
William Fiennes

The Snow Geese

Title: The Snow Geese

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Description

Every spring, millions of geese embark on an arduous three-thousand-mile migration from their winter quarters in the southern United States to their breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic. One year William Fiennes decided to go with them. Intrigued by what he'd read about the birds' amazing annual journey, Fiennes was also desperate to emerge from a period of illness and from the belief that, at age twenty-six, his life had ground to a halt.

The story of his voyage turns out to be about a great deal more than geese. A blend of memoir, natural history, and travel writing, **The Snow Geese** is also about homecoming: the birds on their long homeward journey north, the romance of homecomings, the urge to leave home and the even stronger need to return. The arc of Fiennes's extraordinary adventure is the backbone of a narrative rich in meditations on philosophy and natural science, and deeply perceptive in its descriptions of both physical and emotional travel.

Already being compared with Bruce Chatwin and Barry Lopez, William Fiennes is a gifted writer with a voice that is thoughtful, wry, and keenly observant. His book thrums with ideas, with stories and anecdotes, with humankind as well as with birds. The joy of being alive, of being on the move, and -- above all -- of returning home are poignantly captured in this intelligent, exuberant book, a debut of great delicacy and distinction.

Insightful reviews

J M: Read this review by Robert MacFarlane and you too will put this on your 'to read' list:
<http://gu.com/p/44bkv/sbl>

Judy: Given that it is about travel, wild geese and a personal quest, I expected to really enjoy this book and was disappointed not to.

It would be crass to knock something written with important personal issues at heart; it is indeed a brave thing to write such a book. Perhaps it is a matter of not sharing the author's attention to what I consider minutiae.

For all that, I have to say there is some wonderfully descriptive writing in it, a wealth of amazingly precise vocabulary and original phraseology, and a lot of information about the science of bird migration.

Jessie: Overall, I really didn't like this book. I had to force myself to read it, only because I usually feel obligated to finish books I start.

I found it to be really repetitive, disconnected and too descriptive. It seems like 70% of the book was just imagery. Imagery is great, I love me some imagery, but there was just too much and what was being described in such strenuous detail was usually uninteresting or unimportant. Finnes added a lot of antidotes that were mildly interesting. These varied from the stories he

heard on his journey to the history of nostalgia. It was apparent that most of these blurbs revolved around the central theme of home. Though it was easy to see, I wish the author had connected the ideas and the theme (even just subtly), rather than leave it fragmented. I realize it's part of the format of the memoir, but I think it was necessary; it would have been possible to achieve without compromising that format. The author mentioned some of the same things multiple times, sometimes it seemed word for word. These aspects resulted in the book not being exciting enough to hold my attention.

To be fair, it wasn't just Finnes' writing that caused my disliking of this book; it was also the subject. A big part of why I didn't like it was that I simply do not care about the migratory patterns of birds. At all, really. Why did I choose to read this book? Who knows.

When I don't like a book (which isn't often), I usually feel like I'm missing something that would make the book worth while. But with *The Snow Geese*, I'm quite confident that I caught all there was to catch, and it wasn't enough for me. However, I will say it was usually quite well-written and the sentences flowed pretty nicely.

But yeah.. all of my friends couldn't understand why I chose to read this book and looking back, neither do I.

Whitepixels: anyone follows the direction of the once a year migration of the snow geese, from southern united states to northern Canada. He travels north, meets quite a few humans and learns approximately their lives, and eventually arrives on the arctic breeding parts of the geese. the idea is interesting, however the ebook itself is kind of uninteresting - a few scenes of interacting with random fellow visitors in trains and buses, interspersed with clinical proof approximately poultry migration. it truly is really a non-fiction book, which type of explains the slowness.

Faye: *The Snow ducks* is a wierd little book. the writer William Fiennes, turns into excited about snow ducks whereas he's convalescing from an extended affliction at his kin home, and makes a decision to fly to the US to persist with the ducks as they migrate around the country. I proposal whilst i purchased the booklet that *The Snow ducks* will be half memoir/part commute diary (a bit like *Notes from a Small Island* by way of invoice Bryson)but in its place it was once a booklet stuffed nearly thoroughly with tangents. Fiennes is an effective author and a few of his descriptions are evocative and gorgeous yet there does not appear to be a true imperative subject matter to the book. For me the main cohesive a part of the publication is on the very starting the place Fiennes is describing his illness, a few of his school-days and his relations home. For the remainder of the time he does not discuss himself at all. He describes intimately the garments of each individual he meets and the conversations he has with them and a number of the areas he stops in alongside the best way yet there have been no actual own insights or the feel that he quite learns something significant in this epic trip via America. Some of the chapters have been dedicated to proof and figures approximately birds which makes sense, yet different pages have been packed with information approximately railways and trains, volcanoes, and reports on homesickness which failed to appear to serve a function except to fulfill a word-count. I saved looking forward to the 'great revelation' the place Fiennes may pull jointly these types of diverse stories, tangents, evidence and figures to come back up with a few epiphany or total message however it by no means came. He obtained to Baffin Island, observed the geese, ate some of them after which could not wait to return domestic again. All this is not to claim i did not just like the book; I did. It was once a calm and stress-free read, and

a pleasant quite informative story. I cherished it adequate to wish to maintain the e-book instead of positioned it again right into a charity shop. i am not certain if i'm going to learn it back yet i will retain it at the shelf simply in case.Overall rating: 3/5 stars

Agnese: touring from Texas to Baffin Island following the snow ducks whereas they migrate to their nesting grounds, guided by way of the sun, the stars, the earth magnetism. a really fascinating trip yet instructed in a indifferent way, as though the writer is afraid to be enthralled through nature's name and lose his defined, notwithstanding weakened through an illness, identity. the aim of his trip is to regain religion in existence and he undertakes it as though he have been swallowing a medicine. No excitement, no awe, no flowing love. The narration, although stylish at times, lacks brilliance. the writer feels lonely and homesick from the start, compares his eager for domestic to the ducks migration to their start land, overlooking the truth that the ducks may perhaps benefit from the sun, the wind, the altering lighting fixtures alongside their journey. He accomplishes his project—arrives on the ducks nesting domestic (...just one among their homes) – yet all alongside the best way he seems to be on the new environments of land, animals and folks from a distance, feels a stranger and turns out to want it, as though by way of saying himself as diversified from his atmosphere he strengthens his personal id and nourishes his lifestyles lately threatened. the sensation on the finish of this enticing tale is that he didn't reside this strange adventure as intensely as he might have, that he overlooked feelings and discoveries, and so did the reader. A almost certainly interesting trip that grew to become out to be easily interesting.

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