

# White Noise

by

Don DeLillo

— To Sue Buck and to Lois Wallace

## I. Waves and Radiation

1

station wagons  
station wagons  
shoes stationery books sheets pillows quilts suitcases light heavy clothing boxes of blankets boots  
rucksacks English Western saddles inflated rafts cars rugs sleeping bags bicycles skis  
small refrigerators table ranges cartons of phonograph records stereo radios personal computers  
styling irons tennis rackets soccer balls hockey lacrosse sticks bows arrows controlled subs-  
tances birth control pills devices jurik food shopping bags onion-and-garlic chips nacho  
thins peanut creme patties Waffelos Kabooms fruit chews toffee popcorn Dum Dum pops  
Mystic mints.

mobiles  
suntans  
diet trim  
insurance coverage  
station wagons  
auto-

brass bed  
dead souls babbling

cars  
cars

supermarket

his death on a ski lift in Austria  
boxlike vehicle patrols

2

station wagons

Blue green burgundy brown

the National Enquirer the National Examiner the National Express the Globe the  
World the Star

station wagons  
sweaters hacking jackets hacking jacket plaid skirts cable-knit  
money  
death income level death  
small metallic gray one whole rusted door station wagon  
tricycle kitchen kitchen bedroom  
furniture toys unused objects Things boxes possessions  
sorrowful weight  
school supplies kitchen counter lunch  
cupboards refrigerator utensils  
brightly colored food mustard mayonnaise  
The table

the counter open cartons crumpled tinfoil shiny bags of potato chips bowls of pasty substan-  
ces plastic wrap flip-top rings twist ties individually wrapped slices of orange cheese

lunch yogurt wheat germ

buying  
never eats it

buying eat

kitchen

eats it goes bad

guilty  
in the fridge  
smokes

doesn't buy it  
guilty

guilty buys it  
throws it away

doesn't eat it

guilty

pline wasteful diet dangerous habits  
disci-

not happy hips thighs

tery had just died smoke alarm house was on fire lunch bat-

3

my watch

digital watch

culture movie-mad, trivia-crazed  
shiny pleasures  
bubble gum wrappers detergent jingles

(Fast Food)

prewar soda pop bottles

rumpled clothes need haircuts

dining room gloomy memory ex-sportswriter vaguely defined food little round glasses lunch obscure Amish

beard  
popular culture  
avant-garde  
cities sexual entanglements  
tall buildings  
the cities  
crowds of shoppers  
more heat  
rooming house  
living icons  
music  
the full blast  
sidewalks  
office workers  
The eventual heat death of the universe  
cities  
air traffic  
subways  
poisoned sky  
infrastructure  
large  
medium-sized city  
Heat  
witness  
old crumbling house  
unhappy lives  
movies  
crowded plot of concrete  
dressed almost totally in corduroy  
sturdy fabric  
Cities  
situations sexually cunning people  
Detroit  
semen  
divorce suit  
rustling nylon  
stockings  
small stiff beard  
mustache  
optional component  
wonderful thing  
Hitler  
Elvis  
tourist attraction  
the most photographed barn in America  
ca  
PHED BARN IN AMERICA  
tour bus  
signs  
five signs  
THE MOST PHOTOGRA-  
forty cars a  
viewing

photographing people cameras tripods telephoto lenses filter kits  
a booth sold postcards slides pictures of the barn  
photographers

signs about the barn impossible to see the barn  
People cameras replaced at once by others  
capture an image maintain one Every photograph the aura

energies  
the booth sold postcards slides spiritual  
surrender the others see thousands here in the past those who will come  
collective perception colors our vision religious experience  
all tourism

taking pictures of taking pictures  
of levers incessant clicking of shutter release buttons rustling crank  
the film the barn before it was photographed  
different from other barns similar to other barns  
signs the people snapping the pictures the aura  
the aura