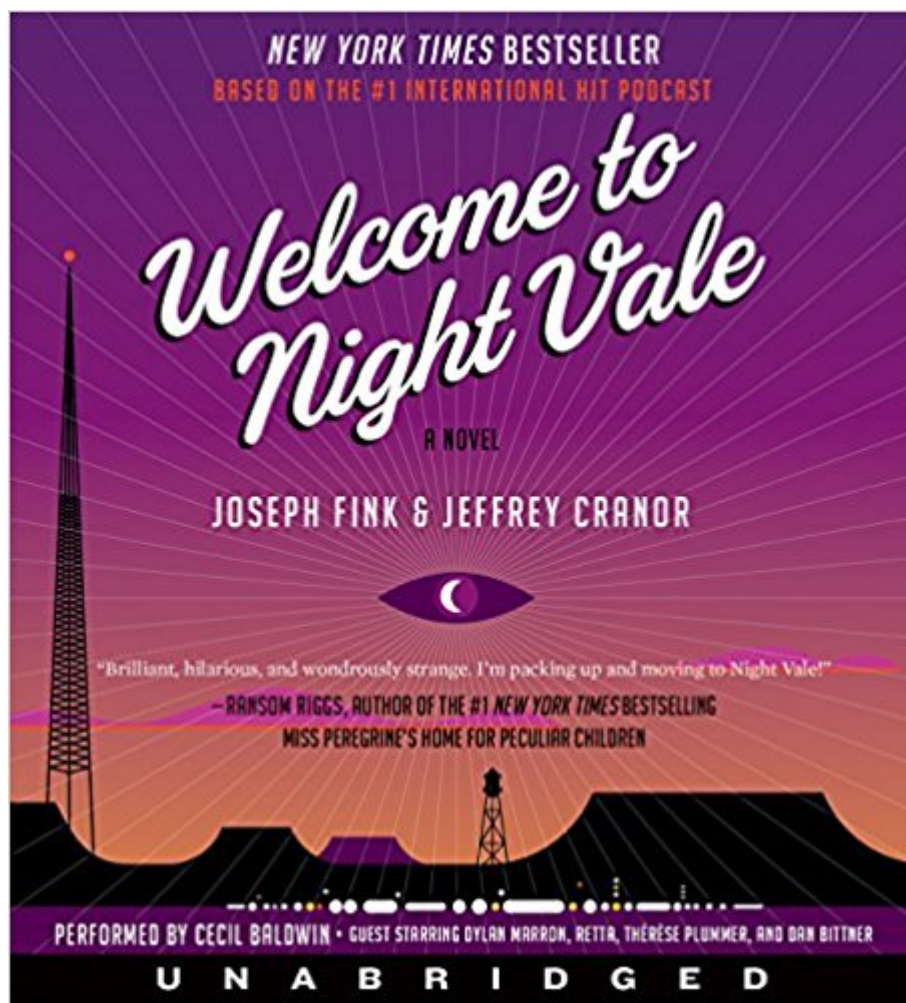


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# Welcome To Night Vale CD: A Novel



## Synopsis

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 deer skin 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

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 574 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

“This is a splendid, weird, moving novel” It manages beautifully that trick of embracing the surreal in order to underscore and emphasize the real - not as allegory, but as affirmation of emotional truths that don’t conform to the neat and tidy boxes in which we’re encouraged to house them. • (NPR.org) “The book is charming and absurd - think “This American Life” meets “Alice in Wonderland.” • (Washington Post) “Longtime listeners and newcomers alike are likely to appreciate the ways in which Night Vale, as Fink puts it, “treats the absurd as normal and treats the normal as absurd.” What they might not foresee is the emotional wallop the novel delivers in its climactic chapters. • (Austin Chronicle) “The hit podcast is absurd and hilarious, and as a book it’s similarly entertaining” • (The Guardian) “Fink and Cranor’s prose hints there’s an empathetic humanity underscoring their well of darkly fantastic situations. . . . the book builds toward a satisfyingly strange exploration of the strange town’s intersection with an unsuspecting real world.” • (Los Angeles Times) “Welcome to Night Vale lives up to the podcast hype in every way. It is a singularly inventive visit to an otherworldly town that’s the stuff of nightmares and daydreams.” • (BookPage) “As a companion piece, “Welcome to Night Vale” will be hard to resist. Though the book builds toward a satisfyingly strange exploration of the strange town’s intersection with an unsuspecting real world, its mysteries - like the richest conspiracy theories - don’t exist to be explained. They just provide a welcome escape.” • (Detroit Free Press) “The charms of “Welcome to Night Vale” are nearly impossible to quantify. That applies to the podcast, structured as community radio dispatches from a particularly surreal desert town, as well as this novel, written by the podcast’s co-creators, Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor.” • (Minneapolis Star Tribune) “This is the novel of your dreams. . . . A story of misfit family life that unfolds along the side streets, back alleys and spring-loaded trap doors of the small town home you’ll realize you’ve always missed living in. When it says “welcome,” it’s mandatory. You belong here.” • (Glen David Gold, author of Carter Beats the Devil and Sunnyside) “Welcome To Night Vale brings its eponymous desert town to to vivid life. . . . It is as weird and surreal as I hoped it would be, and a surprisingly existential meditation on the nature of time, reality, and the glow cloud that watches over us.” • (Wil Wheaton) “Take Conan’s Hyborea, teleport it to the American Southwest, dress all the warriors in business casual and hide their swords under the floorboards -- that’s Night Vale: absurd, magical, wholly engrossing, and always harboring some hidden menace.” • (John Darnielle, author of Wolf in White Van) “Brilliant,

hilarious, and wondrously strange. I'm packing up and moving to Night Vale! • (Ransom Riggs, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*) • This small town full of hooded figures, glowing clouds, cryptically terrifying public policies, and flickering realities quickly feels more like home than home. . . . There is nothing like Night Vale, in the best possible way. • (Maureen Johnson, author of *13 Little Blue Envelopes* and *The Name of the Star*) • They've done the unthinkable: merged the high weirdness and intense drama of Night Vale to the pages of a novel that is even weirder, even more intense than the podcast. • (Cory Doctorow, author of *Little Brother* and co-editor of *Boing Boing*) • Emotionally compelling and superbly realized. This seductive, hilarious book unfolds at the moment when certain quiet responsible people find they must risk everything on behalf of love, hope, and understanding. Not a single person who reads this book will be disappointed. • (Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Revolution and Vacation*) • As a fan of *Welcome to Night Vale*, Jeffrey Cranor and Joseph Fink have delighted me with stories that are clever, twisted, beautiful, strange, wonderful, and sweet. This book does all of that and more. I think this might be the best book I've read in years. • (Patrick Rothfuss, author of *The Name of the Wind*) • Co-creators of the popular *Welcome to Night Vale* podcast, successfully expand the mythology of their strange desert town. Fans will find it refreshing to see Night Vale from different perspectives . . . but knowledge of the podcast isn't required to follow the story. • (Publishers Weekly) • All hail the glow cloud as the weird and wonderful town of Night Vale brings itself to fine literature. . . . A fantastic addition with a stand-alone tale of the mysterious desert town that also offers loyal listeners some interesting clues about the nature of the place. • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) • In their novelistic adaptation of the eerie yet comic landscape of Night Vale, Fink and Cranor have managed to create an excellent stand-alone book perfect for newcomers while also including plenty of winks to longtime fans! • (Shelf Awareness) • As enjoyable and eerie as the podcast • (Paste Magazine) • A marvelous book.... Like the podcast, the novel is full of people we love and root for, full of frightening things, and full of dramatic tension that pays off beautifully with resolutions worthy of any great tale of traditional conflict. • (boingboing.com) • A wonderfully creepy tale filled with revelations about the nature of the town and its residents. • (AV Club) • *Welcome to Night Vale: A Novel* masterfully brings the darkly hilarious, touching and creepy world of the podcast into the realm of ink and paper. • (Asbury Park Press) • Fast moving and sturdily written! an excellent introduction to a town everyone should get the chance to explore. • (Daily Californian) • This is the kind of book that'll make you say ALL HAIL THE GLOW CLOUD. Whether you're a fan of the strange and upsetting *Welcome to Night Vale* podcast or you're new to Night Vale and its quaint desert

conspiracies, itâ€™s never a bad time to visit Night Vale. â•(Bustle)âœWelcome to Night Vale: A Novel is easily enjoyed on its own terms - even for those who are new to the town of Night Vale - largely because the storytelling shines so brightly on the level of its individual parts.â•(Vox) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for Welcome to Night ValeâœThis is the novel of your dreams. . . . A friendly (but terrifying) and comic (but dark) and glittering (but bleak) story of misfit family life that unfolds along the side streets, back alleys, and spring-loaded trapdoors of the small town home youâ€™ll realize youâ€™ve always missed living in.â•â”Glen David Gold, author of Carter Beats the Devil and SunnysideâœThose of us who have gotten to know Night Vale through Cecil Palmerâ€™s biweekly radio broadcasts can finally see what itâ€™s like to actually live there. It is as weird and surreal as I hoped it would be, and a surprisingly existential meditation on the nature of time, reality, and the Glow Cloud that watches over us.â•â”Wil WheatonâœTake Conanâ€™s Hyboria, teleport it to the American Southwest, dress all the warriors in business casual and hide their swords under the floorboards â” thatâ€™s Night Vale: absurd, magical, wholly engrossing, and always harboring some hidden menace.â•â”John Darnielle, author of Wolf in White VanâœIâ€™ve been a fan of Welcome to Night Vale for years, and in that time writers Jeffrey Cranor and Joseph Fink have delighted me with stories that are clever, twisted, beautiful, strange, wonderful, and sweet. This book does all of that and so much more. Itâ€™s even better than Iâ€™d hoped. I think this might be the best book Iâ€™ve read in years.â•â”Patrick Rothfuss, author of The Name of the WindâœThis small town full of hooded figures, glowing clouds, cryptically terrifying public policies, and flickering realities quickly feels more like home than home. . . . There is nothing like Night Vale, in the best possible way.â•â”Maureen Johnson, author of 13 Little Blue Envelopes and The Name of the StarâœTheyâ€™ve done the unthinkable: merged the high weirdness and intense drama of Night Vale to the pages of a novel that is even weirder, even more intense than the podcast.â•â”Cory Doctorow, author of Little Brother and coeditor of Boing Boing --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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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