

Danielewski, Mark Z. *Mark Z. Danielewski's House of Leaves/* by Zampano. New York: Pantheon Books, 2000.

Assignment #4

This narrative struck me as something completely new and unique. In the introduction, the narrator describes his experiences with his friend and an old man, Zampano. The old man unfortunately dies, and the narrator comes across his projects which seemed very odd. The project consisted of many words, some with meaning and others without, some that could be connected and others that could not. So, the narrator takes Zampano's project and produces it as a unique nonlinear narrative.

Zampano writes about a film that does not exist. Basically, he created this idea of a film that sort of had a resemblance to MTV's "Real World". As the reader reads through these ideas presented by Zampano, there are footnotes that point to or describe something similar. For instance, in one passage the characters discuss a problem with the water heater. The next thing you know there is a footnote that leads to an experience the narrator had with the same problem. However, the narrator does not concentrate on just a particular instance. Sometimes, he will come across a new topic and then seamlessly wonder into a different direction of narration. But, in the end, he does come back to the point he was trying to make.

In reading this new style of narrative, I found myself going back and forth between pages as if I were reading a newspaper. As for the content, I found it interesting on how two different styles of writing were interlaced; one being more conservative while the other unruly. Relating to some of the ideas the narrator brings was fairly easy because the ideas are from the time I have experience. I think all of these characteristics help draw more curiosity from the reader, which in turn make them want to examine the text more deeply.