



An Essay on *A Walk in the Rain*

by Mark T. Medical Provider

“A Walk in the Rain”, Geiser’s follow up to “Sedecki’s Dilemma”, explores the darker aspects of family life that happen behind closed doors. Where SEDECKI was abounding in hope throughout the story, the subtle hint of hope in AWITR was less apparent.

I start here because from page one Dewey’s remembrances of his childhood heap up heartbreak after heartbreak until the reader is left physically uncomfortable reading what might happen next. This is good writing that can evoke these feelings in the reader and serve as a tension building method yearning for a resolution.

Like a good symphony our lives are fraught with ups and downs, minor victories and major life changing incidents. Geiser doesn’t spare the reader of the bittersweet aspect of life but masterfully limits its emphasis on the characters and turns it back to a glimmering hope.

Aunt Reba creates that spark of hope in the story which moves forward with a lightheartedness of her character and colloquial expressions well acquainted with suffering—something we can all embrace in the frailty of our human condition.

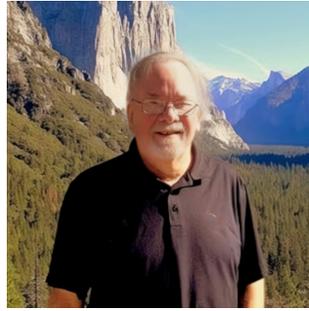
Throughout the story we follow the family’s reaction to this hope provided by the Christ figure (Aunt Reba) and reminded of how God is intimately involved in each of our lives.

The story doesn’t seem to have a main character although it is told through the eyes of Dewey. At first, it was difficult to follow with parents, siblings and neighbors contributing parts to the story. I thought at first, why so many characters in this novella? In the end, it was genius having many players which allowed for the different psychological responses necessary to serve the story and bring about closure to this chapter in the lives of its characters.

The story AWITR truly reflects life, the details were more dramatic to serve a purpose of setting the tone but not overdone. More character development would have made for a longer story but not necessary to convey the ultimate meaning. When all human hope is lost, when things seem utterly broken God is ready and willing to enter the picture and make all things new. God is close to the broken hearted, He says He doesn’t change and He brings hope through “walking in the rain with you.” You are not alone in your troubles. The God of the universe is active and caring in your trials of life, believing is seeing.

Geiser’s matter of fact writing style is a time saving measure getting to the point of the story. He gives a glimpse behind the curtain of family life, the individuals and their history and allows you to fill in the space. The American family life is rich, and complex. The sheer number of characters, their idiosyncrasies that make them multifaceted would overwhelm the general course of the storyline. His descriptions are colorful and banter much needed at times but never belabors the overarching idea of life without or with Christ is both heartbreaking and

ultimately joyful. This is a great book that peels back the veneer of a particular family's life and reminds us of how each of our lives is an opus being written by our Heavenly Father.



Mark Geiser, Author