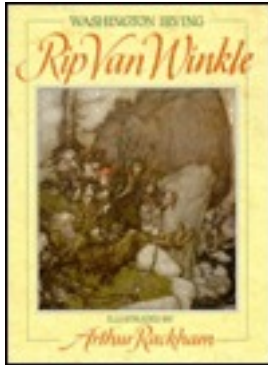

Washington Irving

Rip Van Winkle



Title: Rip Van Winkle

Author: Washington Irving

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Description

By 1900, artist Arthur Rackham was the most sought-after illustrator of his day. This sumptuous re-creation of his original edition of a popular European folktale--Americanized by Washington Irving--contains unabridged text, including Irving's introduction and postscript. Each of Rackham's breathtaking paintings has been reproduced in full color to show his stunning mastery of watercolor technique.

Insightful reviews

BJ Rose: I enjoyed this trip down memory lane with a reread of a beautifully constructed tale - about a lazy lout who escaped up into the hills to avoid the deserved nagging of his wife, and ended up sleeping for 20 years, right through the American Revolution. Washington Irving could paint wonderful word-pictures, and the reading was made even more enjoyable by the lovely illustrations of N.C. Wyeth.

Aimee: I was previewing this book as one to read to my kids in a year or two. I didn't realize just how basic the story is. Besides the basic story of Rip Van Winkle falling asleep and waking up after the Revolutionary War, there isn't really much else to the story. Besides that, the old language as well as the adult themes (his shrew of a wife, him falling asleep after drinking too much booze, etc.) seem too adult for little kids. I think a re-telling of the story would be better than actually reading the story.

Carol: The short story opens with a beautiful description of the Catskill Mountains (which Irving never saw in person), at the foot of which is the village where the Rip Van Winkle lives during the late 1760s/ 1770s (while the area is still a colony of Great Britain under the rule of King George III.) Rip Van Winkle is a "simple, goodnatured fellow" with a faithful dog Wolf, a son, a daughter, and a domineering wife. Rip is a favorite of the village community, and a group of men at the local tavern to argue about politics, but he is not as welcome in his own family due to his laziness. He is "ready to attend to anybody's business but his own." His nagging wife never lets him forget his responsibilities. One day he climbs the mountain and falls asleep for 20 years. He wakes and descends the mountain to discover everything has changed, the death of his wife, and a new nation.

Rip Van Winkle is a short story (among 34 essays/ short stories) in the book "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon" published in 1819 and serialized through 1820. This is Irving's first use of the pseudonym "Geoffrey Crayon." The Sketch Book & James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales, were the first widely read American literature in Great Britain and Europe.

Elizabeth: I loved this book; it left a lot to the mind's eye and, even though it is a fairy tale, there's a experience within which it's very "real". Irving's beginning scene choices up in the course of a couple's lifestyles story. No heritage is given, leaving the curious reader (me) wondering the myriad of percentages (all evening). Irving thoroughly depicts human nature on a few levels. either Rip Van Winkle and his spouse express a few nasty, albeit common,

personality qualities with (largely) detrimental consequences. there are various classes to be realized from those characters approximately idleness, nagging, responding to sin, the corporate one keeps, and the instance we set for our children, simply to identify a few. For example, Irving rightly observes: "...a tart mood by no means mellows with age, and a pointy tongue is the single edged instrument that grows keener with consistent use" (pg. 43). Irving's last idea is sad, yet too usually true, and is a smart reminder that individuals desperately desire the wish of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jennifer M. Hartsock: Washington Irving is understood to be one of many "inventors of the fashionable brief story," incorporating components of the "personal essay and fiction." The brief story, "Rip Van Winkle," starts with a guy who's thoroughly serious about the area round him. he's additionally a city favorite—"...a favourite between the entire reliable better halves of the village," and "...the young ones of the village, too, [who] might shout with pleasure every time he approached." Even so, Rip van Winkle's spouse resented him, and he looked as if it would dislike her back. On a stroll to place a few house among them, Rib van Winkle discovers a band of merry Dutch men, beverages a few of their liquor, and falls asleep. whilst he awakens, he learns that he's been asleep for twenty years, the city doesn't comprehend him, and every little thing has changed. In time, the town's folks remember who he is, and voice their wish to have slept in the course of the American Revolution. When the 1st tourists got here to America, they sought beauty, opportunity, and promise. Rip van Winkle explains how each new day brings swap to the scenery. "When the elements is reasonable and settled, [the mountains] are clothed in blue and purple, and print their daring outlines at the transparent night sky." whilst his spouse nags and belittles him, Rip van Winkle seeks solitude within the woods. "...there is whatever unusual and incomprehensible in regards to the unknown, that inspire[s] awe, and check[s] familiarity." He beverages down the chance to be another individual for a moment—"one style provoked another"—and wakes to achieve it's been twenty years. many of the time, the yank Dream isn't an ideal package. while present open air of society, like Rip van Winkle did, "all [may seem] unusual and incomprehensible. One may well locate himself "alone within the world." However, the town's humans realize him as their own—something a few of the new settlers wanted, but now not all may possibly have. The promise of individuality had, at last, been kept. The struggle was once over, and the US used to be liberated. Rip van Winkle used to be "now a loose citizen of the United States."

Shari: interpreting this publication along side a category i'm taking approximately American id and the way it improved and altered via time, but additionally examining this since it is an excellent piece of Americana, i used to be excited whilst a few of my earlier category paintings used to be additional reinforced by means of this story. I ultimately prepare the Henry Hudson mythology that's present in this story. Hudson, a slightly obstreperous captain used to be placed adrift in a small boat with of his so much brutal henchmen and not heard from or obvious again. This lends itself to the secret of the legend of the sport of nine-pins within the depths of the mountains close to Rip van Winkle's home. This tale additionally supplies a powerful photo of the switch of attitudes that prevailed among the past due interval of English rule and the election of Washington as president after the Revolution. whereas this present day thought of whatever of a kid's story, Irving's paintings used to be greater than that during his personal times. It by no means does to withhold severe awareness from the previous works.

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