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# DAVID FOSTER WALLACE

His final and most ambitious undertaking...

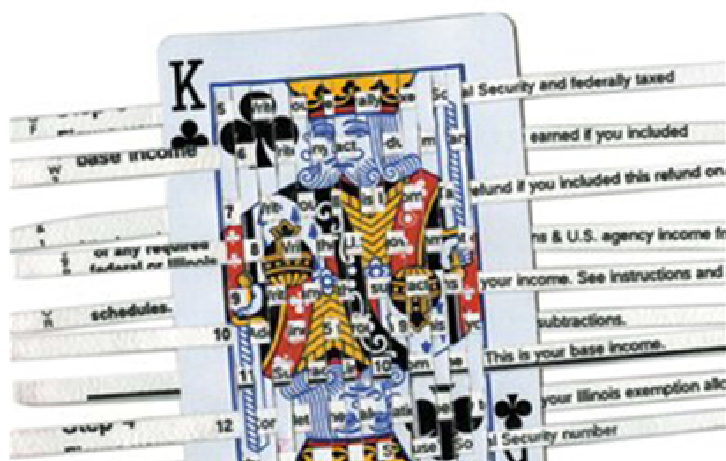
## THE PALE KING: AN UNFINISHED NOVEL

David Foster Wallace

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE

AN UNFINISHED NOVEL

THE PALE KING



"A prose magician, Mr. Wallace was capable of writing...about subjects from tennis to politics to lobsters, from the horrors of drug withdrawal to the small terrors of life aboard a luxury cruise ship, with humor and fervor and verve. At his best he could write funny, write sad, write sardonic and write serious. He could map the infinite and infinitesimal, the mythic and mundane. He could conjure up an absurd future...while conveying the inroads the absurd has already made in a country where old television shows are a national touchstone and asinine advertisements wallpaper our lives."

—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

Set in the oppressive fluorescent glow of an IRS tax-return processing center in Peoria, Illinois, *The Pale King* is a novel that confronts head-on one of the greatest challenges of life and art: the ordinary, familiar, soul-dampening routine. *The Pale King* defies centuries of novelistic tradition. Where others have highlighted life's dramas, Wallace expands on the everyday, setting scenes in office cubicles, in cars stuck in traffic, on elevators stopped between floors. Doing this, Wallace reveals life as a heroic challenge. In his world the familiar is the water we swim in, and that only through it can we arrive at joy, meaning, and love. In the stories of these tax processors, Wallace illuminates timeless questions with a humanity and humor that was uniquely his. Although incomplete, *The Pale King* is nonetheless profound, deeply moving, and a novel for the ages.

Also Available in Audio Format:

*The Pale King (Unabridged) Audio* \$34.98 9781609419752

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**INT'L C**  
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David Foster Wallace wrote the novels *Infinite Jest* and *The Broom of the System* and the story collections *Oblivion*, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, and *Girl With Curious Hair*. His nonfiction includes *Consider the Lobster*, *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, *Everything and More*, and *This Is Water*. He died in 2008.

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