



The Shadow Factory

By Paul West

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The Shadow Factory By Paul West

From the introduction by Diane Ackerman:

Paul West recalls the early days after his stroke, exploring some of the all-too-real tricks the mind plays to save itself from the tomb of lost words.

Paul had a massive stroke, tailored to his own private hell. The author of over fifty stylishly written books, a master of English prose with one of the largest working vocabularies, a man whose life revolves around words, he had suffered brain damage to the key language areas of his brain and could no longer process language in any form. Global aphasia, it's called, the curse of a perpetual tip-of-the-tongue memory hunt. He understood little of what people said, and all he could utter was the syllable "mem."

His prognosis was grim. The brain cells were dead in Broca's and some of Wernicke's area, he could no longer swallow food without choking, and it was a left-hemisphere stroke. After three weeks in the rehab unit, he was able to say proudly: "I can talk good coffee." Still, it was a complete sentence.

"You know, dear," I said about two months later, when he was feeling mighty low, "maybe you want to write the first aphasic memoir." He smiled: "Good idea! Mem, mem, mem." And so he began dictating, sometimes with mountain-moving effort, and others sailing along at a good clip, an account of what the mental world of aphasia felt and looked like. Writing the book was the best speech therapy anyone could have prescribed.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

The author of 24 novels, 14 autobiographical and non-fiction books, and 1 previous volume of poems, Paul West has received the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction, the Lannan Literary Achievement Prize, and the Chevalier of Arts and Letters from the French Academy, fellowships from the NEA and NEH among many other awards.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corey Gardner:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This The Shadow Factory is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Alejandro Koenig:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book The Shadow Factory it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can more easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

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