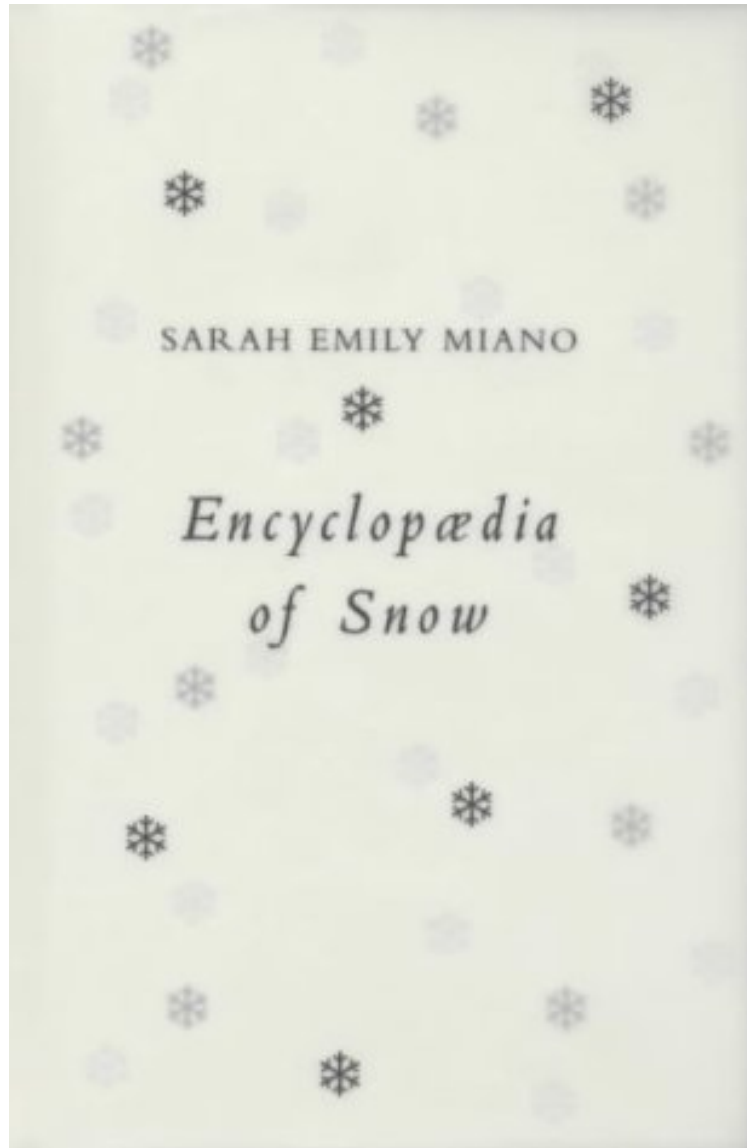


(Read ebook) Encyclopedia of Snow

Encyclopedia of Snow

Sarah Emily Miano

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#5518515 in Books 2003-03-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .91 x 5.311, #File Name: 0330411772272 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Sarah Emily Miano : Encyclopedia of Snow before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Snow:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy E. SlymanThanks4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. My favourite book.By Sam YeoWhen people ask me my favourite novel, the choice is always tough: Thomas Hardy, Kazuo Ishiguro, Michael Ondaatje, James Joyce? Well I have found one who eclipses them all - Sarah Emily Miano.Her "Encyclopaedia of Snow" is an incredibly complex, thematically rich work which pulls together

dozens of stories, poems and vignettes that are in some way related to snow. At first glance, the stories - and the accompanying notes and epilogues - seem to have little in common, but as one reads and rereads them - each imbued with Miano's exquisite poetic style - all sorts of links and connections are discovered. The stories range from a young girl's crushing experiences with anorexia, to an ancient Chinese maiden who waits to die to be with her lover; stories from Russia, Japan, the USA, and the ends of the Earth. Miano herself suggests links at the end of each "encyclopaedia entry" but the fun is also in being enveloped in the story and finding one's own links. Her characters are rich and ranging from mythological figures to characters from literature (Joyce's "The Dead" receives a re-working), to characters from Miano's own mind, and those from classic films (the "It's A Wonderful Life" piece is a particularly nice surprise). I never get tired of this book, and its inherent beauty. Recommended to all but particularly those who like beautiful literature, and for those who have an affinity for snow. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliantly Flawed By A Customer Ordinarily themes might be said to live embedded in the guts of a story. In Miano's work, the story lives in the guts of the theme. This requires, formidably, that the reader relearn how to experience story. As its title suggests, the novel is structured like an encyclopaedia, with entries on diverse subjects, most of which relate to snow, others to the life of the narrator, or compiler, of the book, and the lives of characters living in the geographical locale from which the author hails. The former pieces are beautifully realised, well researched and quite random, united only by their theme. The effect is kaleidoscopic - rather like passing through a snowstorm, in fact. The latter are prose events describing disturbing scenes of emotional fracture, or expressing a quiet optimism in the mutually strengthening powers of friendship. Humour pokes throughout. It is important, I think, to step back from discussions of audaciousness, of astonishing debuts and just have fun for goodness sake. The book may be read a number of different ways. It can be read from start to finish, as one might read *Oliver Twist*. It can be read randomly, as one might leaf through an encyclopaedia when one ought to be doing something more constructive, and it can be read following the cross-references that footnote many entries, as one might act on a treasure hunt (with the obvious exception of Pepys, this is the only work of literature that is best kept next to the toilet). There is no best way to read it. The trouble is, one almost wishes there were - this book is so different (or rather perfectly true and representative of its theme), that it becomes very important to the reader to behave properly and do the book justice. This burden, if you are not able to relax into it, is sometimes a worry. (There is a river near the Grand Canyon that can be floated down quite happily if you lie on your back and relax - if you do not do this, if you struggle to stay afloat, then you bump miserably over mossy boulders - bear that in mind). It is debatable whether or not this book is moving in its entirety, or moving only because of certain remembered moments. Most books are both, but I fear it is impossible to draw it all together for 'Snow, because there is no line to look back on, the path disappears behind you. I am not even sure that this book should be referred to as a single thing. In some senses, of course it is: it is bound in an elegantly designed cover and can be crammed into a suitcase. But there were efforts to bind the whole together and I do not believe they were successful or even necessary. You will not get to the end of this book, because it has no end. It is like a labyrinth with no entrance and no centre. There are a succession of pointers, of glyphs, of rewards. There is no completion; but there is a completeness of discovery. As an exercise in the examination of a theme, it is an extraordinary and unique work.

An amazing debut, a fictional recreation in the form of an encyclopaedia of a relationship based around entries for a history of snow. Touching, inventive and funny, it is very much the start of an auspicious literary career along the lines of a female Julian Barnes. 'My wish is that you will take the key I have given you, which will give you access to my entire life: my book of solutions, all the stories I have known. Take and do with them as you please. I trust you to fill in the blanks - with your stories, with ours - for you alone have full understanding of my soul' This is a bravura first novel, brimming with originality and wit. A lost notebook is discovered, its pages filled with an encyclopaedic array of entries about snow. Leafing through each item in turn, it gradually becomes apparent that the selection is not as haphazard as first glances might suggest. Scientific description, historical accounts and fantastical incidents slowly, teasingly unfold to reveal a series of love-stories. At the heart of these is one particular story, a record of one particular relationship, and it becomes clear by the end of the book that the unnamed editor's work is intended as a love-letter, fastidiously elegant, beautiful and - in places - almost unbearably bleak.

About the Author Sarah Emily Miano was born in Buffalo NY. Former pastry chef, private eye and tour-bus driver, she is currently working on a MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her fiction has been seen in *PEMBROKE MAGAZINE*. This is her first novel.