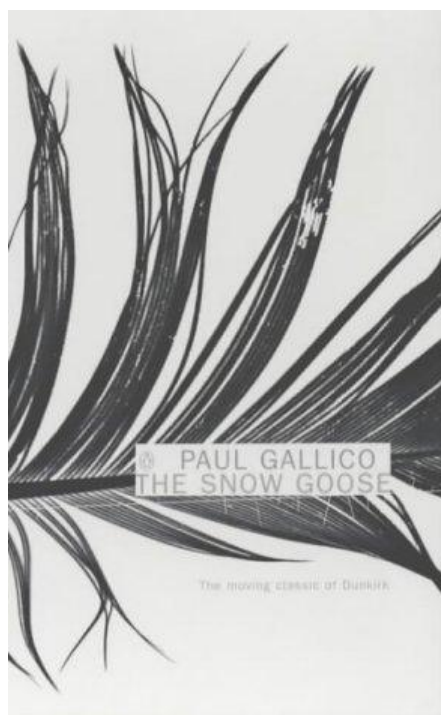




The Snow Goose

Paul Gallico

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Classic storytelling from a bestselling author. Gallico's most famous story, THE SNOW GOOSE, is set in the wild, desolate Essex marshes and is an intense and moving tale about the relationship between a hunchback and a young girl. THE SMALL MIRACLE is a contemporary fable about a young boy's love for his dangerously ill donkey.

The Snow Goose Details

Date : Published February 22nd 2001 by Penguin (first published 1941)

ISBN : 9780140299526

Author : Paul Gallico

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Classics, War, Childrens, Animals, Short Stories



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From Reader Review The Snow Goose for online ebook

Maddie says

My Nana lent me this short story to read, her father passed at Dunkirk so it holds a lot of meaning for her. I found the story wonderful. So great that I was planning out how I'd create a storyboard of it in my head (which I've only done once before).

I'm still debating on whether I want to draw this story out. I know it's a short story and all, but drawing out each panel would take forever. I think I could condense it enough though. It's definitely been added to my list of drawing inspirations.

Dee Toomey says

This story is a fast read, but don't let the size of the book fool you. It is a beautiful story...and might I add, you may want a box of kleenex near when you read it. Some of it is written in a manner that is a bit hard to read, as the author wrote parts in the dialect that would be used by the character when spoken in English. Worth the time to re-read a few lines to understand what was said.

Kay says

Lyrical and touching tale set in WWII, with the climax taking place during Dunkirk. While there's a danger here of crossing over into sentimentality, for me this lovely tale transformed what could have been pat sentiments into something very heartfelt and noble. It's the kind of tale children will remember and adults will cherish. Really a tribute to the human spirit and the bonds that hold us together.

The fact that this was published in April 1941, at a time of massive German air raids on London and other British cities, adds another layer of poignancy to the tale. The Dunkirk evacuation had been just the previous year. The themes of self-sacrifice and redemption were ones that surely would have been well understood and received.

Megan (ReadingRover) says

This was not only a beautiful story but it was beautifully written as well. The details of the island made you feel like you were there and the description of the man made you grow to love him. It was heartwarming. I enjoyed it much more than I thought I would.

Rachel Heffington says

I have embarked on the helter-skelter habit of choosing books at random and reading them. I bought a 1960's copy of The Snow Goose at a library sale because it looked interesting and I had never heard of it...and I'm a sucker for new literary fare.

I had no expectations of what it might be, so the fact that this slender little volume contained a heart-warming if slightly predictable story made it precious to me. Yes, *The Snow Goose* crosses the line of sense vs. sentimentality, but no more than *Old Yeller*, *The Yearling*, and a great many other well-loved books. The story follows a hunch-backed painter, Phillip Rhayader and the girl, Frith, who befriends him over their shared concern for an injured snow-goose. I did not expect the story to take the realistic turn it did with Rhayader taking his small boat to help with the rescue of British troops at Dunkirk, for the book was written in 1941 at the height of the air-raids on London.

For me, the fact that this book is a cry for hope, a nod to lost loves, and a bit of bright wing-feather *while being written in the middle of a lot of angst, pain, and terror*, gives it a nobility of its own.

If you want a book that will be easy to read aloud by a fireside in winter, you might try the story of Rhayader and the snow-goose.

Bettie? says

Bettie's Books

Sam Quixote says

A hunchback artist called Rhayader moves to a lighthouse to paint the coast and the birds. He lives a lonely existence because of his appearance. The nearby village begins circulating rumours that the hunchback is magical and an ignorant girl called Frith takes a damaged snow goose to him to heal which he does with basic medicine (splints, bandages, etc.). The two bond over the snow goose which returns each year to visit until eventually it settles down to live with Rhayader all year round. Then World War 2 begins and their small idyllic existence is forever lost.

I'm really puzzled as to who the audience for *The Snow Goose* is.

It looks like a kid's book – at 40ish pages, it's a short story, and it's fully illustrated – so it might be aimed at kids 10 or under. But then a large part of the story centres around the Dunkirk evacuation from WW2 and unrequited love – military history and complex adult emotions aren't really things I'd say pre-pubescent junior school kids would have any knowledge of.

Unless it's not aimed at kids and it's supposed to be for teenagers and older? Except it looks like too much of a kid's book to appeal to any teens. I know when I was in high school, I only had eyes for books by Terry Pratchett, Stephen King and Douglas Adams, steering well clear of anything for kids.

And adults? Would a 40ish page illustrated short story appeal to them, and would they be engaged with the thin story, one-dimensional characters and excessive sentimentality? Besides highlighting that there was an evacuation at Dunkirk in 1940, it doesn't provide any insight to the event.

It's baffling, though I'm an adult (technically anyway!) and I picked this up as I was told it's a classic. Except it's not. Neither Rhayader or Frith could be considered well-written, rounded, memorable characters in the least, and the story is extremely boring for the most part. It becomes mildly interesting – though incredibly far-fetched – once Rhayader and the snow goose take off in a skiff to the coast of Dunkirk to help ferry stranded British soldiers from the beach to the larger ships anchored nearby. But that little piece of fantasy doesn't really make this a classic.

There's far too much mawkish sentimentality over unspoken love, and tragic and needless death, and so on, but it felt manipulative of the author rather than genuine. I wasn't saddened by the ending, I just wondered what the point of it was. It's much too brief a story to make you feel anything about any of the "characters".

I suppose kids might enjoy the book – it's not a challenging read, though I'm not sure what a kid is going to get out of it. Older readers are likely to be unsatisfied with the brevity of the shallow tale. The Snow Goose, aka Hunchbacks Need Love Too, is a forgettable and trite short story that easily impressed romance fans or readers looking for sentiment for the sake of sentiment will enjoy.

Jamie says

I am a lover of history and this book did not disappoint. So beautifully written I felt like the words were singing poetry to me! When I saw Frith standing on her tiptoes, raising her hands toward the sky, I cried and cried.

Loved the illustrations that were done by Angela Barrett.

I am definitely adding this to the bookcase I am filling up for my Grandbaby!!

Bayandur says

"The Snow Goose" by Paul Gallico is one of my favorites. It is about life, its hardships and wonders, pain and joy coming by its natural route, and war - merciless and unnatural, cruel and indifferent as it is.

This book is really too hard to write about. Very personal to me - the emotional plane is really deep and the characters are well-developed.

The book is about an artist, living in a solitary lighthouse - Philip Rhayader, a local girl - Fritha, their friendship symbolized by the wounded bird - the snow goose. The actions take place during World War II. One day Fritha comes to Rhayader's lighthouse and brings the gunshot bird, and this starts the friendship between them. As the bird's wounds heal, so do the wounds in Rhayader's soul, too. And friendship grows deeper.

"The Snow Goose's" expressionistic ending will make an emotionally developed person cry a river, I promise. I do not believe it contains any artificial sentiments - nothing unneeded, actually. Sincere and great. If you like Harper Lee and other humanist writers "The Snow Goose" is for you.

Fani *loves angst* says

Makes me cry like a baby every time I read it; it's one hell of a book. Amazing writing, vivid imagery, touching story... if only it was longer!

elisabeth says

a bit of a cute idea but quite dull for people who aren't little kids!

Phil Jensen says

A beautiful story of love, sacrifice, beauty, the wonders of nature, and the Dunkirk evacuation. My edition was greatly enhanced by gorgeous, slightly impressionistic paintings by Beth Peck. It's short, so if this sounds good to you, go ahead and pick it up.

Joselito Honestly and Brilliantly says

A man so repulsive that he had to seek solitude, yet so beautiful that a bird from a faraway place and a young girl found themselves inexplicably drawn to him.

I would have loved to quote here some memorable Little Prince-like passages but a prohibition runs in the opposite page of the inside title. So this is the one I shall quote:

"Copyright 1940 by The Curtis Publishing Company. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in a magazine or newspaper."

I do not know if goodreads qualifies as a magazine or a newspaper.

Deanne says

Beautifully written short story with the climax at Dunkirk, difficult to imagine what it must have been like to be stuck on those beaches when that flotilla of boats turned up 60 years ago.

Valerie Petersen says

This is a beautiful story of love and bravery. Loneliness, the healing of a lost, wounded Snow Goose, a haunting affaire de coeur and the Dunkirk rescue all somehow combine magically. Beautifully written!

Bethany says

I read this book for school and had to write a few paragraphs on it (or something like that). Those aforementioned paragraphs have been sitting on my computer for the past two years and if my memory serves me correctly no one ever actually read them. (I was going to give them to my teacher {AKA mother} but for some reason never got around to it.) I thought I'd post them on here so they didn't go to waste completely.

The message of The Snow Goose is clearly, never fall in love with brave disabled people because it will only

end in tears. This book was good except it was pretty obvious from the start that the inevitable would happen. The inevitable being the aforementioned tragedy of falling in love with someone brave and disabled. But girls are stupid and never learn. So on with my "literary critical analysis". The Snow Goose is a very effective book! After reading it I was so depressed I wanted to crawl into a hole and eat endless amounts of chocolate.

Fritha and the goose are very similar! They both realized where their true home was: with the brave Rhayader. The goose figured it out first though. Proving that birds are smarter than girls! This story pulled at my heart strings so hard that they came out. I'm still missing one too. This story made me want to cry because I can't bloomin' well understand the local dialect. I was lost for a whole chapter. Overall, the book is just very depressing. Good-ish. But depressing.

Elina says

Απ? την κατηγορ?α με τα διδακτικ? παραμ?θια - ιστορ?ες που μπορε? να διαβαστε? απ? ?να παιδ?κι 10 ετ?ν μ?χρι και 100!!! Λατρε?ω αυτο? του ε?δους τα βιβλ?α....με συγκινο?ν πολ?...

Tatyana Naumova says

????????? must read.

Kate Forsyth says

The Snow Goose is set in the years running up to the evacuation of Dunkirk in the Second World War. Originally published in 1940 in the Saturday Evening Post, it was brought out in book form the following year by Knopf, Michael Joseph and M&S simultaneously. It won the prestigious O Henry prize that same year and has been continually in print ever since. The Snow Goose has inspired a number of musical scores and albums, has been made into two feature films and moved generations of readers. A new feature film will be released in the coming year.

Beautifully written, with a powerful ending, and breathtakingly illustrated, this is an exquisite edition of Gallico's masterpiece.

I remember reading this beautiful book when I was a child. It's the story of a young crippled man, a girl, and a snow goose in 1940s Essex, in the lead-up to World War II. It's a story of kindness and friendship, of the beauty of nature and our need to protect it, and of the importance of not judging by appearances. It is also a love story. Philip Rhavader is a hunchback, shunned by all, who looks after hurt and injured animals. He makes friends with a young girl named Fritha who brings him a snow goose to tend. As she grows into a beautiful young woman, he falls in love with her but cannot speak of what is in his heart. Then the Second World War breaks out, and Philip sails across to France to help rescue the thousands of soldiers stranded at Dunkirk. As a child, the book made a strong impression on me, but I had not read it in years. When I saw this lovely new edition, with exquisite illustrations by Angela Barrett, I had to buy it for my daughter.

Laura says

From BBC Radio 4 - Classical Serial - Neglected Classics:

A wounded bird brings together a disfigured artist and a young girl and helps in a courageous act of bravery in World War II.

Philip Rhayader Steven Mackintosh

Fritha Georgia Groome

Mrs Farnes Deborah Findlay

Storyteller Sam Dale

Private Potton Michael Shelford

Commander Brill-Oudener Malcolm Tierney

Jock David Seddon

Composer Roger Goula

Director Sally Avens

Steven Mackintosh stars in Paul Gallico's prize winning novella in our celebration of Neglected Classics.

When 'Open Book' asked various authors to champion a favourite neglected classic on the programme, Michael Morpurgo chose 'The Snow Goose'; perhaps no surprise, with his own story 'War Horse' depicting a friendship between a boy and his horse which takes them both into the horror of World War 1. 'The Snow Goose' won the listeners vote too and is now being dramatised for The Classic Serial.
