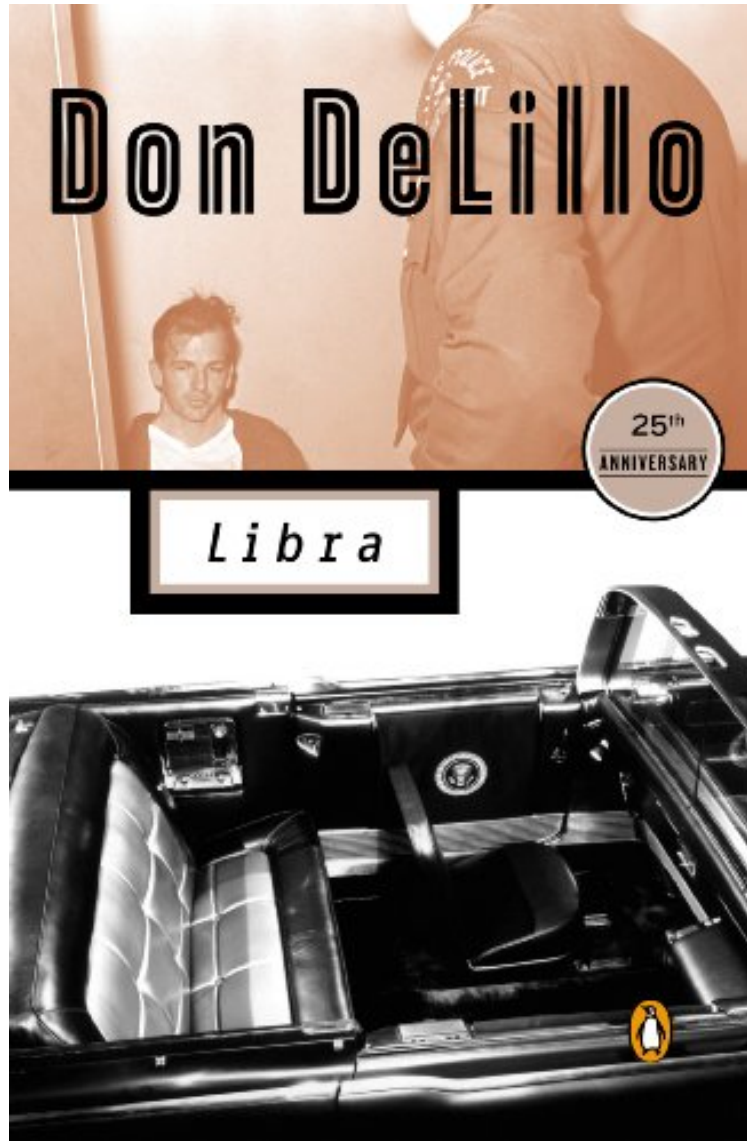



[Free read ebook] *Libra* (Contemporary American Fiction)

## **Libra (Contemporary American Fiction)**

*Von Don DeLillo*

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**Von Don DeLillo : Libra (Contemporary American Fiction)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Libra* (Contemporary American Fiction):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein amerikansiches Trauma!Von Michael DienstbierKein anderer Autor hat in seiner Karriere so mitreierend und berzeugend die Seele Amerikas undd das Wesen seiner Einwohner seziert wie Don DeLillo. Bereits sein Debutroman "Americana" (1971) war im Grunde nichts anderes als eine Analyse der Krfte und Strukturen, die dieses Land

konstituieren und zusammenhalten. Und sein neuester Roman "Falling Man" (2007) setzt dem Trauma von 9/11 ein literarisches Denkmal. Bis zum September 2001 war die Ermordung John F. Kennedys am 22. November 1963 in Dallas die groe Narbe auf Amerikas Seele. Und auch damit hat sich DeLillo 1988 in seinem Roman "Libra" auseinandergesetzt. "Libra" ist so etwas wie eine fiktionale Rekonstruktion der Ereignisse, die zur Ermordung Kennedys sowie zur Ermordung Lee Oswalds nur zwei Tage später führten. Im Zentrum des Romans steht das außergewöhnliche Leben des (möglichen) Todesschützen Lee Oswalds, der als neunzehnjähriger ausberzeugung in die UdSSR ging, zwei Jahre später mit Frau und Kind in die USA zurückkehrte und in einer bis heute nicht geklärten Art und Weise in einer Mischung aus Antrieb, Zufall und diversen Verschwörungen am 22. November 1963 auf Kennedy anlegte. Die anderen Figuren des Romans sind Walter Everett jr., Laurence Parmenter, Guy Banister und David Ferrie, alles historische Persönlichkeiten, die mehr oder weniger mit dem amerikanischen Geheimdienst zu tun hatten und Kennedy tot sehen wollten, da er eine zu lasche Politik gegenüber Kuba und Castro betrieben habe. Und da trüfe es sich doch vortrefflich, wenn man als Attentäter einen Marxisten präsentieren könne, der zuvor zwei Jahre lang in Russland gelebt hat. Und dann ist da noch Nicholas Branch, der im Jahre 1988 versucht, anhand zahlreicher Dokumente den wahren Verlauf der Ermordung Kennedys zu rekonstruieren. Doch Branch ist so wie der Leser (und DeLillo) zum Scheitern verurteilt. War es eine Verschwörung? War Oswald doch nur der "lone gunman"? Gab es mehrere Schützen? DeLillo präsentiert seine Version der Ereignisse und lässt doch vieles offen, indem er impliziert, dass selbst die Beteiligten schließlich keine Kontrolle mehr gehabt hätten. Damit kommt er dann Tatsachen des 22.11. vielleicht näher als so manch historischer Bericht. In einer zentralen Textstelle sinniert David Ferrie über die Essenz seines Plans, den Präsidenten zu ermorden: "Think of two parallel lines. [...] One is the life of Lee H. Oswald. One is the conspiracy to kill the President. What bridges the space between them? What makes a connection inevitable? There is a third line. It comes out of dreams, visions, intuitions, prayers, out of the deepest level of the self. It's not generated by cause and effect like the other two lines. It's a line that cuts across time. It has no history that we can recognize or understand. But it forces a connection. It puts a man on the path of his destiny" (339). Es mag sie gegeben haben, die Verschwörung gegen Kennedy. Oswald mag in der berzeugung gehandelt haben, ein selbstndig handelnder Attentäter zu sein. Doch gab es da diese "dritte Linie", die mit den Mastben Ursache und Wirkung nicht zu erfassen ist und die die Ermordung Kennedys und Oswald bis heute mit einer Aura des Mythischen und Unerklärbaren umgibt. Fazit: Brillante und faszinierende Mischung aus Fakt und Fiktion, die versucht, einem amerikanischen Trauma auf die Spur zu kommen. Die eventuelle Wahrheit mag kaum befriedigen. Auch wenn es verschiedene Verschwörungen gegeben haben mag, war es schließlich doch nur der außer Kontrolle geratene Verlauf der Dinge, der zur Ermordung Kennedys führte.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Subtle criticism Von F. BschDon DeLillo's "Libra" does not center on the JFK assassination itself but rather on its prehistory and aftermath. Libra is a masterpiece of criticism. DeLillo criticizes hierarchies and power relations that are getting out of hands as does the original plan, i.e. the conspiracy, of Win Everett, eventually developing a self-dynamic which kills President Kennedy. The JFK assassination is not the only significant historical happening in Libra. Besides depicting Cold-War History, DeLillo demonstrates how historical events (the Bay of Pigs Invasion) can leap into the present, bearing negative, even lethal, consequences: President Kennedy is finally killed by an ex-Cuban who was with Castro in the movement of the 26th of July, being a member of "the starved army of beards". Additional to this rather unpronounced critique of past events (and the failure of dealing with them in an adequate way), there is a critique of manipulation on various levels. First, there are the conspirators who are constructing the future assassin of JFK, "putting together a man with scissors and tape". Then, there is the omnipresent world of the media that more and more invades our private life, to an extent where we can no longer differentiate between what is real and what is not. This feeling of insecurity is even reinforced by the proliferation of systems and societies' fragmentation and brutality that Lee Harvey Oswald is a victim of. The character of Lee Harvey Oswald seems to stand for any individual who does not find its place within society, being pushed from one side to the other, manipulated and abused, acquiring "foolish different characters" that can not prevent the ultimate failure. DeLillo leaves the reader with more questions than she/he had before: with questions about identity, reality and positionality. Who am I, what is my perception of the world, and what is ultimately true? A very inspiring book.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Constructing History Von Andrea Grischi DeLillo's Libra is a fascinating read, not only because its topic is one of America's most traumatizing events in recent history--not the assassination of president Kennedy is the point of interest in the book--but the question: What made this event so terrifying, why had it such an impact? In answering this question DeLillo leaves out the obvious reasons: JFK's popularity and people's hopes connected with his politics. Instead, he puts the focus on a more profound problem: With the assassination of JFK the American people were woken up from their dream of security and regularity. A conclusive explanation of the how and why of the event could have put them back to sleep. Such an explanation is not available though. It is just not the way history works, and DeLillo skillfully shows exactly that in his book. He depicts a conspiracy that gets out of hand and Oswald as a manipulated and constructed individual. Presenting his version of the events, DeLillo at the same time questions its validity. Reading his novel we become aware of the impossibility of drawing the right conclusions of the mass of hard facts and vague hints--the infinite possibilities of what can be held for the truth. Therefore, any historical account can only be a possible version

of the real. In so far, DeLillo's *Libra* places itself somewhere between fiction and history. *Libra* is a novel that deserves every attention.

Kurzbeschreibung From the author of *White Noise* (winner of the National Book Award) and *Zero K* In this powerful, eerily convincing fictional speculation on the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Don DeLillo chronicles Lee Harvey Oswald's odyssey from troubled teenager to a man of precarious stability who imagines himself an agent of history. When "history" presents itself in the form of two disgruntled CIA operatives who decide that an unsuccessful attempt on the life of the president will galvanize the nation against communism, the scales are irrevocably tipped. A gripping, masterful blend of fact and fiction, alive with meticulously portrayed characters both real and created, *Libra* is a grave, haunting, and brilliant examination of an event that has become an indelible part of the American psyche. From the Trade Paperback edition. Pressestimmen An unparalleled trip into the heart of America (Observer) Wonderful (Guardian) Even with all the swirling contradictory data, this you feel is America, and the news starts here (Sunday Times) Monumental, DeLillo at his chilling best. Concentrates on the inner life of the people who shaped the Kennedy assassination. He constructs the very human faces behind a monstrous event, creating fiction which trespasses on reality (Time Out) An audacious blend of fiction and fact (The Times) Kurzbeschreibung From the author of *White Noise* (winner of the National Book Award) and *Zero K* In this powerful, eerily convincing fictional speculation on the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Don DeLillo chronicles Lee Harvey Oswald's odyssey from troubled teenager to a man of precarious stability who imagines himself an agent of history. When "history" presents itself in the form of two disgruntled CIA operatives who decide that an unsuccessful attempt on the life of the president will galvanize the nation against communism, the scales are irrevocably tipped. A gripping, masterful blend of fact and fiction, alive with meticulously portrayed characters both real and created, *Libra* is a grave, haunting, and brilliant examination of an event that has become an indelible part of the American psyche. From the Trade Paperback edition.