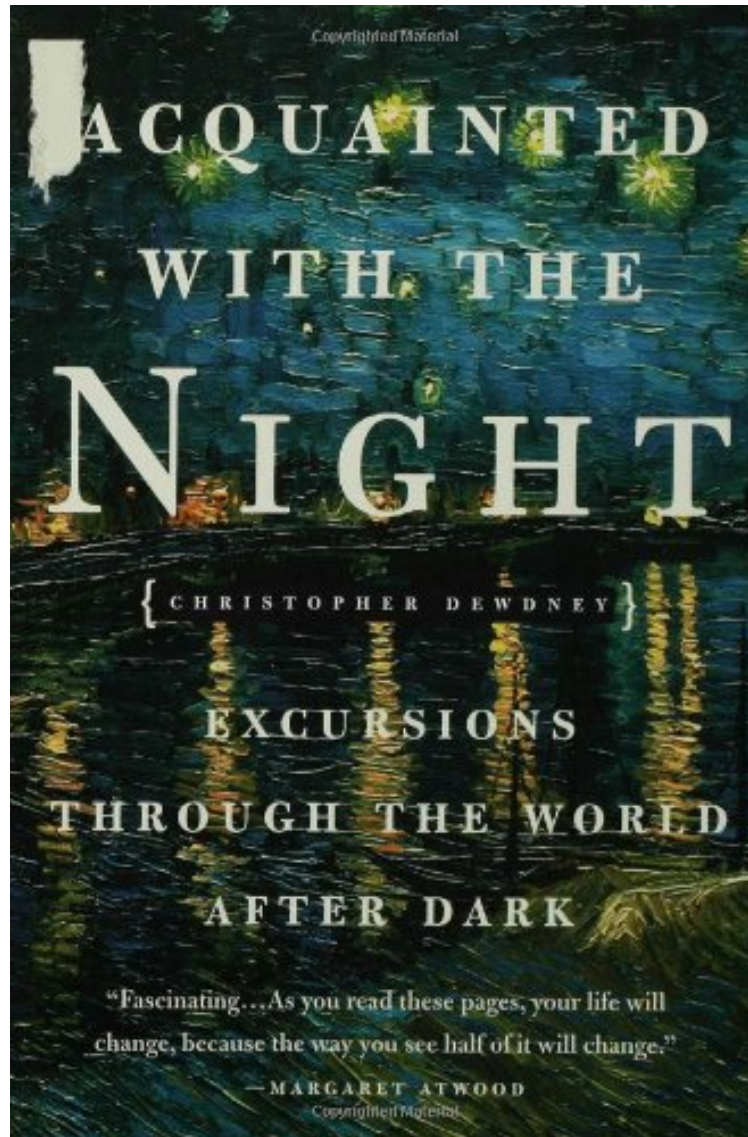


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# Acquainted with the Night: Excursions Through the World After Dark

Christopher Dewdney

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#2503659 in Books Bloomsbury USA 2005-06-04 2005-05-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 209.30 x .85 x 5.381, .65 #File Name: 1582345996288 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Christopher Dewdney : Acquainted with the Night: Excursions Through the World After Dark** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acquainted with the Night: Excursions Through the World After Dark:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must readingBy J from NYDewdney is his own poet, thinker, and

man. This traces the origin of "night" in art, and if it is indeed a more prevalent condition than that of daylight or light. Dewdney spares himself nothing, moving even his physical location to explore what it is like to live in a perpetual nighttime. A little like Colin Wilson without the excess, Dewdney is an original we should never neglect. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. May need to skim some parts but others are gold. By The Copper Scarab This book was a little too poetic at times, I learned how to skim it, but on the whole it was a great. I loved how each chapter corresponded to a different hour of the night and about different facets of our human experience of the night (lore, night life, things that go bump). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written. By Carolyn J. Rose The early part of this book was fascinating - the science and culture of night, the mythology and psychology and physiology. I was fascinated by the stages of night and the stages of sleep but toward the end, during the discussion of paintings that were influenced by night, my interest waned. In spite of that, I'd recommend the book for anyone who has walked by night and wondered.

In twelve chapters corresponding to the twelve hours of night, Christopher Dewdney illuminates night's central themes, including sunsets, nocturnal animals, bedtime stories, festivals of the night, fireworks, astronomy, nightclubs, sleep and dreams, the graveyard shift, the art of darkness, and endless nights. With infectious curiosity, a lyrical, intimate tone, and an eye for nighttime beauties both natural and man-made, he paints a captivating portrait of our hours in darkness.

From Publishers Weekly Noted Canadian writer Dewdney (*The Immaculate Perception*) celebrates the science, religion and art of night in a delightful compendium that charts the nocturnal phases-planetary, human and animal-of life. Dewdney writes confidently about the physics underlying sunset, darkness, lunar phases and the dimensions of night. He explores global culture's nighttime customs and associations found in bedtime stories, festivals, fireworks, sexuality, the gothic imagination, ancient myth and stargazing, among other traditions and practices. He makes several journalistic excursions: studying the work of a pyrotechnical team, accompanying a Toronto constable on night watch and offering himself as a sleep laboratory subject. Through close readings of classic bedtime stories, Dewdney perceptively analyzes childhood's special relation to night, home and security. Yet he also spends time in the adult precincts of nightlife, limning brief histories of cabaret and prostitution before describing the contemporary nightclubbing scene. A fascinating history of street lighting links it to changes in policing methods and attitudes to crime. Night is a tactile realm, Dewdney reminds the reader. Nostalgic for organic purity, he bemoans the lack of true darkness in our overlit modern world. He reports on how light pollution disturbs our circadian rhythms and how sleep deprivation can ruin one's long-term health. Dewdney is careful to thoroughly elucidate the basic neuroscience of the dreaming mind. His summarized history of dream interpretation includes Mesopotamian myth, Vedic lore, Native American and ancient Chinese and Greek theories, as well as Freud and Jung. Tautly written in a highly condensed yet personable voice, this tour of the manifold nocturnal realm is a superbly meticulous feat. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Dewdney's capturing of a zone of knowledge is a public event." ?Books in Canada "A deep thinker with a scrutinizing sense of humor... His writing is like a laser beam; it is clear, brilliant, focused and used as an operational tool." ?The Toronto Star "Christopher Dewdney is a poet, one of the most remarkable working in Canada now." ?Saturday Night "Nothing escapes Dewdney's oddly polymath intelligence." ?The Ottawa Citizen "Dewdney makes me revel in the wonder of life." ?Eye Magazine About the Author Christopher Dewdney is the author of three books of nonfiction-*Last Flesh*, *The Secular Grail*, and *The Immaculate Perception*-as well as eleven books of poetry. A three-time nominee for Governor General's Awards and a first-prize winner of the CBC Literary Competition, Dewdney lives in Toronto, Ontario.