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# The Night Bird



## Synopsis

Homicide detective Frost Easton doesn't like coincidences. When a series of bizarre deaths rock San Francisco - as seemingly random women suffer violent psychotic breaks - Frost looks for a connection that leads him to psychiatrist Francesca Stein. Frankie's controversial therapy helps people erase their most terrifying memories...and all the victims were her patients. As Frost and Frankie carry out their own investigations, the case becomes increasingly personal - and dangerous. Long-submerged secrets surface as someone called the Night Bird taunts the pair with cryptic messages pertaining to the deaths. Soon Frankie is forced to confront strange gaps in her own memory, and Frost faces a killer who knows the detective's worst fears. As the body count rises and the Night Bird circles ever closer, a dedicated cop and a brilliant doctor race to solve the puzzle before a cunning killer claims another victim.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours 5 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: February 1, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01N2YPPT4

Best Sellers Rank: #41 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Police

Procedurals #110 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense #265

in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Psychological Thrillers

## Customer Reviews

Well, that was a surprise. I rarely read suspense thrillers anymore- they all seemed pretty much the same and I am pretty tired of the serial killer trope. And I haven't found a Kindle First book of interest in a while. But after months of reading fantasy & sci fi, a suspense thriller seemed like a good choice for a rainy New Years day. And what a pleasant surprise it turned out to be. "Night Bird" manages to be an original take on classic suspense thrillers. Yes, it has tropes of the beleaguered police officer, red herrings galore and evil killer. But the cop isn't completely broken & flawed, the mystery really is complex, the

underlying themes both unusual and believable- and the suspense unrelenting. Best of all the characters didn't do unbelievably stupid things (or when they did, it was explained.) As a bonus, no graphic sex scenes and no reliance on foul language if that bothers you :) There were a few places where it seemed to go on too long or sentences seemed awkward but not enough to derail the story. Maybe someone who reads a lot of modern suspense thrillers will find this less original than I did. But for me this is a good addition to its genre and one of the best Kindle Firsts I've read.

\*\*\* LANGUAGE \*\*\*The Night Bird is written in plain English, with very little cussing and zero f-bombs. If this were a film, (indeed, it probably will be), it would probably be rated as PG-13. In my opinion, there is nothing in this story to preclude it from being enjoyed by all ages, save, perhaps, for your youngster under ten years of age.

Quick & Dirty Highlights

Unlike many, or most, of the recent Kindle First titles, this is not overly quirky and is not a translation. The author is an established NY Times best-selling writer. This is told in third person POV and, whether or not a series follows, this is good stand-alone fiction. I am fortunate this month to be in Egypt. My new year started ten hours earlier than it did on America's West Coast, just in case your wondering how I got this book read so early in the day. I stated that this is not overly quirky. Well, the detective has a cat that accompanies him while he investigates, and his cat is not afraid of riding in the car. I have a friend in North Dakota whose cat rides at her side in her pickup truck, much like a dogs ride alongside their masters. Still, it does give a certain nuance for cat lovers. There's more of interest about this cat, but I shall permit readers the pleasantry of discovery. In other words, no spoilers here. I like the flow and the way the writer sets the scenes and alternates suspense in and out. In most circumstances, what you expect to happen may not be what does happen. This is why I refer to it as in the spirit of Alfred Hitchcock.

Length: Print, 362 pages; Audible, 10 hours 5 minutes.

Unfortunately, this is not a deep-discounted Whispersync title that makes it easy to switch between reading and listening to a professional narration, but it still is a title I will have loaded onto my iPhone so I can listen to it while commuting.

Target Audience/Genre: Suspense, somewhat like Alfred Hitchcock would do a police procedural.

Q - How was this book obtained? A - Bought on while in Cairo, Egypt, as my Kindle First selection.

Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes.

Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - No.

Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - This is an engrossing page-turner.

Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A - Nothing sticks out insofar as disappointment. The characters feel real,

authentic. Ebb and flow of the story is just right. The one comment that needs to be stated is that certain aspects are just a touch unrealistic. To say more would be a spoiler. I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.

EXCERPT' ...

"My situation is a little odd," he told her.

"I live in a house on Russian Hill."

"Wow," Lucy remarked.

"Nice."

"It's not mine. The house belongs to Shack."

Her head cocked.

"Wait, isn't it Shack's?"

"My cat?"

"You rent from your cat?" she asked.

"Yeah. He's a pretty good landlord."

Lucy folded her arms across her chest. She wore a white sweater. Her brown curls brushed the collar. Her capris showed off the thin taper of her legs.

"You're teasing me."

"Nope."

"Are you going to tell me the story? Because now I'm intrigued."

Frost grinned and shoved his hands in his pockets.

"Yeah, okay. About a year ago, I was called in on a home invasion case. Rich old widow, beautiful house on Russian Hill. She'd been shot dead in her bedroom. The uniforms who responded had a problem because the woman's cat was sitting on her chest, and he wouldn't let anyone near the body. Hissed and batted at them with his claws if they came close. He was protecting her. I grew up with cats, so I figured I'd give it a try. So I just talked to him."

"You talked to the cat?"

"Yeah. I told him..."

'Excerpt taken from Chapter 7 of *The Night Bird* by Brian Freeman.

Bottom Line: I wavered ever so briefly before deciding that this is a five star read. Although, as written, it is too tame for HBO, this story screams out for somebody to use it as the pilot movie to commence a television series. Not so quirky as *Monk*, but it will play well to that audience or to fans of *Rockford Files*. Five stars out of five.

Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

Is it better to remember or to forget? Frankie Stein has devoted her career as a psychiatrist to helping her patients forget the most troubling and traumatic moments of their lives. But when her patients begin dying from apparent psychotic breaks, her whole professional life comes into question. Is her work to blame for their deaths? Or is someone out to get her? And just how does

her own personal trauma play into the puzzle? Racing against time, she and Detective Frost must stop the deaths. But will they be too late? Read this book and find out! If you love suspense, you will not be disappointed! Brian Freeman manages to spin a suspenseful, engaging tale in *The Night Bird*. From the first chapter, I found myself pulled into the story, and I managed to read the entire book in a single sitting (about four hours). Written in third-person, the book delivers well-developed characters that left me as a reader wanting to know what happened to them. There are many twists and turns in the novel, and I found myself quite surprised at the outcome. The author's writing style was clear, concise, and fast to read. This is one of the better Kindle First selections I have read, and I definitely recommend it.

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