



El quinto en discordia (Libros del Asteroide) (Spanish Edition)

Robertson Davies

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Sinopsis

Alrededor de la misteriosa muerte del magnate canadiense Boy Staunton se teje la trama de esta novela. La narración corre a cargo de Dunstan Ramsay, amigo desde la infancia de Staunton, quien al intentar aclarar las circunstancias de su muerte no tendrá más remedio que enfrentarse al relato de su propia vida. Desde el principio de la historia, Ramsay ejerce una influencia mística y no del todo inocua en cuantos le rodean: acciones en apariencia inocentes -una pelea con bolas de nieve o el aprendizaje de trucos de cartas- se revelarán como acontecimientos decisivos en las vidas de otros. *El quinto en discordia* es una muestra de la maestría de Davies para la novela: su erudición le permite tratar los temas más diversos -el circo, el santoral, la primera guerra mundial, o la vida en un internado- con una naturalidad asombrosa; y su imaginación teatral logra cautivar al lector desde el inicio. La primera novela de la *Trilogía Deptford*, la más aclamada de Davies, se alza como la historia de un hombre racional que descubre en lo mágico un aspecto más de lo real.

Biografía del autor

Robertson Davies (1913-1995) murió siendo un escritor mundialmente famoso y uno de los autores canadienses más importantes. Nacido en la región de Ontario, se educó en distintas instituciones de su país y Europa. Tras licenciarse en Literatura en Oxford, trabajó como actor en la Old Vic Repertory Company, donde conoció a la que más tarde sería su esposa. En 1940 regresa a Canadá para dedicarse con éxito al periodismo y a escribir comedias; su columna humorística, firmada con el seudónimo de Samuel Marchbanks, tuvo un éxito inmediato y algunas de sus obras de teatro -que él mismo produjo- fueron muy aclamadas. A comienzos de los años cincuenta publica la primera de sus once novelas, organizadas en trilogías, que lo harían mundialmente famoso: la *Trilogía Salterton: A merced de la tempestad* (1951), *Levadura de malicia* (1954) y *Una mezcla de flaquezas* (1958); la *Trilogía Deptford: El quinto en discordia* (1970), *Mantícora* (1972) y *El mundo de los prodigios* (1975); la *Trilogía de Cornish: Ángeles rebeldes* (1981), *Lo que arraiga en el hueso* (1985) y *La lira de Orfeo* (1988); y la inacabada *Trilogía de Toronto*. En los años sesenta abandonará progresivamente el periodismo y comenzará a enseñar literatura en la Universidad de Toronto, actividad que compaginará con la escritura hasta su jubilación.

Además de novelas, Davies es autor de una treintena de libros entre cuentos, obras de teatro, crítica literaria y recopilaciones de artículos.

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