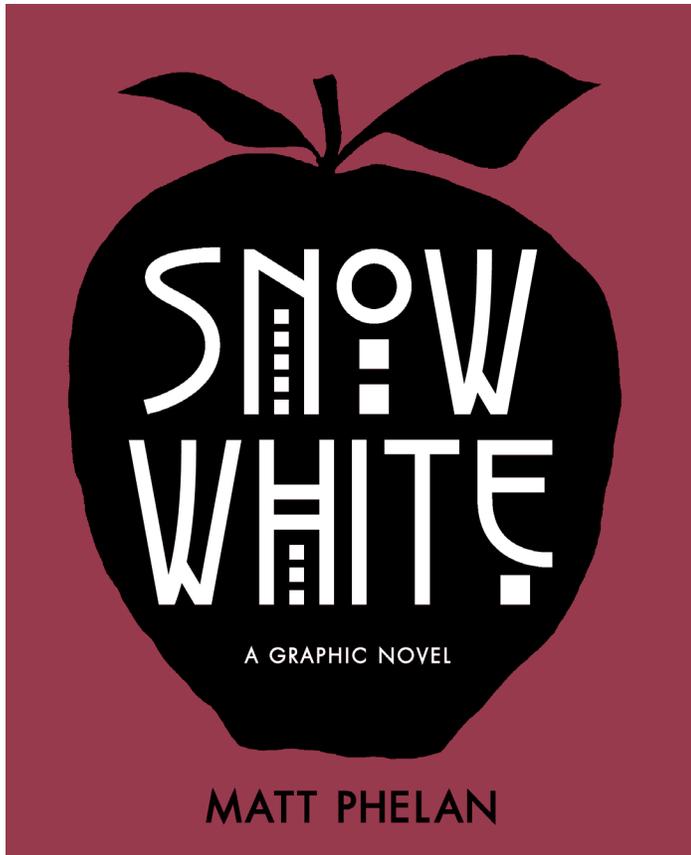


SNOW WHITE

MATT PHELAN



HC: 978-0-7636-7233-1

About the Author

Matt Phelan is the author-illustrator of three previous graphic novels: the Scott O'Dell Award-winning *The Storm in the Barn*, *Around the World*, and *Bluffton*, which was nominated for three Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, including Best Graphic Album. He is the author-illustrator of *Druthers* and the illustrator of many books for young readers, including *Marilyn's Monster* by Michelle Knudsen and *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron, winner of the Newbery Medal. Matt Phelan lives in Pennsylvania.

About the Book

The scene: New York City, 1928. The dazzling lights cast shadows that grow ever darker as the glitzy prosperity of the Roaring Twenties screeches to a halt. Enter a cast of familiar characters: a young girl, Samantha White, returning after being sent away by her cruel stepmother, the Queen of the Follies, years earlier; her father, the King of Wall Street, who survives the stock market crash only to suffer a strange and sudden death; seven street urchins, brave protectors for a girl as pure as snow; and a mysterious stock ticker that holds the stepmother in its thrall, churning out ticker tape imprinted with the wicked words “Another . . . More Beautiful . . . KILL.” In a moody, cinematic new telling of a beloved fairy tale, extraordinary graphic novelist Matt Phelan captures the essence of classic film noir on the page—and draws a striking distinction between good and evil.



Discussion Questions

1. Why did Matt Phelan choose New York City during the Great Depression as the setting for *Snow White*? How do you think that period fits with the story?
2. Why do you think the author chose a stock ticker to take the place of the queen's enchanted mirror? What does it say about money and its influence over the queen—and its relationship to evil in general?
3. There is very little color in this graphic novel. Why do you think Phelan chose such a subtle palette? How does his use of color affect the mood of the book?
4. There is very little text in the book. How does the graphic novel format allow for a different kind of storytelling experience?
5. What did this retelling of “Snow White” show you about the fairy tale that you might not have noticed from other versions you’ve read or watched in the past? Were there any parts that surprised you?
6. Could Snow’s father have suspected his wife might do something? Why did he change his will?
7. In the fairy tale, Snow White runs into a dark wood to escape from the huntsman. In this version, she runs into Hooverville to escape Mr. Hunt. What were Hooverilles, and why might the author have chosen one as a substitute for the forest? Was there really a Hooverville in New York City during the Depression?
8. Why do you think Mr. Hunt changes his mind about killing Snow?
9. The Seven say “nothin’s all right in this town” and that Snow must not be from the city if she thinks there’s any good to be found there. Why might the boys think that?



10. Snow says that “the same snow falls” in New York City as in the country. Is she right, or are the boys right when they tell her that the two are very different? Is there more evil to be found in a city?
11. Snow calls the Macy’s window displays a “dream world.” Why is she so fascinated by them? Why does she bring the boys to look at the windows?
12. Why do the boys bring Snow to a Macy’s window after she’s eaten the apple?
13. Apples have long been symbols of temptation. How do you think the apple functions in *Snow White*?
14. The apple in the story has a historical context as well. During the Great Depression, unemployment was so high that many men and women who were out of a job began peddling apples for a nickel each on street corners. How does that make the queen’s disguise such an interesting choice?
15. There’s a lot of focus on light and dark in the art. What are some instances where the use of color, light, and shadow are particularly symbolic?
16. What might compel a detective like Prince to kiss Snow’s cheek?
17. In what ways is this retelling of “Snow White” cinematic?
18. Think about old cinema styles like film noir and silent movies. This graphic novel feels similar with its minimal text and mainly black-and-white coloring. Why are those old film styles so well suited to the story of Snow White?
19. Can you think of any other time periods that might be fitting for a retelling of “Snow White”? How so?
20. Fairy tales like “Snow White” have been around for many years, but we keep coming back to them and finding new and interesting ways to tell them. Why? What makes these particular stories so influential and unforgettable?