

A WISHING SHELF BOOK REVIEW

10th January 2023

TITLE: Rip Van Winkle

AUTHOR: Washington Irving. Abridged by
Fiza Pathan and Michaelangelo Zane
Illustrated by Farzana Cooper

Star Rating: 4

CATCHY QUOTE

‘An accessible abridgment of the classic text filled with all the characters readers know and love.’ The Wishing Shelf

REVIEW

I have always enjoyed Rip Van Winkle, the story of a farmer with a nagging wife who wanders off into the hills, discovering a group of dwarfs playing ninepins. After enjoying a few drinks with them, he falls asleep only to wake up many years later.

Written by Washington Irving and published in **1819**, it was a short story even then. This abridgement cuts it in further, simplifying the writing and improving accessibility for younger

readers. And, I must say, the two authors, Fiza Pathan and Michaelangelo Zane, did an admirable job, keeping to the original plot and not excluding any of the original characters. The editing is also top notch; not a grammatical error in sight!

But best of all, for me anyway, was the artwork. Farzana Cooper's black and white drawings are sprinkled without the text offering further insight into the story and, undoubtedly, helping younger readers to keep turning the page.

I'm delighted to recommend this book to anybody feeling a little daunted by the original text and is looking for a simple, accessible way of getting to know this classic tale. Everything's there that needs to be there, and the enigmatic Rip Van Winkle is still as lovable as ever!

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