



Glimmerglass

Marly Youmans

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Perhaps it was a sense of estrangement from the everyday that drew Cynthia Sorrel to the village of Cooper Patent. The failed painter was lured by the gatehouse with its seven doors, the lake with its tower, and the magical air of a place that couldn't quite decide whether it was fictional, mythic, or real. The gatehouse should have been a first clue that she was on a journey, and soon she begins to glimpse and then to pursue a figure in the woods near her house, convinced she has seen the Muse. As she reclaims her calling as a painter and moves deeper into the uncanny world of Cooper Patent, Cynthia finds herself at the heart of a labyrinth of mystery. She will have to navigate its dream depths and secrets, brilliant or dark, locked behind a door that opens into the earth. Youmans has scaled the tree of books and plucked twigs of gothic romance, ghost tale, medieval dream vision, and belated coming-of-age story, with a leaf or two from the novel of manners and fantasy.

Glimmerglass Details

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Author : Marly Youmans

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From Reader Review Glimmerglass for online ebook

Scott Thompson says

This novel is beautiful inside and out. The story feels like a modern fairy tale with writing that dances on the pages in a way that can only be created by a spectacular writer. If you read this book you will know that Youmans is one of the most gifted writers living among us today. If you enjoy the twisting and building of words you will love this author's beautiful writing. If it can be called writing, because it seems more like she's pulling the whispers of angels down from a place we haven't been to yet and gently placing them on paper.

Here's another suggestion: Get two copies of this book because you'll want to share it, but you'll be reluctant to ever let your copy go.

Lexi says

Only two words for this book:

Wonderful
and
Whimsical

Wm says

Youmans somehow manages to balance all the things (fairy tales, children's fantasy, New England, psychological thrillers, etc.) that she's drawing on while at the same time telling the story of a woman's (re?)awakening to her artistic self.

VeeInNY says

Reviews were intriguing, but this is not my preferred genre ~ nonetheless, I was quickly drawn in ... and finished the book in one sitting ~ now to reflect on poetic language and mesmerizing images.

Josie Cook M.A. says

Her protagonist starts acting like a detective after she moves into the mansion with the Wild brothers. She has no children, however she enjoys being around children. Her world is changing as she uncovers the mystery around her muse. The mansion seems endless and connected to the hill with the locked door. Teddy is seeking the ring and the key. He has a hold on Cynthia almost as if he casts a spell on her with his dwarf-like magical realism and his mysterious actions. He seeks her out all over the Sea House. Andrew is busy

during the day, and Teddy takes advantage of it. Youman's fairytale elements are incorporated throughout with dreamlike and childlike feelings making for an enchanting journey with some intrigue mixed in with Teddy's actions and the many thoughts on the misplaced articles. His reflections on his aunt and her death after she can't come to terms with Moss's disappearance drive this storyline. The aunt's viewpoints are told through Teddy. He desired to be special in her eyes and he comes off as jealous when he reflects on Moss. Teddy didn't like Moss being so extraordinary in his aunt's circle.

The teens move the troll to his new location. She sat in the garden doing what she always desired with the Chinese parasol shading her eyes. Cynthia recreated the face of the past in pencil surrounded by the cousins. Iz was missed, and her thoughts went to Somnium—Minotaur.

As I finish the last pages, I want to glimpse the silver tree.

Visit Josie's Kaleidoscope at:

<https://josiecook48.files.wordpress.c...>

Rachel says

I would give this more of a 2.5. The first half started off pretty strongly with the creation of the world and Cynthia's arrival in it, but I didn't get a sense of any real depth of character for anyone in the book, especially in the second half. Cynthia goes chasing off after things without any true motivation (or at least none that's addressed in the book). The writing itself is lovely, and I really enjoyed the fairy tale elements, but I wish a lot of it had been further developed.

Stacia says

This is a grown-up's version of a fairytale interlaced with magical realism & mystery. So, there's a mix of the fantastical, the dreamy, a muse, lost (& found) dreams, the prince, the evil character, a mystery (a murder?), secrets hidden & shared, learning, growth, & redemption. It's a pretty quick read & one that is best read in one sitting to maintain the flow & magic. Like good fairytales, the path may be gnarled, but the telling is simple & straightforward, pulling you in deeper & deeper for a decently delightful diversion on a summer's day.

I'd probably give it 3.5 stars overall, but will bump it up to 4 stars for its lovely style.

Josh Skaggs says

I don't know how to assign my appreciation in terms of stars, this book being so different from my usual fare. Youmans writes in an outdated prose style, one lacking the formal minimalism of the modern "literary" novel. She readily tells what a character is thinking and feeling, often in italicized thoughts and exclamatory remarks.

The story moves along at a fast clip and is a short, enjoyable read. In some ways it reminds me of George MacDonald's works. I'm glad I read it, if only to see that there's more ways to tell a story than in the reserved, hyper-conscious mode of modern storytellers.

Sienna says

A dream.

Katie says

Such a beautiful and magical story. I absolutely fell in love with this book.

John Hubbard says

I started and thought it might not be my style, but was quickly hooked by a story that's quirky in a subtle and skillful way.

Blossom says

The writing was well done but the topic was so strange. I feel like I've lost imagination or something because I was quite confused with the imagery created in this book; at least at the start. I think it's a book about hope but the undertones are murder and distrust. The end was much what I expected and it is light. It wasn't too bad, just strange.

James Korsmo says

Glimmerglass is a fascinating book. The prose is powerful, and the plot is at turns mundane and magical. Longing and wandering and discovering and wondering are all woven together in this journey through interwoven worlds. Glimmerglass is a profound statement about the power and purpose of art, and it also wrestles with what it means to plumb the depths of reality and how to live in that knowledge. At points, I wasn't sure I was getting it, but by the end I was sure that the book had gotten me. I was ready to start again after the last page.

I reread the book about a year later, and enjoyed it even more the second time. Powerful imagery and good characters. It's sometimes hard to untangle what elements are fantastical elements of reality and what elements are dreams or visions, but the interweaving of the mundane with the magical with a somewhat fuzzy boundary between probably works better because of it. I have no doubt that I will read it again.

StarNewsOnline says

Fantasy and myth mix with classic whodunit in “Glimmerglass,” the latest novel from poet and South Carolina native Marly Youmans.

This is only detective fiction, though, in the sense that “Hamlet” is a play about a kid who can't get along with his stepfather. Youmans takes a couple of overworked genres and makes them undergo a sea change into something rich and strange.

Read the full StarNews review by local book critic Ben Steelman at <http://ow.ly/EgTbd>

Shadoshard says

It's a rare thing when you come across a book that creates its own symbolism and mythology; pins and keys and water become bridges to a Gothic reality that starts with nothing but a single character whose perspective becomes the readers as they become irreversibly tangled in the book's world. The reader has traveled to the underworld and back by the time they realize they've been there at all - it's that ephemeral and like the mist that slowly rises and takes you with it.

Artist Cynthia Sorrel arrives in Glimmerglass like a ghost set adrift from her first life and who travels the symbolism of the book. It's a blink of events that almost seem like a dream until you fall into the dark psyche and then rise with the living adult character at the other end of it. The supporting cast is sweet and endearing even when they're not so everything that happens seems natural and flawless. At no point does the story drag. It never feels too long or too short. And if I give it only four stars it's because - like the journey through the door, you can only go once. Or should. Because I don't really want to alter what I've taken away from it.
