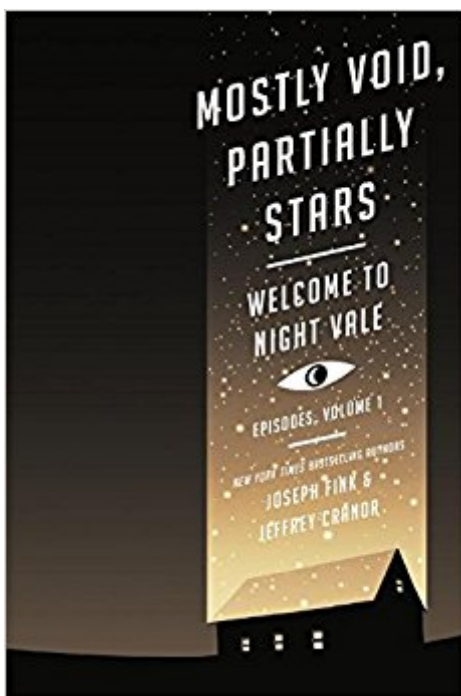


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Mostly Void, Partially Stars: Welcome To Night Vale Episodes, Volume 1



Synopsis

From the authors of the New York Times bestselling novel *Welcome to Night Vale* and the creators of the #1 international podcast of the same name, comes a collection of episodes from Season One of their hit podcast, featuring an introduction by the authors, behind-the-scenes commentary, and original illustrations. In June of 2012, the creators of *Welcome to Night Vale* began airing twice-weekly podcasts. By the anniversary show a year later, the fanbase had exploded, vaulting the podcast into the #1 spot on iTunes. Since then, its popularity has grown by epic proportions, hitting more than 100 million downloads, and *Night Vale* has expanded to a successful live multi-cast international touring stage show and a New York Times bestselling novel. Now the first two seasons are available as books, offering an entertaining reading experience and a valuable reference guide to past episodes. *Mostly Void, Partially Stars* introduces us to *Night Vale*, a town in the American Southwest where every conspiracy theory is true, and to the strange but friendly people who live there. *Mostly Void, Partially Stars* features an introduction by creator and co-writer Joseph Fink, behind-the-scenes commentary and guest introductions by performers from the podcast and notable fans, including Cecil Baldwin (Cecil), Dylan Marron (Carlos), and Kevin R. Free (Kevin) among others. Also included is the full script from the first *Welcome to Night Vale* live show, *Condos*. Beautiful illustrations by series artist Jessica Hayworth accompany each episode. *Mostly Void, Partially Stars* is an absolute must-have whether you're a fan of the podcast or discovering for the first time the wonderful world of *Night Vale*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Night Vale’s charm comes from the matter-of-factness with which it occupies the intersection between small-town slice-of-life and deep weirdness. (Wired) “Like A Prairie Home Companion with LSD in its drinking water, this addictive, deeply weird podcast is for anyone who likes his or her quasi-radio listening with a surrealist tilt. (Los Angeles Times) “Hypnotic and darkly funny, Welcome To Night Vale belongs to a particular strain of American gothic that encompasses The Twilight Zone, Stephen King and Twin Peaks, with a bit of Tremors thrown in. (The Guardian) “Brilliant, hilarious, and wondrously strange. I’m packing up and moving to Night Vale! (Ransom Riggs, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children)

A friendly desert community, where the sun is hot, the moon is beautiful, and the mysterious lights pass overhead while we all pretend to sleep. Welcome to Night Vale. In June 2012, the creators of Welcome to Night Vale began airing twice-monthly podcasts about a fictional town in the American Southwest where ghosts, angels, aliens, and government conspiracies are all commonplace parts of day-to-day life. Mostly Void, Partially Stars contains the first year of episodes from the podcast that would become a worldwide sensation. Offering both an entertaining reading experience as well as a valuable reference guide to past episodes, Mostly Void, Partially Stars features a foreword by Cory Doctorow, an introduction by creator and cowriter Joseph Fink, behind-the-scenes commentary and guest introductions by both authors as well as podcast performers and collaborators including Cecil Baldwin (Cecil), Dylan Marron (Carlos), and Kevin R. Free (Kevin), among others. Also here is the full script from the first Welcome to Night Vale live show, “Condos. Beautiful illustrations by series artist Jessica Hayworth accompany each episode. Mostly Void, Partially Stars is an absolute must-have whether you’re a fan of the podcast or discovering for the first time the wonderful world of Night Vale. Don’t miss The Great Glowing Coils of the Universe, featuring the second year of episodes from the Welcome to Night Vale podcast!

Mostly Void, Partially Stars is a collection of the first year’s worth of scripts (and the script of the first live show Condos) from the podcast Welcome to Night Vale written by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor. In addition to the scripts, Mostly Void, Partially Stars contains introductions to every episode featuring behind the scenes tidbits such as the inspiration for the episode or how it was put together. In Mostly Void, Partially Stars, readers are introduced to the town of Night Vale and Cecil Palmer,

the host of the local community radio station's news show. As the story begins, a new scientist, named Carlos, arrives into town, sparking interest from Cecil. Coinciding with this event is the discovery of a civilization underneath one of the lanes in the bowling alley. As the year goes on, these plot threads will collide in a major way. This review will be in two parts; the first reviewing the book itself, the second reviewing the content of the scripts and the first year of the podcast as a whole. Firstly, the book itself is wonderfully put together. From the moment the forward, written by Cory Doctorow, begins the time and energy put into making sure this book was more than just a collection of scripts is apparent. Doctorow's forward is insightful and funny, as is the introduction that follows (written by Joseph Fink). Throughout the book are illustrations by Jessica Hayworth that accompany each episode. The illustrations are never too revealing; by that I mean she leaves much to the imagination - as is the M.O. of the podcast - while still offering some fun visual insights to the world of the podcast. The introductions, written by Joseph Fink, Jeffrey Cranor, and various members of the cast, are similarly insightful while not being too revealing. They're interesting little peaks behind the curtain, but never do they wander into the realm of explaining too much. It's all vague and filled with the trademark humor of the podcast, but also does give the reader an insight into their process and the inspiration behind the episodes. They strike a good balance between offering a behind the scenes look and withholding some of the mystery the series contains. As for the content of the scripts themselves, the first year (henceforth referred to as the first season) of *Welcome to Night Vale* is simply fantastic. More so in this season than in subsequent seasons, the show really presents itself as a modern day *Twilight Zone* mixed with *The X-Files* and *H.P. Lovecraft*-style monsters. This first season focuses more on world-building and character development than it does on any kind of overarching plot. That's not to say there isn't an overarching plot; there is - the civilization underneath the bowling alley ends up being the main thread that ties the season together - but it's not the main goal of the season. The main goal is to get the audience acquainted with Cecil and the other periphery characters and the town of Night Vale itself. In this, *Mostly Void, Partially Stars* succeeds brilliantly. The whole first season of the podcast is an example of a smart idea executed with intelligence and artistry. It takes a few episodes to really get into the series, but once you're into it, its grip on you never weakens. The brilliance of the show is how it gets you to care about all these characters who are experiencing these outlandish horrors (like a *Glow Cloud* that drops dead animals, or a deadly *Valentine's Day*, or a *Man in a Tan Jacket* that nobody can remember) that we as an audience really can't relate to. Most of us will never face a *Glow Cloud* that can control our thoughts and requests our worship. But the characters themselves are so human, and their reactions to these horrors encapsulate humanity

so well that we are able to empathize with them and relate to them despite our inexperience with their struggles. Another strong part of this first season is how it (inadvertently, at times) lays out plot threads that are still being picked up nearly five years later. So much of what later seasons have focused on were introduced in this first season, oftentimes by a throwaway line. The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives In Your Home becomes a major player in subsequent seasons, as does literal five-headed dragon Hiram McDaniels. The Old Oak Door that John Peters, you know, the farmer, finds becomes important. As does Earl Harlan (scoutmaster for the Night Vale Boy Scouts). Diane Crayton and the Man in the Tan Jacket even get a whole novel written about them down the line. There are so many elements that are introduced in this season that prove to be important later on that it's hard to believe that Fink and Cranor didn't have this planned. But, as they've said before, if they had actually planned this, it would never have worked as well as it did. Night Vale really was a stroke of luck on their part. The right writers came together at the right time with the right actors and the right technology and an audience ready for something different (that is representative of people now - including many LGBT characters, disabled characters, and an array of other diverse characters and situations) and created what is truly a work of art. It's a once-in-a-lifetime perfect storm of coincidence, and Night Vale encapsulates that. So much of life is random happenstance, and in Night Vale that random happenstance can also be deadly. Mostly Void, Partially Stars is everything that makes Night Vale what it is. It's full of creepy, clever, funny, and moving scripts. The illustrations and commentary littered throughout the book are insightful, and it's a collection of intelligently written art that serves as a fantastic companion to the podcast. It's perfect for both new fans and old fans as everyone will be able to get something out of it.

A collection of all of the night vale podcast episodes with additional writing from the creators about the episodes and the stories behind them. Reading through them in a book instead of just listening allowed me to catch so much more. The illustrations are great but kind of sparse. Worth buying for any night vale fan!

If you're a fan of the podcast series and are on the fence about buying this book, do not be. There's something so magical about reading the transcripts, and the forewords by Jeffrey and Joseph are absolutely worth it. I am so SO satisfied with this. The art, the short but revealing introductions from the authors, and seeing many letters arranged into what I assume to be words but cannot be totally sure of since I'm sure that is, in some way, illegal to comprehend. Welcome to Night Vale has kept me inspired all through college, and I credit much of my enthusiasm for experimental fiction to the

series. Please support the writers of this delightfully weird, beautiful series and own a more permanent version of previously impermanent audio waves.

Welcome to Night Vale(WTNV) started out as a podcast, if that wasn't obvious. I learned about it a few years ago and I've listened to it since then. This is a collection of the first year of episodes. I've heard all of them already, but reading them was a nice change. WTNV is an amazing series. It's strange and quirky in a great way. The strange events in Night Vale are just daily life here. It works well, and I think it's absolutely worth it. If you're not sure, try listening to the first few episodes. They might just change your mind!

Great book for any fan of Welcome to Night Vale or anyone looking for something spooky, creepy, and amazing. The insights into the story, creators, and author are fantastic and the illustrations really add context to the words.

Why yes, read along books for adults w/ attention span struggles. Cecil's voice in your mind and paaaaapery wonderful bookie. You don't have to fall asleep EVERY time Fink speaks do you? Of course not, not at all, not, at, all.

If you love Welcome to Nightvale you need this book! It's a totally different experience reading it rather than listening but it is just as amazing! Love the little intros to each chapter to give you some insight/background to how the show gets made!

I don't know what's better- listening or reading the Welcome to Night Vale podcasts. I find myself laughing all the time. It's one thing to hear the podcast, but to read it takes it to new heights.

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