



Silent Snow, Secret Snow

Conrad Aiken

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Short story, horror/fantasy.

Silent Snow, Secret Snow Details

Date : Published September 1st 1983 by Creative Education (first published January 1st 1934)

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Author : Conrad Aiken

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From Reader Review Silent Snow, Secret Snow for online ebook

Guillaume says

Petites choses du quotidien à travers les yeux et les oreilles d'un jeune garçon que nous dirons *différent*. La neige partout toujours, comme un autre monde à l'orée du notre.
Pour les amateurs de ces petits récits aux petits détails.

Robert Jackson says

Very interesting. I've never read this kind of writing before. At first I was like, " This kid is a class A weirdo." Upon a second reading I slowly realized that was exactly the case.
The way Aiken writes it I took the side of the kid much more naturally than I did on my second read though.
After the second reading I then realized he did have a serious problem.

Sherry Elmer says

A local library has a wonderful classics shelf that could provide a lifetime of reading. Recently, I was surprised to find this little book on that shelf. At first, I thought someone had set it there and forgotten it, but I saw by the tag that it was intended for the classics shelf. Why that is, I really don't know.
The best way I can describe this story is weird. It's kind of lyrical and kind of creepy and when it was over, I thought that there are a lot of other books far more worthy of my time.

Jack Cheatle says

"Silent Snow, Secret Snow" by Conrad Aiken is about a 12 year old boy. He becomes obsessed with a different world and he has to manage living in the real world and his imaginary one without his parents noticing. He is actually becoming mentally ill, but something happens near the end of the book to change this. Read this book to find out what happens.

I thought this book was pretty confusing, but overall I understand the concept. It makes you think a lot and I thought that was cool.

I would recommend this book to any people in highschool and above. It was a pretty confusing and deep book for a middle schooler.

Renuka says

A bizarre story about a boy's growing obsession with snow and his tenuous grasp on reality. Not particularly scary, perhaps just spooky.

Tam says

I read this over 30 years ago in high school and loved it. I still remember it vividly. The boy was so sad and lonely. The writing is so vivid and lyrical.

Nadette Xuereb says

At first I couldn't understand it, but then with a little help from the comments on Goodreads, I managed, and realized that it's written brilliantly. It's a bit creepy, but then again, it's about schizophrenia. Well done!

Raeden Zen says

A Lyrical, Hallucinogenic, Metaphysical, Mind-Bending Short Story

“A vague feeling of disappointment came over him; a vague sadness, as if he felt himself deprived of something which he had long looked forward to, something much prized. After all this, all this beautiful progress, the slow delicious advance of the postman through the silent and secret snow, the knock creeping closer each day, and the footsteps nearer, the audible compass of the world thus daily narrowed, narrowed, narrowed, as the snow soothingly and beautifully encroached and deepened...”

The short story, “Silent Snow, Secret Snow,” is one of the most intriguing short stories I’ve ever read and re-read, and re-read, and re-read. I discovered it in “Great Tales of Terror and the Supernatural,” as the story runs from page 132-149 and is easily one of the most memorable so far—memorable enough for me to review it separately—and to seek out anything and everything Mr. Aiken has written. (I was surprised to learn he was better known as a poet than a novelist.)

The bottom line: In “Silent Snow, Secret Snow,” we meet Paul, a 12-year old boy who is developing schizophrenic insanity. He sees snow, silent and beautiful and omnipresent; what’s happening in Paul’s world? Can his parents help him? What will the doctor do? Find out in Mr. Aiken’s riveting short story.

Marie Mandiak says

Disturbing and depressing, but I would love to use it for a short story class. Would I consider it horror? Not sure. I actually read the story here: <http://fullreads.com/horror/silent-sn...>

Carrie says

A very well written but disturbing story about a boy's withdrawal from reality into mental illness. A scary look at how sometimes there is nothing that you can do to save a person. Good story.

Maahava ????? ?? ?? ?? ?? ?????????? says

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<http://maahava.com/XCL7>

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Bob Wolniak says

I was led to read this after seeing an adaptation of it on *Night Gallery*, narrated/read by Orson Welles of course. The withdrawal from reality into idealized fantasy is a frightening picture of mental health crisis.

Kristina says

Shhh...I won't say a word! It was that marvellous.

Leah says

This little short story was pretty much poetry. The words were filled with imagery and metaphors, and each sentence was clearly thought through. It is a cute, sweet little thing.

On first read I wasn't very keen. It was well-written but it was too flowery in language that I have to re-read several parts to understand exactly what was happening. It made it so that I didn't really comprehend the ending.

Yet once we had a talk in a seminar at uni, I changed my mind slightly. Understanding the piece allowed me to appreciate it much more. I could connect to it better and I was actually upset over the ending.

Mika says

Tu es dans cette salle de classe, remplie de bruits, d'éclats - de rires et de lumières. Tu n'as pas envie d'être ici, non tu préférerais être ailleurs, derrière la fenêtre, là dehors, peut-être sous cet arbre, et tu peux déjà sentir la mousse sous tes doigts et les côtes des feuilles qui se brisent sous ton poids. Des squelettes d'automne sous tes godasses. Soudain, plus rien n'existe, tu n'entends pas ton nom, tu n'entends pas les autres, tu es sous cet arbre, tu fais partie de la terre, le vent te chatouille l'oreille, te raconte des histoires - des secrets que tu gardes au creux des tempes. Tu l'as vécu, ce moment, n'est-ce pas? Cette fuite de la réalité, la fugue dans ta tête, le refus d'appartenir aux vivants. Tu ne l'as peut-être jamais formulé, mais il est là cet instant, dans chacune de tes absences, quand tu sembles regarder ailleurs, que tu es déjà parti.e. Le court texte de Conrad Aiken, contemporain de Freud et T.S. Eliot, te capture dans les impitoyables griffes de la folie, de la

recherche de l'enfance, de cette envie, bouleversante et maladive, de préserver l'innocence. Toi qui a déjà voyagé loin, très loin dans ta tête, tu te prendras ce texte en plein dans l'estomac. Car sa poésie, la justesse de chacun de ses mots, la folle exactitude du style, ne fera que te renvoyer à cette question : si tu devais partir, le ferais-tu?
