

Night Fever

Ed Brubaker

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A man confronts the dark, hidden sides of his personality in the thrilling graphic novel *Night Fever*.

Jonathan can't sleep. An American who's in Europe for business, he is distracted from his work responsibilities and disturbed by a strange connection between him and one of the authors he represents. He ends up walking the streets after midnight. He follows a masked couple to a party, assumes a different identity to gain entry, and is swept into a surreal chain of events that involves blackouts, lies, and murder.

The book tells a gripping, claustrophobic tale about self-identity and self-awareness. Jonathan experiences a kind of supercharged midlife crisis, in which his actions and their effects are amplified by the people and situations around him. As he explores his repressed, animalistic side, he's presented with choices regarding sex, violence, and revenge. There are underlying, intriguing questions as to what's real, what's not, and how much of Jonathan's behavior can be considered intentional.

The art is striking. Moody and noir, it also makes strong use of colors: one page contrasts yellow with dominant blues, purples, and blacks to illuminate graphic violence, while other pages use lighter tones to indicate Jonathan having a greater measure of control.

Part mysterious crime story, part psychological drama, *Night Fever* is a haunting graphic novel in which a man tests his limits and realizes why they existed in the first place.

PETER DABBENE (May / June 2023)

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