



Do Everything in the Dark

Gary Indiana

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Gary Indiana's newest autopsy of America's walking dead examines the tragicomic fate of *la vie boheme* when its cherished delusions and brightest hopes succumb to the harsh realities of the aging process. *Do Everything in the Dark* continues Indiana's exploration of social anomie and disconnection with the scabrous wit the author is famous for. But it is also a chilling chronicle of madness and failure, disappointments and ruined ambitions, disastrous life choices and the many ways love dies in a world people find increasingly impossible to live in.

The novel follows several couples and solitary wanderers through the summer of 2001, as their internationally scattered vacations throw long-festering, glossed-over incompatibilities and resentments into exotic and unbearable relief. Indiana shows his large and terrifyingly credible cast of America's cultural elite exhibiting their worst behavior, while sympathizing with their underlying fears and frailties and thwarted good intentions.

Do Everything in the Dark is Indiana's darkest and funniest novel, but also his deepest exploration of our least manageable, most uncomfortable emotions.

Do Everything in the Dark Details

Date : Published July 1st 2004 by St. Martin's Griffin (first published 2003)

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Author : Gary Indiana

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From Reader Review Do Everything in the Dark for online ebook

Erik says

Gary Indiana has a belied knack for building his characters in a way that makes you really wonder if he knows where his books will end when he starts writing. Admittedly, this left me a bit frustrated as I began the book because for much of the first third of the book readers are left in the dark about the characters they are encountering.

But I did not give up and by the middle of the book I had some how gotten hooked onto the stories of these characters. And what arises out of this confusing introduction is a deeply thoughtful and theoretical conversation about the ways in which we as contemporary subjects deal with the ever encompassing problem of boredom. As boredom comes to rule out lives what do things like death and mental illness and love and sex mean? Are they merely just tools we use to avoid confronting how bored we really are? Or is there something meaningful in them? For Indiana, I think the answer is both and neither. But in the end, readers walk away from his writing confronted with the reality that their own boredoms can't be covered up or hidden away.

While the writing itself is tedious at times, and as I mentioned, Indiana isn't the best at building up his characters, the overall theoretical ideas he is considering make this book a notable read.

Alex Greenberger says

Wait, so how was this out of print before this year?

A lot of reviews have said this book is about being gay in New York, and thankfully, it isn't, really. I mean, it is. Everything Gary Indiana writes sort of is, because everything Gary Indiana writes is sort of autobiographical, and Gary Indiana is gay and sort of in New York. (Sometimes, he's in Cuba or elsewhere abroad.) But it's also a book about discovering that, whereas it once cool to be different when you were young, it's hard not to fit in as you get older. Times change, and so do the people around you. While everyone's getting married, having stable jobs, and preparing to have kids, there's this book's cast of misfits. It ain't easy being green anywhere, but especially in New York.

Gregg says

Just got it and plan to get into it over the Labor Day weekend.

Nick says

A great novel about being old, gay, and lost in NYC.
