

The Red Notebook: True Stories

By Paul Auster

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***The Red Notebook* brings together in one volume all of Paul Auster's short, true-life stories?a remarkable collection of tales that documents the curious, miraculous, and sometimes catastrophic turns of everyday reality.**

Paul Auster has earned international praise for the imaginative power of his many novels, including *The New York Trilogy*, *Moon Palace*, *The Music of Chance*, *Mr. Vertigo*, and *Timbuktu*. He has also published a number of highly original non-fiction works: *The Invention of Solitude*, *Hand to Mouth, and The Art of Hunger*. In *The Red Notebook*, Auster again explores events from the real world large and small, tragic and comic?that reveal the unpredictable, shifting nature of human experience. A burnt onion pie, a wrong number, a young boy struck by lightning, a man falling off a roof, a scrap of paper discovered in a Paris hotel room?all these form the context for a singular kind of *ars poetica*, a literary manifesto without theory, cast in the irreducible forms of pure story telling.

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The Red Notebook: True Stories By Paul Auster Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #938864 in Books
- Published on: 2002-06-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.00" h x .40" w x 4.80" l, .23 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 104 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
The arresting stories in this slim collection by Auster (The New York Trilogy, etc.) go a long way toward answering the perennial question "Why write?" The book contains four short narratives: "The Red Notebook," "It Don't Mean a Thing," "Accident Report" and "Why Write?" All the tales and vignettes, hovering somewhere between fact and fiction, feature amazing little coincidences or linkages. In one brief chapter, Auster (as protagonist) loses a dime in a gutter in Brooklyn only to look down and find a dime later the same day. In another, he checks into a hotel room in an obscure hotel in Paris and finds a crumpled message from the desk to a close friend the previous occupant of the room. The most affecting stories, however, recount a more ineffable sense of connection: Auster makes it to the foot of a staircase to catch his little daughter just in time to keep her from sailing through a window; as a boy at summer camp, he is on a group hike when the boy next to him is struck by lightning and killed. What all the stories have in common is not a fixed outcome or meaning but a sense of the patterned meaningfulness of life. Readers will glimpse here how the act of witnessing itself provides the punch line. As Auster learned the hard way when he met Willie Mays one day and didn't have a pencil to get an autograph, the sense of wonder burgeons when we can record its source on paper.
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Review
“A literary original who is perfecting a genre of his own.” (The Wall Street Journal)

“Our pre-eminent novelist of ideas.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Auster has added some new dimensions to modern literature and?more importantly even?to our perspectives on the planet.” (Boston Globe)

About the Author
Paul Auster has earned international praise for the imaginative power of his many novels, including The New York Trilogy, Moon Palace, The Music of Chance, Mr. Vertigo, and Timbuktu. He has also published a number of highly original non-fiction works: The Invention of Solitude, Hand to Mouth, and The Art of Hunger.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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