



As Simple as Snow

By Gregory Galloway

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Anna—who prefers to be called Anastasia—is a spooky and complicated high school girl with a penchant for riddles, Houdini tricks, and ghost stories. She is unlike anyone the narrator has ever known, and they make an unlikely, though happy, pair. Then Anna disappears, leaving behind only a dress near a hole in the frozen river, and a string of unanswered questions. Desperate to find out what happened the narrator begins to reconstruct the past five months. And soon the fragments of curious events, intimate conversations, secrets, letters—and the anonymous messages that continue to arrive—coalesce into haunting and surprising revelations that may implicate friends, relatives, and even Anna herself.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It turns out that snow is "actually very complicated," and so is Galloway's quirky, engrossing debut. In a small town near a river not far from a city, the narrator, an unnamed high school sophomore, encounters new Goth arrival, Anna Cayne. Holden Caulfield meets the Blair Witch, perhaps--but our narrator is more sympathetic and Anna more fascinating than their counterparts. The narrator is unsure why anyone would pursue him ("I'm bland. I'm milk. Worse, I'm water"), but pursue him Anna does, charming him with intriguing postcards, reading recommendations and long walks by the river. He's soon completely, hopelessly in love. But halfway through the story Anna disappears, leaving the narrator and the reader feeling lost and betrayed. The book becomes a search for Anna, complete with ciphers, codes, sightings and buried maps. Does affable art teacher Mr. Devon have something to do with her disappearance? Who was really driving the night fellow student Bryce Druitt slammed his car into the side of the bridge? Galloway makes plain from the beginning that everything in the book might be a clue, and that it's up to the narrator and the reader to solve the mystery for themselves. This can be great fun or lead to great frustration, depending on one's tastes, but there's no doubt that this rich, complex puzzle is the work of a talented author. (*Mar.*)
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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School--Snow, of course, is not really simple, and this clever first novel enmeshes its characters in situations that are more complex than they first appear to be. As related by an unnamed teenage boy, the suspenseful, open-ended plot concerns strange occurrences during an eventful winter in a seemingly quiet community. The possibly unreliable narrator is struggling through a lonely and rather bland adolescence until a new girl in his school's Goth crowd becomes interested in him romantically. Anna is anything but bland: she adores wordplay, odd facts, obscure jokes, ciphers, codes, the paranormal, and practical magic (especially the escape illusions of Harry Houdini), and her hobby is drafting obituaries for everyone in town. When she suddenly goes missing and is presumed dead, her heartsick boyfriend ponders her fate. An accident, surely--or was it? Suicide? Murder? Could Anna have run away? Why was her dress laid out so neatly near a hole in the ice? What about the bruises she tried to hide? Are her parents really grieving? Could a favorite teacher be involved? Though some readers may be frustrated when most questions remain unanswered, others will find their inner Nancy Drew or Hardy Boy stimulated by the abundant ambiguities, coincidences, and clues scattered throughout. An intriguing debut.--*Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA*

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From [Booklist](#)

At one point in Galloway's first novel, a character says approvingly, "The Bible is full of contradictions and ambiguities and mysteries." Which is a pretty fair description of this fascinating but often frustratingly obscure book. Oh, the story is simple, as simple as snow: an average high-school boy, the narrator, meets and falls in love with an extraordinary, spooky girl, Anna, a Goth fascinated with mysteries, codes, ciphers, and ghost stories and whose self-imposed project is writing obituaries of everyone in their small town. When she finishes, she vanishes. Did she run away? Did she commit suicide? Was she murdered? The boy determines to find out. But does he? Well, suffice it to say, snow isn't really simple, and neither is this novel. Told in the boy's flat, often affectless, but oddly mesmerizing voice, the plot meanders all over the map and promises more than it ultimately delivers. But its ambiguities and unanswered questions, its teasing foreshadowings and forebodings, make it hard to forget. *Michael Cart*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Molly Cooper:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also become a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the As Simple as Snow is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Dana Vinson:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't judge book by its include may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer may be As Simple as Snow why because the fantastic cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

James Sweeney:

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Robert Murphy:

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