

# Author, Author - David Lodge

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In David Lodge's last novel, *Thinks...* the novelist Henry James was invisibly present in quotation and allusion. In *Author, Author* he is centre stage, sometimes literally. The story begins in December 1915, with the dying author surrounded by his relatives and servants, most of whom have private anxieties of their own, then loops back to the 1880s, to chart the course of Henry's 'middle years', focusing particularly on his friendship with the genial *Punch* artist and illustrator, George Du Maurier, and his intimate but chaste relationship with the American writer Constance Fenimore Woolson. By the end of the decade Henry is seriously worried by the failure of his books to 'sell', and decides to try and achieve fame and fortune as a playwright, at the same time that George Du Maurier, whose sight is failing, diversifies into writing novels. The consequences, for both men, are surprising, ironic, comic and tragic by turns, reaching a climax in the years 1894-5. As Du Maurier's *Trilby*, to the bewilderment of its author himself, becomes the bestseller of the century, Henry anxiously awaits the first night of his make-or-break play, *Guy Domville* ... Thronged with vividly drawn characters, some of them with famous names, others recovered from obscurity, *Author, Author* presents a fascinating panorama of literary and theatrical life in late Victorian England, which in many ways foreshadowed today's cultural mix of art, commerce and publicity. But it is essentially a novel about authorship - about the obsessions, hopes, dreams, triumphs and disappointments, of those who live by the pen - with, at its centre, an exquisite characterisation of one writer, rendered with remarkable empathy. Author: David Lodge Publisher: Vintage Digital Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: *Author, Author* Pages: 00400 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 2012-02-29 SKU-13/ISBN: 9780436205279 Category: Fiction : General

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