

# Libra: Contemporary American Fiction by Don DeLillo

Don DeLillo's 1988 novel *Libra* is a masterpiece of contemporary American fiction. The novel explores the assassination of President John F. Kennedy through the eyes of Lee Harvey Oswald, and it offers a unique perspective on one of the most iconic events in American history.



## Libra (Contemporary American Fiction) by Don DeLillo

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3333 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 468 pages



*Libra* is a blend of fact and fiction, and DeLillo masterfully weaves together historical events with imagined scenarios to create a compelling and thought-provoking narrative. The novel is a meditation on the nature of conspiracy, the role of the individual in history, and the search for meaning in a complex and often violent world.

## Plot Summary

*Libra* follows Lee Harvey Oswald from his childhood in New Orleans to his death in Dallas. The novel explores Oswald's troubled upbringing, his

involvement in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and his eventual decision to assassinate President Kennedy.

DeLillo's portrayal of Oswald is complex and nuanced. He does not shy away from Oswald's flaws, but he also shows compassion for a man who was deeply troubled and ultimately lost. The novel offers a chilling glimpse into the mind of an assassin, and it raises important questions about the nature of evil.

## Characters

In addition to Oswald, *Libra* features a cast of memorable characters, including:

- **George de Mohrenschildt:** A Romanian émigré who becomes Oswald's mentor and friend.
- **Marina Oswald:** Oswald's Russian wife.
- **Jack Ruby:** The nightclub owner who killed Oswald.
- **J. Edgar Hoover:** The director of the FBI.
- **Lyndon B. Johnson:** The president who succeeded Kennedy.

## Themes

*Libra* explores a number of complex themes, including:

- **Conspiracy:** The novel raises questions about the role of conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. DeLillo suggests that there may have been a conspiracy, but he also shows how easy it is to create and believe conspiracy theories.

- **The role of the individual in history:** Oswald is a complex and troubled character, but he is also a product of his time and place. The novel explores how individuals can be shaped by their circumstances, and how they can make choices that have far-reaching consequences.
- **The search for meaning in a violent world:** The assassination of President Kennedy was a traumatic event for the American people. The novel explores how people can cope with violence and loss, and how they can find meaning in a world that often seems chaotic and unjust.

## Style

*Libra* is written in DeLillo's signature style, which is characterized by its冷静 (*reikan*) and precision. The novel is full of long, flowing sentences that are often punctuated by short, staccato bursts of dialogue. DeLillo's prose is both beautiful and haunting, and it perfectly captures the paranoia and uncertainty of the early 1960s.

*Libra* is a masterpiece of contemporary American fiction. It is a complex and challenging novel that explores some of the most important issues of our time. DeLillo's writing is both beautiful and haunting, and it will stay with you long after you finish reading the book.

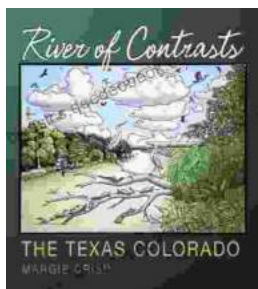


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