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Snow de la Mare and Rabei

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

~~New Talent~~

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

Taking de la Mare's poem **Snow**, Carolina Rabei has imagined a white Christmas setting, in which the snow falls and the world becomes a glittering wonderland where children can build snowmen and sledge. Stockings are hung in front of a blazing fire and Santa's sleigh can land on the roof. This is an idyll ? part of the mythology of winter. However, it is saved from unbearable romanticism by Rabei's illustrations with their blocky lino-cut effects introducing a solidity and humour to the scenes. Her sparing palette also helps, subtly suggesting the cold of a winter day in which the dark comes quickly, an effect emphasised by the use of red ? the only colour. In this she matches the perfect minimalism of the poet's words, complementing and extending them. The scenes may be cosy, but the loneliness of a freezing winter night is not far away.

Though this will inevitably be placed on the picture books shelves ? and why not? ? it should also find its way into the hands of older children. It could provide a door to poets and poetry.

Source URL (retrieved on Aug '20): <http://w.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/209/childrens-books/reviews/snow-de-la-mare-and-rabei>

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