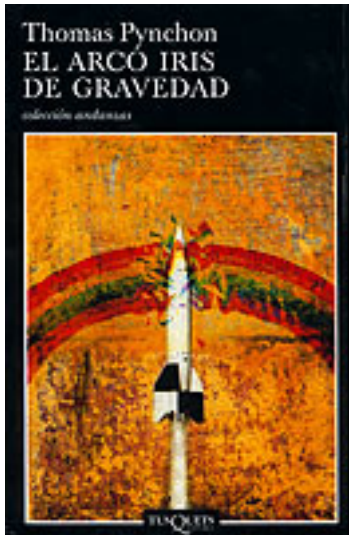

Thomas Pynchon

El arco iris de gravedad



Title: El arco iris de gravedad

Author: Thomas Pynchon

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Description

Cuando en 1973 apareció *El arco iris de gravedad*, su autor ya era conocido por sus libros anteriores, *V.* y *La subasta del lote 49* (Andanzas 304 y 227), pero fue esta obra la que confirmó la reputación de Pynchon como uno de los grandes escritores contemporáneos de la literatura universal. Tusquets Editores recupera ahora esta novela monumental, enteramente revisada, que se hallaba desde hace años fuera de circulación. Rechazada por su obscenidad por el jurado del Pulitzer, *El arco iris de gravedad* fue sin embargo galardonada con el William Dean Howell's Award, y el National Book Award en 1974, y se ha convertido en referencia obligada para nuevas generaciones de escritores. Como ocurre con cualquier obra de Pynchon, resulta casi imposible reducir a un simple resumen *El arco iris de gravedad*, novela llena de historias y personajes que giran en torno al núcleo como los satélites y asteroides en torno a un planeta.

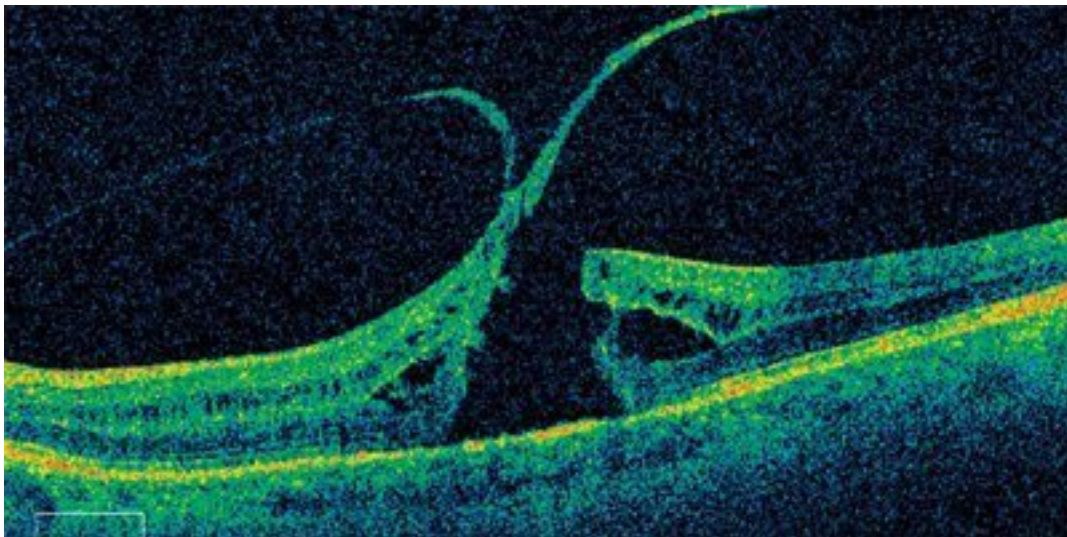
Tyrone Slothrop, un militar norteamericano que trabaja para la inteligencia aliada en Londres, en 1944, padece un grave problema: siempre que cae una de las bombas autopropulsadas alemanas V-2, él tiene una erección. De niño, Slothrop fue sometido a experimentos pavlovianos por el profesor de Harvard Laszlo Jamf, un loco científico alemán que ahora trabaja para los nazis. Laszlo inventó el Imipolex G, un nuevo plástico útil en el aislamiento de los cohetes, y condicionó las partes pudendas de Tyrone para que respondieran a la presencia de ese nuevo plástico. Ahora, ya adulto, nuestro protagonista no puede evitar sentir la presencia del Imipolex en las bombas, y sus superiores militares están investigándolo. En una Alemania devastada por la guerra, Tyrone se enfrenta a legiones de extraños enemigos, de los que tendrá que huir haciendo cabriolas.

Insightful reviews

Barry Pierce: You know that very brief moment after you wake up in the morning? That moment when you're not sleeping but you're not yet awake. You kind of know what's going but you're not fully aware. You're in consciousness limbo. When you read *Gravity's Rainbow* you fall into this consciousness limbo. You read the words on the page but they don't all make sense. You're confused, you don't know what's going on but... you love it. You're floating through this syntactical Pandora's Box fully unaware of your surroundings, not wanting to stop reading so you just read and read this 900-page page tome never wanting to stop. And then it ends. And you want to start again. Because you know that this is the greatest novel ever written. And you'll never read anything like it ever again.

Chance Maree:

Years ago, the retina of my left eye detached and I underwent major surgery. Since then, the annual eye exam has brought a certain amount of anxiety, and yes, paranoia over every flash and floater. A week ago, the eye doctor identified a hole in the macular of my left eye. If a V-2 nano-rocket hit the the retina, it might look like this macular hole:



The macular hole has an interesting effect on my vision:



Fortunately, my right eye is dominant so I can read well enough, for now. The surgery is scheduled in a couple weeks. It is an out-patient procedure under a local anesthesia, but recovery requires I spend 2 weeks with my face kept parallel to the ground.

The reason I'm bringing all this up is to ~~to garner sympathy~~ explain how I 'saw' Gravity's Rainbow and why I've given it only one-star ~~and deter a skewering by Pynchon lovers who wouldn't kick a girl while she'd down—would they?~~

Some scenes were all too clear: S&M acts including consumption of shit and urine, the sad plight of an adolescent sex slave (enjoyed by Slothrop, a major protagonist), bad 'poetry', bizarre appearances of what could be described as slapstick or burlesque acts out of nowhere, etc. However, amidst all the drugs, sex and despair were concise and interesting nuggets of wisdom, such as:

If there is something comforting—religious, if you want—about paranoia, there is still also anti-paranoia, where nothing is connected to anything, a condition not many of us can bear for long.

Paranoia is perhaps the major theme.

No doubt, Pynchon is brilliant, and some passages were inspirational, but I felt I had to sift through lots of...sand. At times, my comprehension of an idea felt as exciting as panning for gold—if one tiny morsel sparkled, I was thrilled.

Despite the difficulty reading Gravity's Rainbow, I continued to the end in hope of pumping up my linguistic muscles and cleansing my linguistic palate. I understand that patterns in what we read or write prime us to repeat those patterns automatically in our own writing. Psycholinguists refer to this influence as structural priming or syntactic persistence. Priming occurs at the subconscious level. It is very powerful, and for that reason, I will not finish novels that strike me as poorly written.

But writing isn't just about forming varied and understandable sentences. It is about creating syntactic delights that thrill the reader, most of whom find pleasure in encountering language that departs from what they are primed to expect. I admire writers who find new ways to employ language.

I did not enjoy Gravity's Rainbow; it deviated so much from my own priming that I often found it incomprehensible. Although I used a reader's companion guide, many of the references were unrecognizable as vocabulary--just not on my personal map. Reading GR was as frustrating as trying to read with my bad eye, through which straight lines are wavy and letters in the middle of my vision collapse into a blurry gray hole.

Alex: "Be sick," is the advice I got on reading Gravity's Rainbow. "Be sick and bedridden and read the whole thing through with no interruptions, and when you're done, flip back to page one and do the whole thing again."

And I get it: that would indeed be a good way to understand this drunken maelstrom of a book. But I don't care enough about it to do that, and also I don't get sick very often, so I was forced to just muddle through. Have I unlocked its many secrets? I have not. I can't tell you what Gravity's Rainbow means to a Pynchon enthusiast; I can tell you what it's like for regular folks.

Here's what it's like: dicks. Dicks dicks dicks dicks dicks. Dicks in the shape of rockets; dicks in the shape of bananas; dicks in the shape of dicks; people in the shape of dicks. The main guy's superpower is that he gets a hardon whenever a rocket is headed in his direction, and what can you say about that plot? At one point a guy turns into his own dick. Even saying "This is the most dick-centric book I've ever read" feels insufficient: when it comes to dicks, this book makes Henry Miller look like Jane Austen. Christian fundamentalist gay conversion camps could save a lot of money by just making dudes read this book, because it's enough to turn you off dicks forever.

Also, this is the only book I've ever read where I get the feeling that the scene - the world the author is trying to describe - is actually a cartoon.

When I read the embarrassing [Bleeding Edge](#) a while back I was pretty uncomfortable with how it dealt with race and women, and at this point we've definitely got a trend here. I don't think

Pynchon thinks he's racist, but he deals with race in a Tarantino-esque way that doesn't sit well with me. I don't think he gets women at all.

So it's a tale told by a dick, full of dicks, signifying dicks. But while it was basically too much dick for me, I could kinda get into a bit of it. Just the tip of it. It's madcap and smart and it feels original. And Pynchon's the only guy I can think of who can include song lyrics in his book and they're actually cool. Look, it's probably the best 800-page book about Nazis and dicks I've ever read, and please don't make me read [The Kindly Ones](#).

Still, though. This is my third Pynchon book; I think I get the idea, and it's not really my favorite idea. I'm not going to be sharing anyone's pus pudding just for an excuse to read it again.

Erik: it truly is tough to think novel this strange, complicated, and subversive used to be ever penned, or published, or wolfed by means of a wide (cult) audience, yet thankfully, for the sake of sheer literary chutzpah, all of this is often so. 'Crazy,' 'exhilarating,' 'disgusting,' 'chilling' and one thousand different adjectives will be invaluable in an effort to absolutely describe it, and there's a great quantity of intelligence on demonstrate within the intricacies of its storytelling, its thematic layerings, and its diversity of information spanning God purely is aware what number diverse matters and fields. For 700-odd pages Pynchon's prose darts teasingly among the comedian and the tragic, the lucid and the abstruse, the surreal and the mundane, the sacred and the profane, supplying a stratospheric view of a war-ravaged, phallogocentric, disorienting international in which the human race, spurred on via its burgeoning know-how and insatiable bloodlust, is launching itself perilously in the direction of extinction. Paranoia, affliction and loss of life abound. Oh, and that i may still most likely point out that the e-book might be fairly foolish and wacky, too. And that you simply cannot examine a missile, a vapor trail, a toilet, an octopus, or a gentle bulb an analogous means ever back after studying it.

Sentimental Surrealist: Now every body -How to begin with Gravity's Rainbow? Well, it is tempting to begin by way of calling it a comedy. It simply should be the funniest e-book i have ever learn (only Cat's Cradle can fairly problem that claim), and it is also a gigantic, dark, uproariously humorous funny story on the price of the full literary institution. I mean, you idea Ulysses was once irreverent? this is often the step past Ulysses, this is often Ulysses the place seduction scenes are interrupted by way of octopus attacks, a guy throws pies at a plane, squaddies who may really be the paranoid delusions of our boy Slothrop sing limericks approximately Germans who've intercourse with rockets, orgies (which back could be Slothrop's delusions) escape of nowhere, mice who suffer Pavlovian situation speak like Cagney, sentient, revolutionary-minded lightbulbs are jerked round the cosmos, humans sing songs in regards to the joys of diving down the toilet, and diverse different unusual occasions that you simply may perhaps affiliate extra with surreal '90s cartoons than nice Works of Literature. And but Pynchon proves himself relatively in a position to that, too. In fact, many of the enjoyable of this ebook is the best way he bounces among emotionally concerning passages of significant literary advantage and the freewheeling, hilarious stupidity of the comedian sections. One rather memorable passage tells the tale of a scientist who arguably misplaced his daughter whereas pressured to paintings at the arguably reality-warping 00000 rocket that units this novel's plot, similar to it is, into motion; Pynchon additionally makes a variety of insightful reviews in regards to the nature of Protestant predestination (specifically the pointlessness of it all... his good

judgment seems that, on account that we are all doomed within the first place, any type of religious trust will not support an individual any - the gleeful misanthropy on reveal here's but extra of the joys for me), conspiracy theories (I love how the govt. sends its rivals chasing small and fully unrealistic conspiracies right here to hide up for his or her genuine plots), the horrors of war, love, the total deal at the back of paranoia and the way it is a thoroughly unfeasible and most unlikely approach to dwell your lifestyles since it merely fragments your mind... yeah, Gravity's Rainbow's a kind of giant ol' doorstopper novels that simply pitches every thing at you and does not relatively care in case you are up for catching it or not. So you are going to must be keen to envision your expectancies totally on the door and roll with Pynchon and his rules here, but when you are, you will find your self rewarded by way of what may well rather well be the main batshit novel ever written... hell, simply the humor veers from scatological to self-referential to satirical, to assert the least of the surreal horror, the image sex, the journeys into hell, and all of the different wackiness that go together with the thought-provoking meditations at the human Pynchon's keen on pitching in there nearly thoroughly at random. I went with it, and that i got here out with arguably my new favourite novel (yes, i am conscious i have cycled via 3 favourite novels in my time at Goodreads alone... this is often kind of what occurs if you are me) and a unique i do not think myself forgetting approximately each time soon. by way of the way, you are telling me that Frank Miller illustrated an variation of this book? Then this is, by means of far, the easiest factor Frank Miller's ever been concerned with.

A.J. Howard: decisions From My psychological statement Upon interpreting Gravity's Rainbow Difficult my ass, i do know who Werner Van Braun is..... What a lovely name..... Errrr..... Maybe i have to reed that again..... 3rd time's a charm!..... Shit..... Okay, who/what/when/where/why/how the fuck goes on?..... Okay, i feel i am getting what is going on here..... by no means mind..... this entire factor is absolute rubbish..... Did Dane Cook's boner write that paragraph?..... That used to be awesome, i've got no fucking clue what Pynchon's speaking about, yet he baffles me in a truly stylish way..... Alright, this can be out of Dane Cooke's league, i believe Lou Reed's boner wrote that section..... Obama should still hire Pynchon the "naming issues and folks czar"..... this complete factor is basically fucking awesome..... I by no means are looking to learn this half ever again..... i'll need to instantly reread this part..... that is not even presupposed to suggest anything..... Finished, onto part 2!..... u.s.w. Over the earlier few years, i have tackled a number of supposedly tough novels with relative ease. once I encountered the Erededy waits for pot section, I gobbled endless Jest like a bored housewife interpreting Sweedish torture porn. Blood Meridian can have been a fight to get through, yet purely simply because McCarthy's prose is so dense with a type of a savage good looks that i used to be fatigued after studying 3 pages. conflict and Peace did not justify it is trouble to me at all, until you degree hassle by way of web page length. i do not are looking to come off as narcissistic approximately my cognition, but when you think that i am guilty, i'd comprehend you. (Get it?) And then I encountered Gravity's Rainbow* There are a few web pages available in the market who belittle the trouble of this book. They do that to talking on to first time readers. i suppose that is admirable, i will be able to definitely comprehend the proclivity to hype up and push anything you love, yet it is also inaccurate. For a GR virgin, a significant portion of the radical is destined to be easily befuddling. I mean, for fucks sake, a huge section of the publication is ready rocket science. GR is an ideal hurricane of difficulty: Pynchon does not aid his reader out with the plot; the narrative weaves among time, place, imperative character,

and/or voice with very little warning; Pynchon throws out a plethora of references to science, history, pop culture, scatological jokes, Norse mythology, and so on that you'd desire a number of PhDs in a large number of other parts of focus to totally grasp; the prose, whereas usually heartbreaking or hilarious or marvelous isn't precisely available and infrequently frustrating. Out of the other novel i have read, GR such a lot calls for a moment read. i really acquired the better half book, yet i discovered that it was once now not rather helpful. It supplied minutia whilst i'd were tremendous in the event that they had simply defined what it intended in relation to what was once occurring with the narrative and it missed a few issues I had query about. Also, it made for an incredibly clunky and disjointed analyzing experience. Eventually, i discovered an internet site that had quickly summaries for every episode with specific emphasis on callbacks to prior events. I learn those after the corresponding episode and located it to be of significant use. yet I tossed the Instapaper link, so solid success with Google. My ultimate ranking displays a compromise of a few sort. a pair hundred pages into the ebook I wasn't having fun with myself. the single factor that saved me from quitting was once the hours installed and the knowledge that if i did not end it then, I most likely could by no means come again to it. I quickly began going in the move of things, and commenced seeing what all of the fuss is about. that is the factor approximately Pynchon. you are going to learn one part and imagine that individuals sanctify this publication as a kind of highbrow swagger. after which the following part will thoroughly hook up with you and depart you pondering that this is often the simplest booklet of the 20 th century. I definitely spotted that my response to the interpreting event was once topic to my psychological state. that is precise of all books, yet with GR it is just like earlier than you begin studying you'll want to do transcendental meditation, or visit a yoga class, or chortle numerous strains of cocaine to really arrange yourself. you need to hand over your self over to the text, or you are going to observe that you have been examining for the prior thirty mins and you've got now not understood a unmarried thing. The 4 megastar ranking is way from conclusive. Even over the last a hundred pages I wavered someplace among three and five stars. The goodreads superstar method thoroughly fails the 1st come upon with Gravity's Rainbow. I supply it a @.^ out of 10.0. perhaps a ?-. I simply understand i am rather blissful it is ultimately out of my to learn quickly pile. Now the matter is I kinda cannot wait to learn it again.* i purchased GR years ago, and had picked it up a couple of times considering that then basically to shelve it. during the last couple years, due to the fact i have begun studying critical fiction again, i have had GR on my 'to learn quickly pile,' and i have had a number of fake starts, simply to place the e-book apart after a dozen pages with a solution to learn whilst I had spare time.

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