



## The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow

*Kaye Umansky, Scott Nash (Illustrator)*

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**"This over-the-top parody of Oliver Twist-type adventures is a good giggle." - KIRKUS REVIEWS**

Now with a dynamic new cover!

Prepare, dear reader, for the tale of Solomon Snow, his bossy friend Prudence, and the insufferable Infant Prodigy as they set out in search of Solly's rightful inheritance -- despite some woeful misadventures along the way!

## **The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow Details**

Date : Published February 20th 2007 by Candlewick (first published July 1st 2004)

ISBN : 9780763627928

Author : Kaye Umansky , Scott Nash (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Adventure, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Humor, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade

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## From Reader Review The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow for online ebook

### LobsterQuadrille says

3.5 stars

*The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow* is not only a funny and unique children's book, but also something of a parody of Charles Dickens' work. Having read *Oliver Twist* this year, I noticed several veiled allusions to it, and some of the situations that the characters encountered reminded me of events from Dickens' famous novel.

The story itself is fairly straightforward, but it takes some unexpected turns and ultimately makes for a satisfactory reading experience. All three of the main characters are very likable, but strangely I think the "Infant Prodigy" ended up being my favorite. I think she is meant as a sort of parody of the highly idealized children of Victorian-era literature, and she turned out to be a very enjoyable character. I think that, if not written well, a character like the Prodigy could be just plain annoying, but the author put just the right amount of humor into her character to make her highly entertaining to read about.

*The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow* proved itself to be a funny, surprising, and satisfying story. I felt that some parts of the story were skimmed over a bit too quickly, but it did remind me a bit of how quickly Oliver seems to be rushed off into different situations in *Oliver Twist*, so maybe this was intentional. Either way, I really enjoyed this book, and I may check out the sequel sometime.

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### Royal says

This book wasn't much of a thriller or all that suspenseful. It was pretty bland overall in climaxes and challenges because I predicted the ending correctly. The book might've not had any unseen events that destroy progress for the main characters but it was an overall fun and detailed journey. It even had nods to the spoon and why it couldn't have been Solly's because Solly's was a silver spoon with VIP and the perfect parents said something about the initials of their son's spoon, or how their baby was stolen and not lost.

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### Lisa the Librarian says

I listened to an extremely well done audio version of this story.

I liked the quirky characters in this story. At times they almost seemed like caricatures, but for this book it worked and even added to the charm of the story.

The plot was also a bit convoluted, but again it worked in this book.

A bit reminiscent of Dickens, and in fact makes veiled reference to plot points straight out of *Oliver Twist*. This book is very tongue in cheek where Dickens was quite somber.

This is a witty bit of "dark comedy" well written for children.

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### **Atziri says**

This is a great children's book full of adventure, with lots of twists and turns. I am glad to have discovered this author as she seems to have many, many more books and there is a follow-up to this one with the same character. She is from England and seems to be well-recognized for her work. I think the author did a wonderful job painting the characters in the story to the point. As I read, I kept want to learn more about them and follow them in their adventures.

The story follows Solomon Snow who discovers he is a "foundling". He goes out in search of his silver spoon which he hopes will enable him to find his real parents. He, of course, doesn't have any money but along the way he befriends two girls with very unique personalities. Prudence Pridy, a 12 year old, who is writing a story and wants to be a writer. Rosabella, a 5 year old girl, who runs away from the circus and can be extremely annoying. Along the way they get kidnapped, become orphans in an orphanage and finally discover Solomon's supposedly real parents. But the end has a twist that I will not share as it is quite unexpected.

I listened to the audio version of the book and think it was OK. I would suggest to read the actual book instead because it would make a good reading exercise for younger readers as there are a few tongue twisters and the story is written in English pseudo Charles Dickens era.

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### **Michelle says**

I liked this book. It was a bit charming. I liked that the author left some fun surprises at the end. It didn't turn out as I predicted it would. And I am glad.

Mostly this book is for younger readers, who don't do well with too much suspense stress. There is some suspense, but it really isn't very intense. The book seems pretty predictable, until the end, which wasn't too far out there.

I found this book entertaining but not something that was constantly on my mind when I was away from it. It was a SUPER easy read.

I loved the end and what Prudence tells Solly what quality she likes about him the very most. I wish someone would tell ME that I possess that same quality!

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### **Sarah says**

I quite enjoyed this book. The characters were amusing and the story well-told. I found the "perfect parent interludes" rather boring, but I understood their purpose. The rest of the story moved along quickly, with enough twists and turns to make it interesting, and a lively sense of humor throughout.

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### **Anne-Marie says**

An ok middle grade adventure.

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### **D. George says**

Really cute book! :)

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### **LFPL Teen Services says**

Solomon, age 10, has just discovered that he is foundling and the only link to his real parents is a silver spoon. Regretfully, his father (or who he used to think of as his father) has sold it in a pawn shop in town. Solomon leaves his world behind to find the spoon and his true destiny. Joining him on his journey is Prudence Pridy, a 12 year old, who is trying to get her book published. Along the way they also meet Rosabella , a 5 year old girl who has run away from the circus after throwing a world class tantrum. The three find themselves steeped in all kinds of trouble and turmoil, such as, getting kidnapped, becoming orphans in an orphanage and meeting strange characters. Find out if Solomon reconnects with his parents and discovers where he really belongs.

Cat.

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### **Ruthie says**

I enjoyed this book and look forward to reading anything else she writes in this series. There's a quote from the author on the back cover: "A while ago, I went on a reread Charles Dickens' binge. Inspired, I cried, 'I can do that!' I couldn't. What came out was Solomon Snow."

I loved the hints of Charles Dickens that showed up in Solomon Snow: in the way she titles her chapters, names of minor characters (Lazarus Pinchpenny, Irma Spindletrap, Arnold Scubbins.) Not that you should pick this book up and expect to find Dickens. I just happen to be a fan of his; so I couldn't help finding similarities. Her writing style is very nicely uncomplicated; it doesn't take itself too seriously. There were definitely "Nicholas Nickleby" references; also "Oliver Twist" and "The Old Curiosity Shoppe" - possibly more that I didn't pick up on.

Someday I hope my children will be reading Dickens - Solomon Snow will be a good stepping stone along the way. Kaye Umansky's writing just might make his books feel familiar.

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### **Jannah (Cloud Child) says**

I half read and half listened to this via text to speak in Moon+ Reader. At some point I fell asleep to the tts

and had weird dreams about trying to escape a kidnapping and looking for a silver spoon except I kept getting kidnapped over and over again...

I was looking for something mind numbing, funny and cute. It delivered. It had the usual Kay Umansky sarcastic humor. My favourite character was Isabella / Prodigy obviously she is such a little upstart. Kids will love it methinks.

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### **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Umansky, Kaye The Silver Spoon of Solomon Snow, 304 p. Candlewick -

One fateful day, Solomon Snow discovers that he truly is a foundling, left in the snow with only a napkin and a silver spoon as the keys to his origins. Along with Prudence, a girl too smart for the village, he ventures to Town in search of spoon, which his stepfather pawned more than a year earlier. Along the way they acquire a little girl, a rabbit and chimney sweep – all of whom are key to solving the mystery.

Written after the author was inspired by Dickens, the parody of old Victorian novels. I know adults would appreciate the book, but I am not so sure about children.

EL-OPTIONAL

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### **Samantha says**

Solomon Snow always knew he was different. His different last name, his please's and thank you's, his dislike of pottage, allergy to hay and straw, always dabbing his mouth with his crumb catching cloth, his washing his hands before he ate.....the list could go on forever. Truth is, it was staring him in the face his whole life. He was a foundling. A baby left on a doorstep and taken in because the couple needed a new washing basket. Not only did they use his basket, but they sold his fancy clothes and the precious silver spoon. The spoon with the initials V. I. P. The spoon that would lead him to his family. Solly goes on a wild adventure into town to find said spoon with bossy Prudence, and the infant prodigy Little Rosabella, meeting a grumpy pawn broker, a dishonest orphanage owner, and a street urchin that had more potential then they thought.

Super cute book! I read it in less then 3 hours. Quick read, but cute :)

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### **Katy says**

Cute and easy read

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### **Carissa says**

a self-admitted dickens-fan, this has all the ear-marks of the poor, unfortunate soul. it's an okay book, but one of those that i found myself reading and thinking, "i could write this." (but of course, i haven't written it or anythign like it so i have no right to think such things, but you get the idea.) one of the book's habits

which i couldn't decide whether it was endearing or annoying was that each time they'd get stuck in a spot, one character would turn to the other and ask, "well, what would the hero of that book you're writing do in this situation?" and the other character would respond and then that very thing would happen. i think it leaned more towards endearing, but might get annoying if it continues heavily in the proposed sequel. also, i got a little sick of the sickly-sweet "prodigy" character, rosabella. i realize that she was a caricature, but again, i'd be heartily sick of her by book two. let's just say, i'm not really motivated to read the sequel, but it was okay. nice packaging.

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