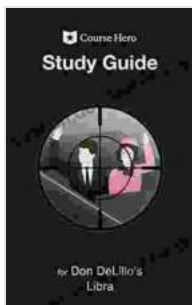


A Comprehensive Study Guide for Don DeLillo's *Libra*

Don DeLillo's *Libra* is a postmodern masterpiece that explores the assassination of John F. Kennedy from a labyrinthine perspective. This study guide provides an in-depth analysis of the novel, delving into its historical context, character development, thematic underpinnings, and literary techniques to unravel its complexities.



Study Guide for Don DeLillo's *Libra* by Course Hero

★★★★★ 5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 1166 KB
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 28 pages
Lending : Enabled
Hardcover : 48 pages
Reading age : 2 - 4 years
Grade level : Preschool and up
Item Weight : 1.74 pounds



Historical Context

Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, *Libra* is meticulously researched and accurately depicts the political and social climate of the 1960s. The novel examines the rise of conspiracy theories, the role of the CIA in covert operations, and the paranoia that gripped American society. Understanding this historical context is essential for comprehending the novel's themes and motivations.

Character Analysis

Libra features a diverse cast of characters, each representing a facet of the multifaceted narrative.

- **Lee Harvey Oswald:** The enigmatic central figure, Oswald is portrayed as a complex and tragic individual. His motivations and mental state remain ambiguous, reflecting the uncertainty surrounding the assassination.
- **Nicholas Branch:** A CIA agent tasked with eliminating Oswald, Branch is a shadowy figure haunted by his mission's repercussions.
- **Win Everett:** A young lawyer caught up in the investigation, Everett grapples with the moral and political implications of the assassination.
- **Paul Murad:** A mysterious figure who may or may not be connected to the assassination, Murad embodies the novel's enigmatic and elusive nature.

Themes

Libra explores a wide range of themes, including:

- **Conspiracy and Paranoia:** The novel delves into the pervasive conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination, questioning the limits of truth and knowledge.
- **Historical Responsibility:** Libra examines the role of individuals in shaping history, and the consequences of their actions, both intended and unintended.
- **Power and Control:** The novel exposes the hidden mechanisms of power, particularly the role of the CIA in manipulating events.

- **Language and Meaning:** DeLillo plays with language, questioning its ability to convey truth and creating a sense of uncertainty and ambiguity.

Literary Devices

DeLillo employs a range of literary devices to enhance the novel's impact:

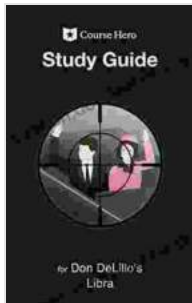
- **Symbolism:** Objects and events carry symbolic meanings, such as the "libra" (scales) that represent the balance between truth and falsehood.
- **Fragmentation:** The narrative is intentionally fragmented, reflecting the fragmented nature of the assassination and the uncertainty surrounding it.
- **Intertextuality:** *Libra* draws upon historical documents and literary works, creating a dialogue between fiction and reality.
- **Stream of Consciousness:** DeLillo employs stream-of-consciousness techniques to delve into the innermost thoughts and emotions of the characters.

Don DeLillo's *Libra* is a challenging yet rewarding novel that demands multiple readings and interpretations. This study guide provides a framework for understanding its historical, thematic, and literary complexities, guiding readers through its labyrinthine narrative. By engaging with this guide, readers can deepen their appreciation of *Libra* and its enduring relevance in the literary and historical landscape.

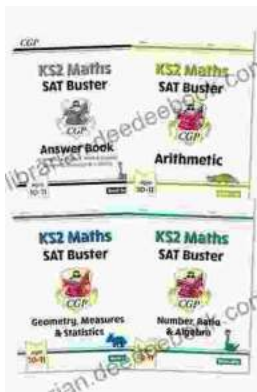
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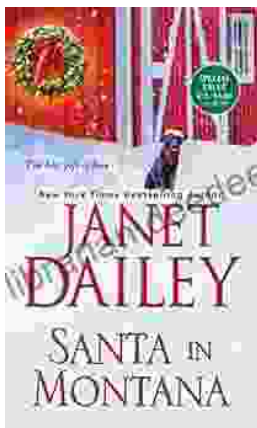


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