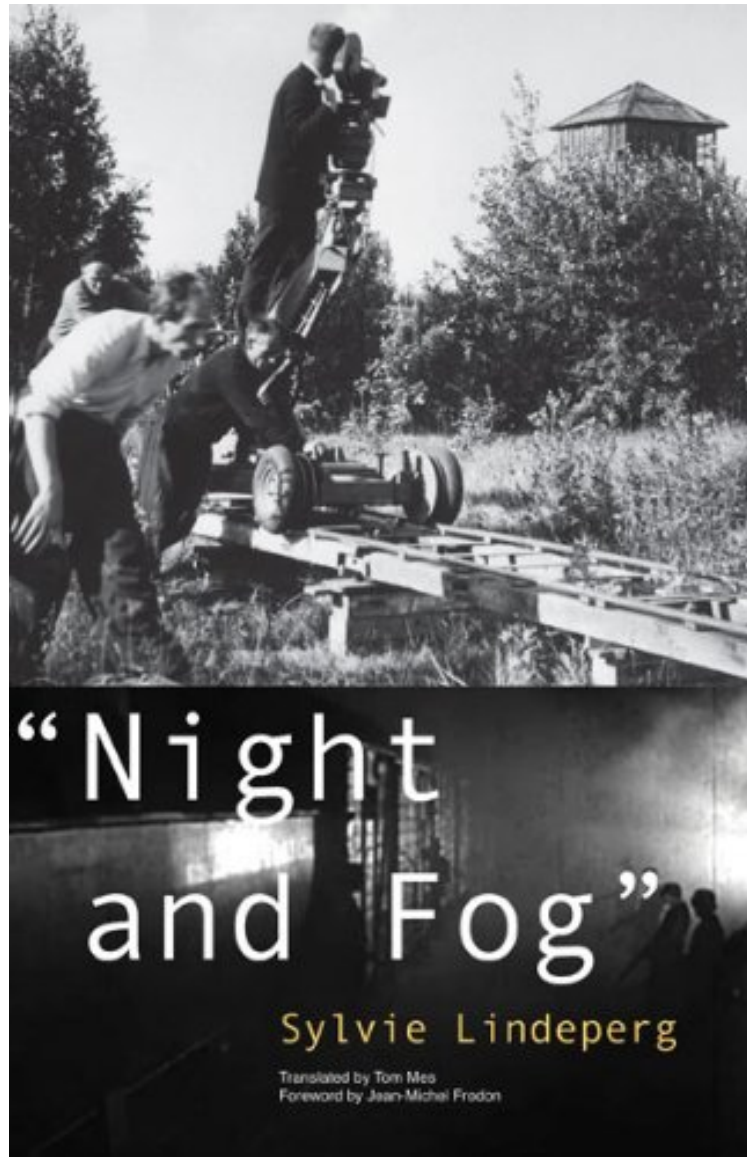


(Download free ebook) "Night and Fog": A Film in History (Visible Evidence)

"Night and Fog": A Film in History (Visible Evidence)

Sylvie Lindeperg

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Sylvie Lindeperg : "Night and Fog": A Film in History (Visible Evidence) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "Night and Fog": A Film in History (Visible Evidence):

François Truffaut called Night and Fog the greatest film ever made. But when Alain Resnais finished his documentary, with its depiction of Nazi atrocities, the resistance of the French censors was fierce. A mere decade had passed since

the end of the war, and the French public was unprepared to confront the horrors shown in the filmlet alone the possibility of French complicity. In fact it would be through *Night and Fog* that many viewers first learned, as film critic Serge Daney put it, that the worst had only just taken place. An engrossing account of the genesis, production, and legacy of Resnais's incomparable film, this book documents in extraordinary detail how a film that began as a cinematic spin-off of an educational exhibition on resistance, liberation, and deportation went on to become a significant step in the building of a collective consciousness of the tragedy of World War II. Sylvie Lindeperg frames her investigation with the story of historian Olga Wormser-Migot, who played an integral role in the research and writing of *Night and Fog* and whose slight error on one point gave purchase to the film's detractors and revisionists and Holocaust deniers. Lindeperg follows the travails of Resnais, Wormser-Migot, and their collaborators in a pan-European search for footage, photographs, and other documentation. She uncovers creative use of liberation footage to stand in for daily life of the camps featured to such shocking effect in the film, finding that raises hotly debated questions about reenactment and witnessing even as it enhances our understanding of the film's provenance and impact. A microhistory of a film that altered the culture it reflected, *Night and Fog* offers a unique interpretation of the interworking of biography, history, politics, and film in one epoch-making cultural moment.

"I do not hesitate to call Sylvie Lindeperg's marvelously detailed study *Night and Fog: A Film in History* a major work of contemporary film historical scholarship. . . . [It] affords genuinely original historical and aesthetic insights . . . in finely wrought prose." Stuart Liebman, *Cineaste* "The ultimate authoritative source on Alain Resnais's groundbreaking Holocaust film *Night and Fog* (*Nuit et brouillard*, 1955). [Lindeperg's] research is remarkable, and the book will be invaluable to those working in European history as well as film. This volume does remarkable service to *Night and Fog*, a film that in the immediate aftermath of the war challenged viewers to remember the victims of the Holocaust." *CHOICE* "Night and Fog gave me a context, a literal frame of art through which I could watch the unwatchable. Sylvie Lindeperg's book does something similar for the film itself, and readers willing to tackle it and the film will find the effort well rewarded." *Documentary Magazine* "The definitive study of *Night and Fog*... Historians should also appreciate it as an excellent example of the type of historical work close attention to film makes possible." *Journal of Modern History* "Sylvie Lindeperg's masterful *Night and Fog: A Film in History* is the definitive work of reference on Resnais's classic documentary. We are fortunate to have an excellent English translation of this important and beautifully written French work." *H-France* s