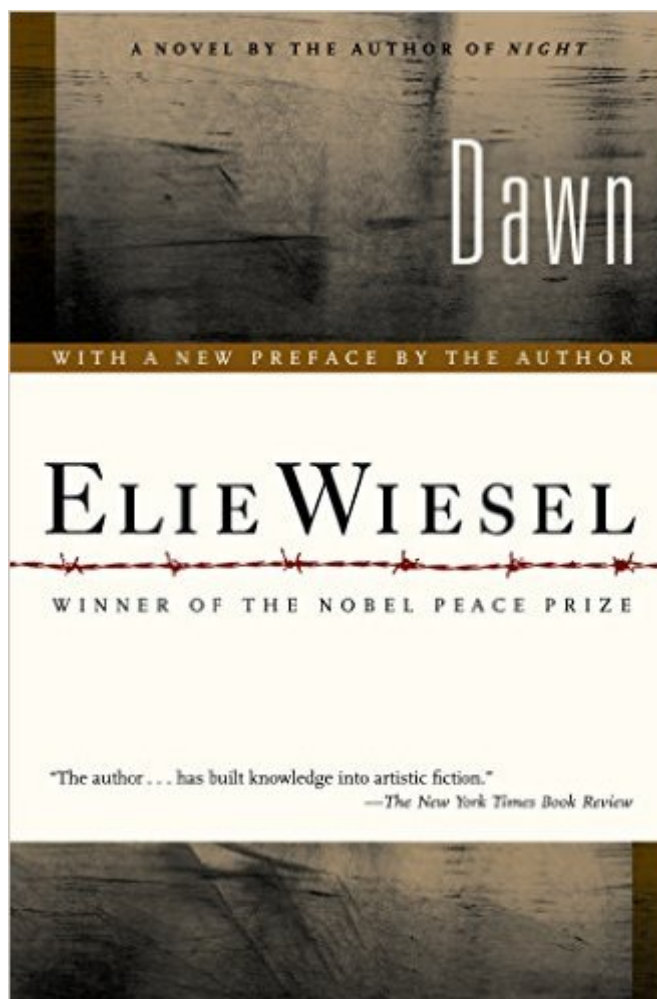


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Dawn



Synopsis

"The author . . . has built knowledge into artistic fiction." —The New York Times Book Review
Elisha is a young Jewish man, a Holocaust survivor, and an Israeli freedom fighter in British-controlled Palestine; John Dawson is the captured English officer he will murder at dawn in retribution for the British execution of a fellow freedom fighter. The night-long wait for morning and death provides Dawn, Elie Wiesel's ever more timely novel, with its harrowingly taut, hour-by-hour narrative. Caught between the manifold horrors of the past and the troubling dilemmas of the present, Elisha wrestles with guilt, ghosts, and ultimately God as he waits for the appointed hour and his act of assassination. Dawn is an eloquent meditation on the compromises, justifications, and sacrifices that human beings make when they murder other human beings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First off, this is not Night 2. I naively expected that when publisher's try to frame them as part of a 'trilogy'. Night is absolutely and without bar one of the most fantastic books I have read in my life. This is not just another chapter of that. And it is not a sequel. It is an incredibly profound, and beautifully written meditation on the journey of many Holocaust survivors -- but not his. This is a work of complete fiction. Many survivors went to Palestine, and fought the British (not the Arabs) to kick them out and thus be able to establish a free Jewish state. It is the story of a fictional Elishah (who has remarkably similar childhood and Holocaust experiences to those of Wiesel) who becomes one of these freedom fighters, and is ordered to execute a British officer in retaliation for their hanging one of the rebels. It is an account of the night that Elishah passes, knowing he has to

become a murderer in the morning, and all of his internal struggles with that. In a particularly powerful lead up to the end, he realizes the power of hatred, how without hatred, terrorist groups like theirs, and indeed any violence against others is almost impossible. He notes how nations are so adept at teaching their people to hate, and even comes to the point of trying to make himself hate this stranger in order to be able to follow his orders. EXTREMELY powerful and evocative. One word of caution -- there is almost no action here. This is a thinking book. If you are not up to the mental effort to think and feel along with him, you will not like it.

Worth reading. My granddaughter had to read this over the summer,, as part of her honors English assignment. Because certain sects of people deny the Holocaust, I think it is important for our young people to read this to understand "first hand" the true story of what happened during that period of time.

I didn't like this book as much as Night. there are at times a little too stream of consciousness and repetitive sections that became distracting. it was still good and an amazing self exploration to witness.

This book would have been better served as short story in an anthology. I thought there was too much padding in order to make this a "short novel". Even as a short novel, "Dawn" barely exceeds 80 pages. To address the content of the story, the main theme is the futility of the cycle of violence and reprisal. The narrator is assigned to execute a hostage in a nationalistic conflict. The story illustrates the narrator's internal moral struggle in carrying out his task. There are some flashbacks to the narrator's youth, which I thought used some mixed metaphors and didn't contribute much to the story. But nevertheless, these are largely interpretive to the reader. Certainly not as good as Night, and probably some of Wiesel's other works. But someone interested in reading more Wiesel might find some value in this book.

The book Night was such a very good book, the book Dawn not so much. If you put yourself as a terrorist perhaps it would be easier to understand how you could kill someone so easy. I don't know how you could talk to someone just to see what kind of person he was and one hour later just as easy kill him and feel nothing. During the war between the enemy you had no time to think you just reacted or you would have been killed yourself, this was not the case.

Lots of emotion in this, and deep ideas of life, death, purpose....liked the way stories of others in his past were incorporated to reflect what was currently happening in Elisha's world...interpretations from what has gone by to what was to happen. Looking forward to reading "Day".

Dawn is a great novel; although the author insists it is a fictional work, the book reveals an astonishing vision of the human's nature post the holocaust era. Like the Rev. Martin L. King stated: "Undeserved human suffering is redemptive", but human suffering can also evokes violence, and a merciless soul.

It was a riveting novel but unlike book 1 it was a work of fiction. Thought provoking and in some ways disturbing in its treatment of a subject which would not be out of context in our modern world. Read it.

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