



Pictures of the Night

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In a tale that mirrors "Snow White," eighteen-year-old Bella is leading a carefree bohemian lifestyle the summer before college, living and singing with a band in London and Paris. But over the course of a few weeks, she finds herself in danger more than once--and she can't help but suspect the two mysterious women who remind her of her jealous stepmother, Marjorie.

Pictures of the Night Details

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Author : Adèle Geras , Adèle Geras

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Spazfungus says

Thankfully it was a short book. Worst retelling of snow white I've read. Didn't care for the main character, she seemed very selfish and slightly stoned throughout the book. The wicked stepmother never go what was due and the ending was anticlimactic and hurried. I haven't read the previous two books, perhaps if I did I'd like the characters better

Meagan says

This teen retelling of Snow White is part of the Edgerton Hall series, which I am ever-so-brilliantly reading in reverse order. That'll teach me to be cavalier about my series. Anyway, it goes about the whole fairy tale thing in a pretty smart way, I thought. You can definitely see the fairy tale in the story, but it doesn't feel like it's driving the new story in an artificial way for the most part. Bella's not always super likeable (she's vain and a little bit thoughtless when it comes to other people's feelings), but for me the biggest failing was her relationship with her "wicked stepmother."

This was the portion of the book that most resembled its fairy tale counterpart, and it was also where the author stumbled. Much is made, over and over again, about how evil her stepmother is. We are led to believe, or at least suspect, that the stepmother is trying to kill Bella in all the usual ways (suffocating belt, poisoned comb, apple). But then, right at the end where the stepmother makes her big move, giving Bella unidentified pills and alcohol (which Bella *accepts*, no less), and causing her to nearly die at a nightclub performance....

That's right. Nothing. No other mention. Bella is saved by her prince charming, who she met for a grand total of 60 seconds once and is now following to another country, and that's all. I guess the stepmother's comeuppance is that she was wearing uncomfortable shoes at the time. She's not called out on her possible murder attempt, she's not exposed in any way. The end. It was a weak and rushed ending to what was otherwise a fairly clever retelling, and brought my review from a tentative 4 stars to a solid 3. We'll see what she does with sleeping beauty in book #2. (Reading backwards, remember?)

Emily (Heinlen) Davis says

I just couldn't get into this book. Right from the start, it seemed like the author was trying to hide something from the reader and that annoyed me. Also, it contained too many long descriptions. Not my type of book.

Brittany says

Lovely "Snow White" retelling that sadly ended rather abruptly and oddly. I felt like even two more pages could have wrapped this story up significantly better. I also have to say that the love story aspect of this one was pretty terrible (a very love-at-first-sight, I don't know you at all but love you instantly kind of thing

which drives me a bit batty.) There were a lot of good things too though and overall I really enjoyed it... the dark bohemian aesthetic is my thing for sure and there were several clever moments of fairy tale reworking that I liked a lot.

karenbee says

"Pictures of the Night" was my favorite of the Egerton Hall series, probably because Bella, the heroine, is the most interesting of the three Egerton classmates. Snow White has always been one of my favorite fairy tales, so that might have helped a little, too, since that's the story being retold in this installment.

Believe it or not, there is love at first sight up in here, and it's the most obnoxious lovestruckness in all three books. It's a little understandable, I mean, AT LEAST half the time in fairy tales, the prince/white-knight hero is an unknown entity, but it's still irritating.

All three stories are neatly wrapped up in "Pictures of the Night," so it was a pretty satisfactory finale. Nothing unexpected, very predictable, but not in a bad way. DEFINITELY a series that is written for the age group it's advertised for -- I probably should have read these in fifth or sixth grade, although there is some sexuality in the series as a whole that my parents wouldn't have been down with. It's not explicit, but it is there: these are fairy tales, after all.

The writing is actually pretty good, Geras writes a compelling story and captures the feel of her boarding-school setting very well. Just don't go in expecting mind-blowing, standards-rearranging storytelling, and you'll be okay.

Kricket says

the snow white installment. i enjoyed it but the ending was too rushed.

flajol says

Modern version of a classic fairytale.

Jess says

Throughout the trilogy, Bella was the only character with any substance. But unfortunately, Adèle Geras didn't give her a great story to tell.

As with The Tower Room and Watching the Roses, the plot relies heavily on romance, but is completely *unromantic*. No one (or at least I don't) likes instalove. The writing itself was also rushed or else convoluted with no in between. And don't get me started on the pacing.

Undeniably, this was the most faithful to the original fairy tale. It was pretty accurate to Snow White, even

down to the death-by-corset-and-poison-comb. The plot had a lot of potential, but there was no closure. That ending, though. What the heck was that? There were some convenient interventions and plot holes (cop-outs, really) but it was otherwise just loose ends. It felt like Geras was just dying to get this over and done with.

A pretty rubbish ending to a less than mediocre trilogy.

Amelia Jamison says

I just read this book in an evening of sleeplessness. This book is a modernish take on the fairy tale Snow White. Since I was a child, I have been a fan of fairy tales. Even now, I prefer my reads to have justice for the bad guys and 'happily ever after' for the good ones. I really enjoyed this book's parallels with the traditional fairy tale. That is, until the end. I really felt like the end of the book was over so quickly and with so many loose strings that it lost its fairy tale charm. I would have easily given this book a high rating if the ending had lived up to the rest of the book.

Jessica says

Snow White's story and my favorite (that's saying a lot) of the three. Very faithful to the original fairy tale.

Bridgett says

Not my favorite retelling of Snow White, though it was enjoyable.

Tara says

A very racy read.
