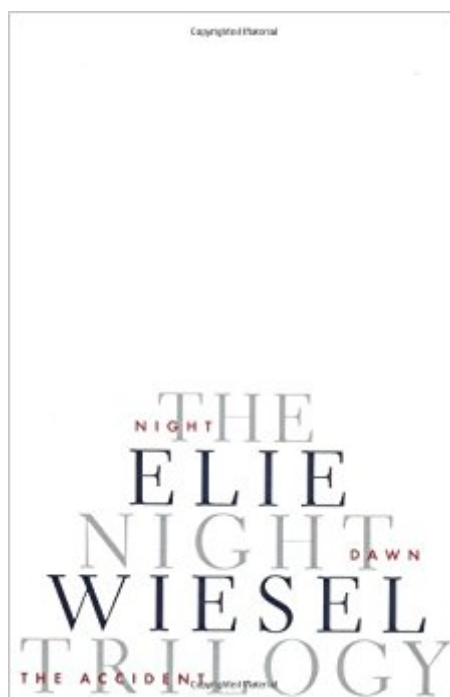


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# The Night Trilogy: Night, Dawn, The Accident



## Synopsis

Night is one of the masterpieces of Holocaust literature. First published in 1960, it is the autobiographical account of an adolescent boy and his father in Auschwitz. Wiesel writes of their battle for survival, and of his battle with God for a way to understand the wanton cruelty he witnesses each day. In the short novel Dawn (1961), a young man who has survived the Second World War and settled in Palestine is apprenticed to a Jewish terrorist gang. Command to execute a British officer who has been taken hostage, the former victim becomes an executioner. In The Accident, (1962), Wiesel again turns to fiction to question the limits of the spirit and the self: Can Holocaust survivors forge a new life without the memories of the old? As the author writes in his introduction, "In Night it is the 'I' who speaks; in the other two [narratives], it is the 'I' who listens and questions." Wiesel's trilogy offers meditations on mankind's attraction to violence and on temptation of self-destruction. A Hill & Wang Teacher's Guide is available for this title.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (49 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This collection consists of a biography and two novels by Elie Wiesel, who survived the horror of the concentration camps in World War II. Dawn: Dawn is perhaps the most thought-provoking and reflective of all of Elie Wiesel's novels. It is a beautifully written but disturbing novel about an Israeli terrorist waiting to assassinate a British officer in retaliation for the hanging of an Israeli. This novel inspires a great deal of thought about stopping violence with violence and hate with hate. When the nation of Israel was established after World War II, for the first time in centuries, the Jews were not trying to appease their oppressors, but they were fighting back, and fighting effectively. Reflecting on

the persecution the Jews have suffered, the young assassin Elisha says: "Now our only chance lies in hating you, in learning the necessity of the art of hate." However, Elisha cannot make himself hate his enemy, as much as he desires to. The novel ultimately suggests that hatred is not the answer, that it must be fought, or man will be lost. Wiesel asks the poignant question, "Where is God to be found? In suffering or rebellion? When is a man most truly a man? When he submits or when he refuses?" Night is a powerful, beautifully written autobiography of a concentration camp survivor. Elie Wiesel deals with his loss of faith during the holocaust, and relives the horrors of the concentration camp. Perhaps most importantly, he shows how such a life affected the people in the camps--how it changed many of them into something less than human. The question of injustice is indeed an unsettling one, but Wiesel's loss of faith--and the seeming impossibility (at the end of the book) of his ever regaining it--is deeply saddening.

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