



Death as a Side Effect

Ana María Shua

Translated by Andrea G. Labinger

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Book Synopsis:

In *Death as a Side Effect*, Ana María Shua's brilliantly dark satire transports readers to a dystopic future Argentina where gangs of ad hoc marauders and professional thieves roam the streets while the wealthy purchase security behind fortified concrete walls and the elderly cower in their apartments in fear of being whisked off to state-mandated "convalescent" homes, never to return.

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Book Description

In *Death as a Side Effect*, Ana María Shua’s brilliantly dark satire transports readers to a dystopic future Argentina where gangs of ad hoc marauders and professional thieves roam the streets while the wealthy purchase security behind fortified concrete walls and the elderly cower in their apartments in fear of being whisked off to state-mandated “convalescent” homes, never to return. Abandoned by his mistress, suffocated by his father, and estranged from his demented mother and ineffectual sister, Ernesto seeks his vanished lover. Hoping to save his dying father from the ministrations of a diabolical health-care system, he discovers that, ultimately, everyone is a patient, and the instruments wielded by the impersonal medical corps cut to the very heart of the social fabric.

The world of this novel, with its closed districts, unsafe travel, ubiquitous security cameras, and widespread artificiality and uncertainty, is as familiar as it is strange—and as instructive, in its harrowing way, as it is deeply entertaining. The Spanish edition has been selected by the Congreso de la Lengua Española as one of the one hundred best Latin American novels published in the last twenty-five years.

Praise for the Spanish edition:

“Because of its depth and searing drama, this novel places Ana María Shua at the forefront of Argentine literature. The book is deep and perturbing, and it is narrated in a limpid prose, infused with profound lyricism and subtle compassion.”—José Miguel Oviedo, *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos*, Spain

“Shua masterfully employs black humor and exceptionally well-crafted dialogue to create an innovative work.”—Fernando Mascarello, *Paradoxo*, Brazil

“This is a book written with the talent of an author who gazed into the depths of her country and added that blaze to this brilliantly written inferno.”—Elizabeth Subercaseaux, *Variedades*, Chile

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s [web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Death-as-a-Side-Effect,674632.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Death-as-a-Side-Effect,674632.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography

Ana María Shua has published more than forty books in many genres, including poetry, children’s fiction, and Jewish folklore, and her work has been translated into numerous languages. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship for work on *The Book of Memories* and is the author of *Microfictions*, available in a Bison Books edition. She lives in Buenos Aires. **Andrea G. Labinger**’s many translations include Alicia Steimberg’s *Call Me Magdalena* and *The Rainforest*, both available in Bison Books editions.

Additional Information

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