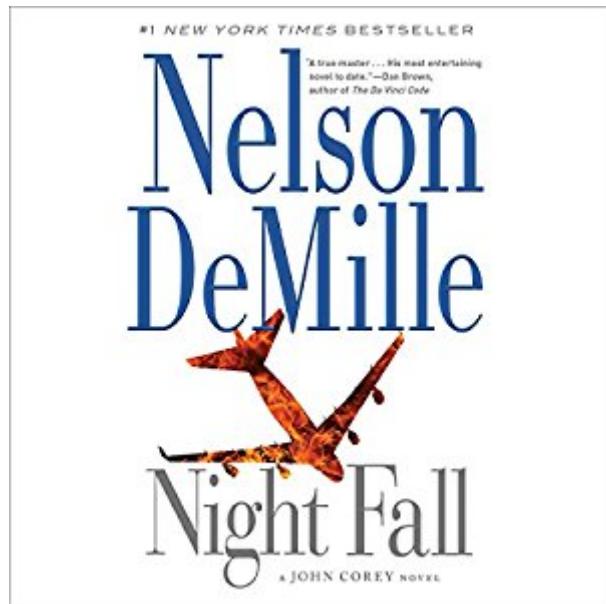


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Night Fall



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestselling Author< p>On a Long Island beach at dusk, Bob Mitchell and Janet Whitney conduct their illicit love affair in front of a video camera, set to record each steamy moment. Suddenly a terrible explosion lights up the sky. Grabbing the camera, the couple flees as approaching police cars speed toward the scene. Five years later, the crash of Flight 800 has been attributed to a mechanical malfunction. But for John Corey and Kate Mayfield, both members of the elite Anti-terrorist Task Force, the case is not closed. Suspecting a cover-up at the highest levels and disobeying orders, they set out to find the one piece of evidence that will prove the truth about what really happened to Flight 800 - the videotape that shows a couple making love on the beach and the last moments of the doomed airliner. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nelson DeMille has managed a truly remarkable feat; to write a suspenseful, taut, interesting and engaging novel about the crash into the ocean off Long Island on July 17, 1996 of TWA Flight 800. The book is written in memory of the two hundred and thirty passengers and crew members who perished in that midair explosion; in my opinion he uses the flexibility available to the author of a work of fiction to discuss the alternate theories of the crash and perhaps come closer to the truth than any other discussions that I have read. The supposedly fictional device which Demille uses to allow him to develop a believable storyline is that a couple engaged in adultery were videotaping themselves on a deserted beach near the site of the crash and caught the flash of light streaking

towards the plane from the ocean surface that was seen by so many eyewitnesses but discounted by various alternative explanations in the official version of what caused the accident. Of course, the couple immediately flees the scene and as Chapter One ends they are entering their motel room and arguing about whether they should erase the tape or turn it over to the authorities given the huge personal price each of them would undoubtedly pay if their affair was made public in such a sensational fashion. (The X-rated scenes were very explicit and quite lengthy.) The story resumes five years later. The investigation has been concluded with an explanation (the explosion of volatile fuel vapors in the nearly empty middle fuel tank) that failed to satisfy not only the usual conspiracy theorists and but the many individuals such as myself who simply remained confused about several elements of the official version of the causes of the crash.

On July 17, 1996, Trans World Airlines Flight 800 departed New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to Paris, France, carrying 212 passengers and 18 crew members. It departed JFK at about 8:16 p.m. eastern time and was climbing through 13,760 feet when, 14 minutes into the flight it exploded and fell into the Atlantic Ocean approximately 9 miles off Long Island. All 230 people onboard were killed. This is fact. Nelson DeMille's novel "Night Fall" is based on factual evidence. The author explores the controversy surrounding the cause of the disaster which the US government still officially attributes to a spark in Flight 800's center fuel tank. The FBI interviewed 154 "credible" witnesses - including scientists, schoolteachers, Army personnel and business executives - who described seeing a missile heading through the sky just before TWA 800 exploded. They reported a "streak of light" hitting the plane just before it blew up." Their testimony was disregarded. Today, more than eight years after the event, questions are still being raised about the accuracy of the findings - about a possible cover-up. DeMille's research is impressive. He stresses that the novel draws on published accounts, plus interviews with investigators and eyewitnesses to the crash. He says he has "tried to represent all sides of this controversy," but adds that he has taken "dramatic liberties and literary licence when there is conflicting evidence." This is, after all, a work of fiction. It is up to the reader to determine the level of believability. Bud Mitchell and Jill Winslow, an affluent couple in their thirties, are in the middle of an illicit love affair. They're set for a romantic evening at the beach.

Night Fall is the latest political/detective thriller by my favorite author, Nelson DeMille. This novel features Detective John Corey, formerly of the NYPD, again dealing with terrorists and a mystery to solve. I am not going to get into the story for fear of dropping a "spoiler." Suffice to say, the story

deals with the crash of Flight 800 and what might have caused it. The John Corey character was the protagonist in "Plum Island" which I thought was one of the best detective novels I ever read. He continued in "The Lion's Game" which was also excellent. I thought that "Night Fall" moved at a snappier pace than "The Lion's Game" and frankly it really kept me turning the pages. The only reason that I deprived "Night Fall" of that fifth star is that I thought that "Plum Island" was even better. But this is an excellent, superb novel, and comes highly recommended. DeMille, like a number of contemporary authors (Tom Clancy comes to mind) sometimes has a tendency to write a longer novel than necessary to tell a story. I personally thought that his novels "Up Country" and "The Lion's Game" were examples of this. Now, for DeMille lovers (like me) this is no problem because we cannot get enough of DeMille's always-excellent writing, but it may put off newcomers. Both "Plum Island" and now "Night Fall" avoid this issue. These are well-written, fast-paced stories with believable characters, a solid plot, and a storyline that moves quickly and effectively. "Night Fall" will not disappoint, and it is good to see DeMille return to a sparer, leaner form of writing. This is not to say that the novel lacks depth. Not at all. One of DeMille's strengths is that he makes his characters become real, and this is certainly the case in "Night Fall".

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Kalona's Fall: A House of Night Novella (House of Night Novellas) Mary Higgins Clark; The Night Collection (Silent Night & All Through the Night) [Abridged, Audiobook] [Audio CD] Fall Harvests: Bringing in Food (Cloverleaf Books - Fall's Here!) Fall Weather: Cooler Temperatures (Cloverleaf Books - Fall's Here!) Fall Apples: Crisp and Juicy (Cloverleaf Books - Fall's Here!) Fall Pumpkins: Orange and Plump (Cloverleaf Books: Fall's Here!) Fall Leaves: Colorful and Crunchy (Cloverleaf Books - Fall's Here!) Divided We Fall (Divided We Fall Trilogy, Book 1) We Harvest Apples in Fall (21st Century Basic Skills Library: Let's Look at Fall) Night Fall Healthy Sleep: Fall Asleep Easily, Sleep More Deeply, Sleep Through the Night, Wake up Refreshed Every Night's a Saturday Night: The Rock 'n' Roll Life of Legendary Sax Man Bobby Keys Night Night, Little Tiger Night-Night, Little Pookie (Pookie Books) Good Night Dump Truck (Good Night Our World) Nighty Night Construction Trucks (Nighty Night Bedtime Books Series) (Volume 2) Good Night Planes (Good Night Our World) Good Night Trains (Good Night Our World) Good Night Vancouver (Good Night Our World) Good Night Chicago (Good Night Our World)

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