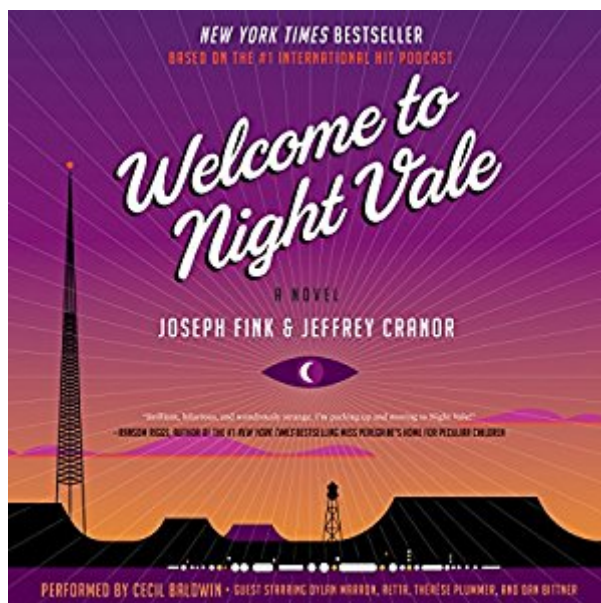


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Welcome To Night Vale: A Novel



Synopsis

Performed by Welcome to Night Vale podcast narrator Cecil Baldwin and special guests Dylan Marron, Retta, ThÃ¶fÆ'ÃÂ©rÃ¶fÆ'ÃÂ¨se Plummer, and Dan Bittner, with music by Disparition. From the creators of the wildly popular Welcome to Night Vale podcast comes an imaginative mystery of appearances and disappearances that is also a poignant look at the ways in which we all struggle to find ourselves...no matter where we live. "Hypnotic and darkly funny.... Belongs to a particular strain of American gothic that encompasses The Twilight Zone, Stephen King and Twin Peaks, with a bit of Tremors thrown in." (The Guardian) Located in a nameless desert somewhere in the great American Southwest, Night Vale is a small town where ghosts, angels, aliens, and government conspiracies are all commonplace parts of everyday life. It is here that the lives of two women, with two mysteries, will converge. Nineteen-year-old Night Vale pawn shop owner Jackie Fierro is given a paper marked "KING CITY" by a mysterious man in a tan jacket holding a deerskin suitcase. Everything about him and his paper unsettles her, especially the fact that she can't seem to get the paper to leave her hand and that no one who meets this man can remember anything about him. Jackie is determined to uncover the mystery of King City and the man in the tan jacket before she herself unravels. Night Vale PTA treasurer Diane Crayton's son, Josh, is moody and also a shape-shifter. And lately Diane's started to see her son's father everywhere she goes, looking the same as the day he left years earlier, when they were both teenagers. Josh, looking different every time Diane sees him, shows a stronger and stronger interest in his estranged father, leading to a disaster Diane can see coming, even as she is helpless to prevent it. Diane's search to reconnect with her son and Jackie's search for her former routine life collide as they find themselves coming back to two words: "KING CITY". It is King City that holds the key to both of their mysteries, and their futures...if they can ever find it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I do not remembering buying this book. It appeared on my coffee table one morning smelling of rotting meat and ash. Someone keeps leaving pages from it under my pillow while I sleep. Every morning a new one. They are not in order.

While I greatly enjoyed the book, I had a hard time reading it, as it would intermittently become completely translucent and leak a viscous substance onto my hands. I switched to the ebook format, but a crack developed in the screen of my Kindle and the word "NO" replaced all of my titles. So I downloaded the audiobook from audible. The blood sacrifice and hours of chanting required to get this title was tiring, but I feel it was worth it in the end. Too bad that it can only be read once every ten years on the crescent moon.

I found this book in my fridge, I sat down and turned the pages, absorbing knowledge, all in all its a great novel.

Welcome To Night Vale by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor is definitely an interesting read, especially if your tastes lean toward the absurd and surreal. It ranks up there with Douglas Adams (think Dirk Gently rather than Hitchhiker's Guide) and David Wong, but with a bit less cohesion and rationality behind the narrative and the setting. That sounds like a bad thing, but it really isn't...it's refreshing to read something so ridiculous that still manages to be captivating and entertaining, because that is something a great many authors just can't pull off. Throughout this novel, none of the absurdity and randomness ends up feeling like it's there just to be there or simply to categorize the story as being bizarre or strange. Somehow the authors manage to make it all feel like it furthers the plot, and there is one of those...a plot. Reading this book makes me want to listen to more of the podcast that started it all, maybe from the beginning through the present (which would likely take up more time than I really want to invest). It's a statement about the quality of the book that I would actually want to spend more time visiting the fictional, semi-lucid nightmare town that is Night Vale and hopefully they will opt to write another novel or two so that I don't have to immerse myself in the podcast. As long as I don't have to visit the library to read them, I'll be ok.

It is a beautifully written book that truly encompasses the surreal beauty and weirdness of WTNV. It was great, and I really loved it :D

I am torn between admitting I have read this highly enjoyable book and writing the municipally mandated positive review. If you are the type to read books (which you absolutely should not be), then I highly recommend you read this one. Just please do so in private. Your laughter should only be shared with yourself and the Sheriff's Secret Police (and the faceless old woman who secretly lives in your home). None of the rest of us are allowed to understand why you are laughing. Please stop. Why can't you stop?! No! Nnnnnoooooooo!!!!

It's hard to separate this book off from the podcast, so let me open with this: with the podcast, you are in a small room looking at a big insane world through a keyhole. With the book, you're witnessing lots of parts of that big insane world, but you never really get to see in through the keyholes. The characters we meet are exceptionally deep and robust people whose backstories and demographics are simultaneously important to who they are and irrelevant to what they're doing, which feels important to me as far as literature goes. This does come at the price that we only really get familiar with a few characters, and the rest are like props who are only there because the podcast dictates as much. This may not bother most people by virtue of the podcast filling these gaps in to create a well rounded community. Some people not familiar with the show or not engaged with the show may be turned off of this book in spite of its generally different flavor. While I found the pace to be sluggish, this had the benefit of allowing more time for wordplay, character growth, and examination of the town's quirks. This is an even trade-off, though again the crawl might bother some people. If you're a fan of the show or looking for something that doesn't give you all the answers, or even if you just want to see a new way of writing and handling people who aren't easy stereotypes, this is a worthy addition to your collection.

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