có nh?ng ràng bu?c c? h?u kh?ng lay chuy?n ???c. Có l? b?i vì m?t tr?ng mà m?i ng?y ch?ng ta ng?m nh?n v?n t?n t?i. M?t tr?ng nh? trong m?t cu?n s?ch kh?c Red Notebook, Paul Auster ?ã nói “l? t?t c? trong m?t, n?o l? m?t chu?n m?c. ?ó l? m?t tr?ng nh? m?t huy?n tho?i..., tr? t??ng t??ng, t?nh y?u và s? ?i?en r?”

## **Kamal Sabry Shaker says**

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Xαρ? Z. says

## Moon Palace

Reading this books was a pleasure <3

I tried reading this in the summer but i was going out all the time and i was working and i was having so much fun (SUMMER I NEED YOU, PLZ COME BACK) so reading was not in my plans at all. I picked it up about a week ago and i must admit that i kind of fell in love with Auster's writing and Auster's story. The way he uses the first person narrative is so well done that i started thinking all over again about narration techniques. Authors who are genuinely talented and use the first person narrative are a bliss. I loved everything that he gave in this one.

Marco Stanley Fogg. This character split me in half. Or even more pieces. I liked him in the beginning, then disliked him, then liked him again, then disliked him again. In the end i would say that i feel sorry for him but also i don't. I know i am not making any sense but that's how i feel about him. All the characters had depth, all of them seemed real, both with their sins and their virtues. The story was interesting, the stories within the story were interesting, all of it was beautifully written and given to us. I won't say anything more. I loved this. I want to read more of his works.

**Tu?n Lalarme says**

Tôi không m?t nhi?u th?i gian ?? ??c, nh?ng l?i m?t r?t nhi?u th?i gian ?? ngh?, kh?ng ph?i ngh? v? quy?n sách, m?a ngh? v? cu?c s?ng, v? s? t?nh c?, v? s? tr?u, v?ng l?p, v? s? ?au kh?, v? con ng??i và v? n?i c? ??c. ?ôi khi n?i c? c?n l?n h?n c? s? m?nh, ch?ng ta sinh ra d??i nh?ng v?i sao c? ??n và c? m?i m?i kh?c kho?i v? v?n m?nh c?a m?nh.

Nhân v?t chính, Marco Stanley Fogg trong s? b?t ??nh c?a cu?c ??i, t? m?t ??a tr? kh?ng cha, m?t m? t? s?m, Marco kh?ng bi?t qu? kh? c?a m?nh, m?i th? l? m?, anh s?ng m?nh th? tr?i cho m?i th? ??n v? i, ??n n?i suýt ch?t ?ói, s?ng nh? m?t k? vô gia c? l?c th?ng rác ki?m th?c ?n qua ng?y, anh th?c h?nh th? ch? ngh?a h? vô m?t m?c ?? c?c h?n. Anh kh?ng mu?n ?i l?m, ch? nh? v?y m?a t?n t?i cho ??n gi?i h?n t?t c?ng l? cái ch?t. S? t?nh c? k?o anh kh?i cái ch?t. Nh? cách th? gi?i n?y v?n h?nh, v? tr? n?y xoay, n?o xoay tr?n ?? ??y ta vào nh?ng ?i?u t?nh c? kh?ng th? l??ng tr??c ???c ???c.

Tác ph?m giàu ph?m ch?t c?a m?t b? phim, mà n?u phân bi?t r?ch rồi ta ???c tuy?n t?p ba câu chuy?n, v? ba ng??i ?àn ông, gã thanh ni?n ?? m?nh ch?t ?ói nh?ng kh?ng ch?t, ông lão tàn t?t thay ??i tên tu?i s? ph?n c?a m?nh v? nh?ng ?i?u huy?n ho?c x?y ra trong quá kh? mà kh?ng ai c? th? bi?t ???c th?c h? ngoài b?n th?n ông, và nh?ng ch? d?u Paul Auster kh?n kh?eo ?an c?i ?? cho ta ?? c?m nh?n ???c n?o th?t mà kh?ng bao gi? ch?c ch?n l? n?o c? th?t, và cu?i c?ng l? câu chuy?n mà Solomon Barber k? trong m?t cu?n ti?u thuy?t mà ông vi?t "máu c?a Kepler" nh?ng ?n ?c v? ng??i cha ?ã b? ông ?i t? b? h?ng theo ?u?i c?i b?n ngã c?a m?nh.

Tôi ơi phi lý tí? p t?c t?n t?i n?u ta tin vào ?i?u ta mu?n tin. N?u "t??ng lai là m?t tr?ng", ta tin vào s? h? vô th? nh?ng ?i?u trong sách th?t ??n kinh ng?c, s? liên k?t gi?a ba nhân v?t chính, s? liên k?t phi lý ??n vô cùng, s? liên k?t ??y lùi th? gi?i, ch? ?? t?n t?i bên trong ?6, m?t chu?i quan h? nhân qu?.

Là b? phim nó có nh?p ?i?u h?p d?n và cách k? chuy?n lôi cu?n. Nh?ng ?i?m nút c?a câu chuy?n ?? m? ra câu chuy?n khác r?t sáng, mà không h? r?c r?i. Ta c? b? cu?n vào ?ó, trong n?i kh?c kho?i c?a nhân v?t tôi, trong c?n ?iên khùng c?a ông lão tàn t?t, và trong cái thân th? béo phì kh?ng l? c?a Solomon Barber.

Tôi th?c s? ng??ng m? Paul Auster, cách ông ?? nhân v?t trôi vô ??nh trong cu?c ??i v?i n?i c? ??n quá l?n, mà không th? cách nào thoát ra ???c. M?i nhân v?t coi cu?c s?ng là m?t phép th?, ?? m?i ng??i khi ?ã ? gi?i h?n cu?i cùng c?a s?ng và ch?t, h? thoát ra kh?i s? ràng bu?c, t? do, và m?c nhiên s?ng v?i th? ch? ngh?a h? vô cho ??n c?n cu?c ??i.

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## Geoff says

What on earth?

This book was recommended to me by a person whose taste in literature I hold in high regard. That's why I was surprised to discover, halfway through the book, that it's a really terrible piece of pretentious writing. I felt no empathy with the main character -- a really spoiled, pretentiously "eccentric" kid with an Asian fetish trying to revel in the black aesthetic of his free-fall into poverty. He's saved by Kitty Wu, the sexually precocious daughter of Chinese royalty or some such nonsense. She falls for the narrator for no other reason than the author apparently wanting her to do so. She seduces him with the line "Here comes the dragon lady" or thereabouts, which made me bristle to say the least. Then he dumps her and meets an old dude, and the old dude tells him some stories about the past. Then the book ends.

This story felt like three stories sloppily sewn together into some terrible Frankenstein's monster. Kitty Wu is the most Orientalist character I've encountered in a book post-WW2. I came to think of the narrator as more and more of an asshole as the story went on.

People go nuts over this guy, Paul Auster. I just don't get it. Maybe this wasn't the right book, but I have a feeling the problem lies deeper, with the author. I certainly won't be picking up another of his books anytime soon.

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## Paul says

Zadie Smith, in an introduction for a Nonrequired Reading Anthology brought a James Joyce quote to my attention

"That ideal reader suffering from an ideal insomnia" -Joyce

"The ideal reader cannot sleep when holding the writer he was meant to be with." - Smith

This is how I feel about Paul Auster, especially concerning Moon Palace. An odd series of events lead me to read this book at the perfect time. I was on a road trip in which the route of my companions and I followed a route traced by the protagonist of this novel, from Chicago to Utah, almost exactly. The moon landing had

featured prominently in conversations with one of my fellow travelers, Charlie. In one ear was Charlie, at the peak of an obsession with Nikola Tesla as the archetypal hero of science and underdogs and Thomas Edison standing for all that is wrong and corrupt. In the other ear was a central character's retelling of chance encounters with Mr. Tesla, referring to Edison only as "That asshole from Menlo." All after this book had been sitting on my shelves unread for months, perhaps waiting for the moment to strike. When I started loaning this book out and persuading people to read it, the odd coincidences started up again.

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### **Sawsan says**

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