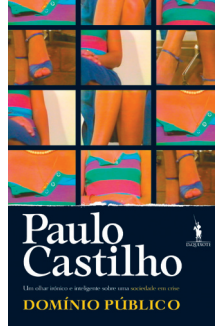


DGLAB

PROMOTES PORTUGUESE AUTHORS ABROAD



Domínio Público [*Public Domain*] is the author's seventh novel and was written between 2009 and 2010. The story is set in Portugal in the 'pre-Troika' period, reflecting the general air of despondency that could already be felt at the time. The Alves family sets out to establish a foundation dedicated to promoting literature and the Portuguese language as a way of honouring their recently deceased grandfather. But while at the beginning everything about this colossal project of homage to Pedro Alves seems simple, we soon realise that the source of funding and the past of the grandfather himself are not so transparent after all.

Over the course of around 400 pages, the novel's characters move between Lisbon and the Alentejo and Douro regions, as well as one mysterious journey to the USA, under the playful and ironic gaze of Paulo Castilho.

Domínio Público

***Public Domain* by Paulo Castilho / Dom Quixote, 2011; pp. 408 / Fernando Namora Literary Prize 2012**

'Paulo Castilho's novels have always interested me as an exercise in contemporary realism. Their hyper-realist approach is combined with an almost classical use of the language, something that is becoming increasingly rare, yet with a lightness of touch that lures one into thinking that writing in such a way comes easy.' Isabel Pires de Lima in DN

'The author aspires to a form of language that is untainted by intellectual conceit or any other kind of stylistic bloating. To a large degree this is because he grew up reading British nursery rhymes and honed his taste by studying the major Anglo-Saxon authors.' Maria João Martins in JL

'The story focuses on our time (...): fun, intriguing, critical and thought-provoking, it winks at the reader, and keeps us guessing right up until the denouement.' Maria Alzira Seixo in *Jornal de Letras*



Figueira da Foz, 1944

The son of a diplomat, Paulo Castelo attended primary and secondary school in South Africa, Hong Kong, Macau and Lisbon. He graduated from the Law Faculty of Lisbon University and became a career diplomat, serving as Portuguese ambassador to Sweden.

He became a literary figure in the 1980s with his novel *O Outro Lado do Espelho* (*The Other Side of the Mirror*), which was awarded the Literary Prize by the *Diário de Notícias*. The success of *Fora de Horas* (*After Hours*), which won the Grand Prix of the Portuguese Authors' Society, the Portuguese PEN Club Prize, and the Eça de Queirós Prize, made his reputation as a writer attentive to the ideological conflicts between the generations of the 1960s and the 1980s, from the point of view of characters who, at an existential tipping point, find that the idealism and utopian hopes of the 60s have had no impact whatsoever on a decade dominated by pragmatism.

Paulo Castelo's novelistic style makes use of short phrases, often just names, creating a kind of 'zapping' effect that mirrors a shattered society – a civilisation dominated by the media, advertising, kitsch, and a view of the world based on the American film industry.

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